

# Joseph

Christmas Through Your Eyes—part 2

December 11, 2016

## **DAY 1: The lineage of Jesus Christ recorded in the gospel of Luke**

1. The lineage of Jesus Christ can be traced all the way back to Adam!
2. The excerpt below is the end of the long line of names in this lineage from Jesus back to Adam!

*Luke 3:36 ...the son of Cainan, the son of Arphaxad, the son of Shem, the son of Noah, the son of Lamech, <sup>37</sup> the son of Methuselah, the son of Enoch, the son of Jared, the son of Mahalalel, the son of Kenan, <sup>38</sup> the son of Enosh, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God.*

3. The pattern is “the son of \_\_\_\_\_, the son of \_\_\_\_\_, the son of \_\_\_\_\_,” etc.
4. In Luke’s account, the beginning of this lineage starts with Jesus and works backward, toward Adam.
5. When Luke records the lineage starting at Jesus, notice he does not use the same “the son of \_\_\_\_\_” pattern. With Jesus he writes about Jesus that, “He was the son, **so it was thought**, of Joseph...”

*Luke 3:23 Now Jesus himself was about thirty years old when he began his ministry. He was the son, **so it was thought, of Joseph**, the son of ....*

6. Joseph was not the **biological** father of Jesus. There was no biological father of Jesus. The virgin birth is what we studied last week.
7. This lineage of genealogy, and it’s wording is a striking confirmation of the wondrous doctrine of the virgin birth, and of the identity of the baby Jesus. He is certainly no mere mortal man!

## **DAY 2: The lineage of Jesus Christ recorded in the gospel of Matthew**

1. Matthew's gospel was written primarily for his fellow Jewish countrymen. Thus, of most interest was the lineage of Jesus back to "father" Abraham.

2. The two heroes of the Jewish faith were Abraham and David. Matthew would have had their attention with verse 1!

*Matthew 1:1 A record of the genealogy of Jesus Christ the son of David, the son of Abraham:*

3. Below, just an excerpt is printed for you. It picks up at the end of the exile of the Jewish nation in Babylon, then moves forward to the time of Jesus.

*Matthew 1:12 After the exile to Babylon: Jeconiah was the father of Shealtiel, Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel,*

<sup>13</sup>*Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, Abiud the father of Eliakim, Eliakim the father of Azor,*

<sup>14</sup>*Azor the father of Zadok, Zadok the father of Akim, Akim the father of Eliud,*

<sup>15</sup>*Eliud the father of Eleazar, Eleazar the father of Matthan, Matthan the father of Jacob,*

<sup>16</sup>*and Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ.*

4. The pattern Matthew uses is similar to Luke's, but the use of "father" instead of "son" indicates the direction he is thinking, from "Abraham" forward through David and then right up to the birth of Jesus.

5. But like Luke, notice how Matthew's description of when he gets down to Joseph and Jesus. Instead of "Joseph, the father of Jesus" (which is what you'd "expect") Matthew records, "Joseph, the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus..."

6. The emphasis in both gospels is to highlight the virgin birth of Jesus Christ, by a human mother but not a biological human father!

7. What strikes you most about the importance of the virgin birth?

### **DAY 3: Joseph gets word of Mary's pregnancy**

1. Mary tells Joseph what the angel Gabriel had told her.

2. Imagine you are Joseph. You're engaged to be married to Mary. You have not had sexual intercourse with her, but she tells you she will be pregnant. The likely fallout in the small town of Nazareth would have been scandalous. What do you think your response would have been to Mary?

3. Here was Joseph's response.

*Matthew 1:18 This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit.*

*<sup>19</sup> Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.*

4. Meanwhile, God stepped in!

*Matthew 1:20 But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.*

*<sup>21</sup> She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."*

5. Who showed up in Joseph's dream? (v. 20)

6. How does the message Joseph receives in a dream line up with the message spoken to Mary?

7. After seeing how God intervened separately with both Mary and Joseph, what strikes you about God's plan to send His Son in human flesh, through a virgin birth?!

#### **DAY 4: Joseph receives the news and acts**

*Matthew 1:22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:*

*<sup>23</sup> "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"-- which means, "God with us."*

1. The baby to be born is not just "current news" but comes with a long prophetic past.

2. What does Matthew learn about the identity of the mother? (1:23)

3. What does Matthew learn about the identity of the baby to be born?

4. Here is the prophecy quoted by the angel in the dream.

*Isaiah 7:14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.*

5. As you think about Jesus being born, is your image one of incarnation, of God becoming man, taking on flesh and blood, or do you tend to think of Jesus as "just" a man?

*Matthew 1:24 When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife.*

*<sup>25</sup> But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.*

6. How is Joseph's response to the angel's dream similar to Mary's response to the angel physically present?

## **DAY 5: Another prophetic word**

1. The prophecies of the coming Messiah converge on one individual, Jesus Christ.
  - a. He must be from the lineage all the way through Abraham, as the Abrahamic covenants predicted back in Genesis 12 and 15.
  - b. He must be from the lineage of King David.
  - c. He must be sinless, or else His death would save no one.
  - d. He is to be fully human, born and living as a man, and fully God!

*Isaiah 9:6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

*<sup>7</sup>Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. **He will reign on David's throne** and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.*

5. This prophecy of Isaiah was written about 750 years before the coming of Christ!
6. These verses are studded with the divinity of the coming Messiah!!