

# *The Gospels*

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## **A VERSE-BY-VERSE STUDY OF THE LIFE OF JESUS CHRIST**

### **THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW**

*It is widely held that the Gospel of Matthew was written some time between AD 40-100.. His chief aim is to establish Jesus as the Jewish Messiah. However, early church father, Eusebius, dates the book at AD 41.<sup>1</sup> His intended audience: The Jewish People – especially the religious leaders when many of the Christian converts were primarily Jews who rejected Christ and called for His crucifixion. He seeks to demonstrate that Jesus is the promised Messiah quoting the Old Testament prophecies more than 60 times.*

*Matthew was called as a disciple of Christ while a tax collector. He pays special attention to accounting, the Old Testament prophecies about the coming Messiah covering His ancestry from Abraham, the birth and early childhood of Jesus, and His ministry upon the earth. (see Matthew 9:9-13; Luke 5:27-32)*

*Before Matthew was called by Jesus to be a disciple his given name was Levi. A name that we learned in Genesis 49:5-6 was the name of one of Jacob's sons and later becomes the name of one of the tribes of Israel. This tribe's descendants: the line of priests who oversaw the temple worship and draws a striking parallel to the priests of Jesus' day who were religiously self-focused, power hungry and self-righteous.*

*The name Levi means "joined or attached,"<sup>3</sup> while the name Matthew means "gift of Yahweh."<sup>2</sup>*

**MATTHEW | CHAPTER ONE*****A Very Jewish Legacy*****• *The Genealogy of Jesus Christ from Abraham. (Verses 1-17)***

- *Calls Jesus the son of David (Messiah) and the son of Abraham (Israel)*

*Jesus is also known as the Lion of the tribe of Judah*

- *Women named in Jesus' family lineage:*

♥ **Tamar** – *see Genesis 38. Married the son of Judah and was widowed. After his second son married Tamar and died, Judah out of fear would not give any more of his sons to Tamar to continue her deceased husband's family line which was the custom. Realizing Judah had dishonored her, she dressed as a prostitute and lured her father-in-law into having sex with her. This union produced twin sons named in the genealogy of Jesus: Perez & Zerah. Jesus descends from Perez's line.*

♥ **Rahab** – *see Joshua 2. Rahab was a Canaanite prostitute in the city of Jericho who not only helped Israel's spies as they went into the city while preparing to take the promised land, but also hid them so they would not be caught. She put a scarlet thread out so the spies would know if it was safe to enter the city. She was given in marriage to a man named Salmon who is the father of Boaz. Boaz married Ruth, a Moabite woman.*

♥ **Ruth** – *see Genesis 11 & 19, book of Ruth. Ruth was a Moabite, a descendant of Abraham's nephew, Lot. Lot settled his family in the region of Sodom and Gomorrah that was destroyed by a rain of fire for immorality. Lot's wife turned to a pillar of salt as they fled the destruction, but Lot and his daughters escaped and settled in Moab. Lot's daughters were given to the immoral men of Sodom and Gomorrah and abused, so when stranded in Moab with no prospects for marriage, they tricked their father into sleeping with them and had sons to carry on Lot's line. Ruth is a descendant of this line who*

*married one of two Jewish brothers whose family had fled to Moab during a famine. When both brothers and the father of the family died, Orpah, Ruth's sister-in-law, did as her mother-in-law, Naomi, bid her and returned to her family. Ruth, however, refused to return to her family and stayed with Naomi, eventually returning to Israel and marrying a man known as the Kinsman Redeemer, Boaz. Boaz & Ruth had a son named Obed who was the grandfather of King David.*

♥ **Uriah's Wife (Bathsheba)** – See 2 Samuel 11 & 12. *Bathsheba was the wife of one of King David's fighting men, Uriah, who was away at war one evening when David spied Bathsheba bathing on a rooftop. He sent for her and they had an affair. Maybe today we would call it a one-night-stand. Bathsheba became pregnant so David called Uriah back from the war hoping he would sleep with his wife and spare them the scandal of revealing their sin. But, Uriah refused to sleep with his wife and camped outside the palace awaiting his orders to return to the war. David did send Uriah back to the front lines of the war with orders to ensure that Uriah would be killed. He then married Bathsheba and she gave birth to a son. This unnamed son died as an infant as God called David to repent for the sin he committed. But, the second son of David and Bathsheba, Solomon, became the King of Israel after his father and is known as the wisest king that ever lived.*

♥ **Mary** – see Matthew 1:18-25, Luke 1 & 2. *Mary was a descendant of the priestly line of Israel. (Her cousin Elizabeth was married to a priest who would minister in the temple, Zachariah.) She was engaged to be married to Joseph and before they could consummate the marriage was found to be pregnant. She was a teenage, unwed mother for lack of a better analogy. Scandalous, I know. But, as we will find in the last half of chapter one there is a redemptive thread in all of this.*

*The inclusion of women in the family line of Jesus was not only filled with scandalous sexual sin and non-Jewish women, but also flew in the face of the Jewish culture of*

*Jesus' day which had little value for women. Women lived oppressed by the first century Rabbinical Judaism. This inclusion of women in His family line is a pre-cursor to the way Jesus would defy the cultural norms of His day reaching out to and including women all throughout His life and ministry.*

*(For more information on this subject, visit: <https://jewsforjesus.org/publications/newsletter/newsletter-jun-1988/jesus-and-the-role-of-women/>)*

#### **PROPHECY FULFILLED:**

*The genealogy of Jesus identifies Jesus as the Son (Seed) of Abraham, the Son (Branch) of David, the Lion of Judah's Tribe, son of a virgin, descendant of King David.*

- ♥ **SEED OF ABRAHAM** – See Genesis 12:7; Galatians 3:16
- ♥ **BRANCH OF DAVID** – See Jeremiah 23:5, 33:15; Isaiah 11:1-2; Zechariah 3:8, 6:12; Revelation 5:5
- ♥ **LION OF JUDAH** – Genesis 49:9-10; Revelation 5:2-4
- ♥ **KING** – Isaiah 9:6, 11:10, Acts 2:30; 1 Timothy 6:15; Revelation 17:14

#### **NOTES:**

##### *End Notes:*

- <sup>1</sup> Blue Letter Bible, Article: "When Were the Four Gospels Written?" (Stewart)  
[https://www.blueletterbible.org/faq/don\\_stewart/don\\_stewart\\_410.cfm](https://www.blueletterbible.org/faq/don_stewart/don_stewart_410.cfm)
- <sup>2</sup> BehindTheName.com: searched Matthew and Levi. <https://www.behindthename.com/name/levi>,  
<https://www.behindthename.com/name/matthew>