

SESSION 1: THE BIRTH NARRATIVES¹**MATTHEW 1:1-2:18 AND LUKE 1:1-2:20; 3:23-38****Matthew's Genealogy of Jesus
Matthew 1:1-17**

*1 The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham:
2 Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac was the father of Jacob, and Jacob was the father of Judah and his brothers.
3 And Judah was the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez was the father of Hezron, and Hezron was the father of Ram.
4 And Ram was the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab was the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon was the father of Salmon.
5 And Salmon was the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz was the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed was the father of Jesse.
6 And Jesse was the father of David the king. And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah.
7 And Solomon was the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam was the father of Abijah, and Abijah was the father of Asa.
8 And Asa was the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat was the father of Joram, and Joram was the father of Uzziah.
9 And Uzziah was the father of Jotham, and Jotham was the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz was the father of Hezekiah.
10 And Hezekiah was the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh was the father of Amon, and Amon was the father of Josiah.
11 And Josiah was the father of Jeconiah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.*

**Luke's Genealogy of Jesus
Luke 3:23-38**

*23 When He began His ministry, Jesus Himself was about thirty years of age, being, as was supposed, the son of Joseph, the son of Eli,
24 the son of Matthat, the son of Levi, the son of Melchi, the son of Jannai, the son of Joseph,
25 the son of Mattathias, the son of Amos, the son of Nahum, the son of Hesli, the son of Naggai,
26 the son of Maath, the son of Mattathias, the son of Semein, the son of Josech, the son of Joda,
27 the son of Joanan, the son of Rhesa, the son of Zerubbabel, the son of Shealtiel, the son of Neri,
28 the son of Melchi, the son of Addi, the son of Cosam, the son of Elmadam, the son of Er,
29 the son of Joshua, the son of Eliezer, the son of Jorim, the son of Matthat, the son of Levi,
30 the son of Simeon, the son of Judah, the son of Joseph, the son of Jonam, the son of Eliakim,
31 the son of Melea, the son of Menna, the son of Mattatha, the son of Nathan, the son of David,
32 the son of Jesse, the son of Obed, the son of Boaz, the son of Salmon, the son of Nahshon,*

¹ Legacy Standard Bible

<p>12 <i>And after the deportation to Babylon: Jeconiah was the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel was the father of Zerubbabel.</i></p> <p>13 <i>And Zerubbabel was the father of Abihud, and Abihud was the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim was the father of Azor.</i></p> <p>14 <i>And Azor was the father of Zadok, and Zadok was the father of Achim, and Achim was the father of Eliud.</i></p> <p>15 <i>And Eliud was the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar was the father of Matthan, and Matthan was the father of Jacob.</i></p> <p>16 <i>And Jacob was the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, by whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ.</i></p> <p>17 <i>Therefore all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; and from David to the deportation to Babylon, fourteen generations; and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ, fourteen generations.</i></p>	<p>33 <i>the son of Amminadab, the son of Admin, the son of Ram, the son of Hezron, the son of Perez, the son of Judah,</i></p> <p>34 <i>the son of Jacob, the son of Isaac, the son of Abraham, the son of Terah, the son of Nahor,</i></p> <p>35 <i>the son of Serug, the son of Reu, the son of Peleg, the son of Heber, the son of Shelah,</i></p> <p>36 <i>the son of Cainan, the son of Arphaxad, the son of Shem, the son of Noah, the son of Lamech,</i></p> <p>37 <i>the son of Methuselah, the son of Enoch, the son of Jared, the son of Mahalaleel, the son of Cainan,</i></p> <p>38 <i>the son of Enosh, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God.</i></p>
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Luke's Account of Things Fulfilled (Luke 1:1-4)

- 1** *Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us,*
- 2** *just as those, who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word, handed them down to us,*
- 3** *it seemed fitting for me as well, having investigated everything carefully from the beginning, to write it out for you in orderly sequence, most excellent Theophilus,*
- 4** *so that you may know the certainty about the things you have been taught.*

John the Baptist's Birth Foretold (Luke 1:5-25)

- 5** *In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, of the division of Abijah, and he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth.*
- 6** *And they were both righteous in the sight of God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and righteous requirements of the Lord.*

- 7** *But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and they were both advanced in years.*
- 8** *Now it happened that while he was performing his priestly service before God in the order of his division,*
- 9** *according to the custom of the priestly office, he was chosen by lot to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and burn incense.*
- 10** *And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of the incense offering.*
- 11** *And an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing to the right of the altar of incense.*
- 12** *And Zechariah was troubled when he saw the angel, and fear fell upon him.*
- 13** *But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will call his name John.*
- 14** *And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth.*
- 15** *For he will be great in the sight of the Lord; and HE WILL NOT DRINK ANY WINE OR STRONG DRINK, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit while yet in his mother's womb.*
- 16** *And he will turn many of the sons of Israel back to the Lord their God.*
- 17** *And he will go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, TO TURN THE HEARTS OF THE FATHERS BACK TO THE CHILDREN, and the disobedient to the attitude of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."*
- 18** *And Zechariah said to the angel, "How will I know this? For I am an old man and my wife is advanced in years."*
- 19** *And the angel answered and said to him, "I am Gabriel, who stands before God, and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news.*
- 20** *And behold, you shall be silent and unable to speak until the day when these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their proper time."*
- 21** *And the people were waiting for Zechariah and were wondering at his delay in the sanctuary.*
- 22** *But when he came out, he was unable to speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. And he kept making signs to them and remained mute.*
- 23** *And it happened that when the days of his priestly service were fulfilled, he went back home.*
- 24** *After these days Elizabeth his wife conceived, and she kept herself in seclusion for five months, saying,*
- 25** *"This is the way the Lord has dealt with me in the days when He looked upon me to take away my disgrace among men."*

The Divine Conception of Jesus

Matthew 1:18-25	Luke 1:26-38
Revelation to Joseph	Revelation to Mary
<p>18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: when His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit.</p> <p>19 And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man and not wanting to disgrace her, planned to send her away secretly.</p> <p>20 But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the One who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.</p> <p>21 And she will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."</p> <p>22 Now all this took place in order that what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet would be fulfilled, saying,</p> <p>23 "BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD AND SHALL BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL," which translated means, "GOD WITH US."</p> <p>24 And Joseph got up from his sleep and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him, and took Mary as his wife,</p> <p>25 but kept her a virgin until she gave birth to a Son; and he called His name Jesus.</p>	<p>26 Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee called Nazareth,</p> <p>27 to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary.</p> <p>28 And coming in, he said to her, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you."</p> <p>29 But she was very perplexed at this statement and was pondering what kind of greeting this was.</p> <p>30 And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.</p> <p>31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus.</p> <p>32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David,</p> <p>33 and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and there will be no end of His kingdom."</p> <p>34 But Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"</p> <p>35 The angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God.</p> <p>36 And behold, your relative Elizabeth has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren.</p>

	<p>37 For nothing will be impossible with God.”</p> <p>38 And Mary said, “Behold, the slave of the Lord; may it be done to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.</p>
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Mary Visits Elizabeth (Luke 1:39-45)

39 Now at this time Mary arose and went in a hurry to the hill country, to a city of Judah,

40 and entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

41 And it happened that when Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.

42 And she cried out with a loud voice and said, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!

43 And how has it happened to me, that the mother of my Lord would come to me?

44 For behold, when the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby leaped in my womb for joy.

45 And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what had been spoken to her by the Lord.”

Mary Magnifies the Lord (Luke 1:46-56)

46 And Mary said: “My soul magnifies the Lord,

47 And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.

48 For He has looked upon the humble state of His slave, For behold, from this time on, all generations will count me blessed.

49 For the Mighty One has done great things for me, And holy is His name.

50 AND HIS MERCY IS UPON GENERATION AFTER GENERATION TOWARD THOSE WHO FEAR HIM.

51 He has done a mighty deed with His arm; He has scattered those who were proud in the thoughts of their heart.

52 He has brought down rulers from their thrones and has exalted those who were humble.

53 HE HAS FILLED THE HUNGRY WITH GOOD THINGS and sent away the rich empty-handed.

54 He has given help to Israel His servant, In remembrance of His mercy,

55 As He spoke to our fathers, To Abraham and his seed forever.”

56 And Mary stayed with her about three months, and then returned to her home.

John the Baptist Is Born (Luke 1:57-66)

57 Now the time was fulfilled for Elizabeth to give birth, and she gave birth to a son.

58 And her neighbors and her relatives heard that the Lord had magnified His great mercy toward her, and they were rejoicing with her.

59 And it happened that on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to call him Zechariah, after the name of his father.

60 But his mother answered and said, "No, but he shall be called John."

61 And they said to her, "There is no one among your relatives who is called by this name."

62 And they were making signs to his father, as to what he wanted him called.

63 And he asked for a tablet and wrote as follows, "His name is John." And they all marveled.

64 And at once his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he began to speak, blessing God.

65 And fear came on all those living around them, and all these matters were being talked about in all the hill country of Judea.

66 And all who heard these things put them in their heart, saying, "What then will this child be?" For the hand of the Lord was indeed with him.

Zechariah's Prophecy (Luke 1:67-80)

67 And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied, saying:

68 "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, For He visited and accomplished redemption for His people,

69 And raised up a horn of salvation for us In the house of David His servant—

70 As He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from of old—

71 Salvation FROM OUR ENEMIES, And FROM THE HAND OF ALL WHO HATE US,

72 To show mercy toward our fathers, And to remember His holy covenant,

73 The oath which He swore to Abraham our father,

74 To grant us that we, being rescued from the hand of our enemies, Might serve Him without fear,

75 In holiness and righteousness before Him all our days.

76 And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High, For you will go on BEFORE THE LORD TO MAKE READY HIS WAYS,

77 To give to His people the knowledge of salvation By the forgiveness of their sins,

78 Because of the tender mercy of our God, With which the Sunrise from on high will visit us,

79 TO SHINE UPON THOSE WHO SIT IN DARKNESS AND THE SHADOW OF DEATH, To direct our feet into the way of peace."

80 And the child continued to grow and to become strong in spirit, and he lived in the desolate regions until the day of his public appearance to Israel.

Jesus Is Born in Bethlehem (Luke 2:1-20)

1 Now it happened that in those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus for a census to be taken of all the inhabited earth.

2 This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria.

3 And everyone was going to be registered for the census, each to his own city.

4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David,

5 in order to register along with Mary, who was betrothed to him, and was with child.

6 Now it happened that while they were there, the days were fulfilled for her to give birth.

7 And she gave birth to her firstborn son; and she wrapped Him in cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the guest room.

8 In the same region there were some shepherds staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night.

9 And an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened.

10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people.

11 For today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

12 And this will be the sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

13 And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

14 "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased."

15 And it happened that when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds began saying to one another, "Let us go to Bethlehem then, and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us."

16 So they went in a hurry and found their way to Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger.

17 And when they had seen this, they made known the statement which had been told them about this Child.

18 And all who heard it marveled at the things which were told them by the shepherds.

19 But Mary was treasuring all these things, pondering them in her heart.

20 And the shepherds went back, glorifying and praising God for all that they had heard and seen, just as was told them.

The Visit of the Magi (Matthew 2:1-12)

1 Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying,

2 “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him.”

3 And when Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

4 And gathering together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he was inquiring of them where the Christ was to be born.

5 And they said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for this is what has been written by the prophet:

6 ‘AND YOU, BETHLEHEM, LAND OF JUDAH, ARE BY NO MEANS LEAST AMONG THE LEADERS OF JUDAH; FOR OUT OF YOU SHALL COME FORTH A LEADER WHO WILL SHEPHERD MY PEOPLE ISRAEL.’”

7 Then Herod secretly called the magi and carefully determined from them the time the star appeared.

8 And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the Child; and when you have found Him, report to me, so that I too may come and worship Him.”

9 Now after hearing the king, they went their way; and behold, the star, which they had seen in the east, was going on before them until it came and stood over the place where the Child was.

10 And when they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.

11 And after coming into the house they saw the Child with Mary His mother; and they fell to the ground and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they presented to Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

12 And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, the magi departed for their own country by another way.

The Flight to Egypt (Matthew 2:13-15)

13 Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, “Get up! Take the Child and His mother and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is going to search for the Child to destroy Him.”

14 *So, Joseph got up and took the Child and His mother while it was still night and departed for Egypt.*

15 *And he remained there until the death of Herod, in order that what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet would be fulfilled, saying, "OUT OF EGYPT I CALLED MY SON."*

Herod Slaughters Children (Matthew 2:16-18)

16 *Then when Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he became very enraged, and sent and slew all the male children who were in Bethlehem and all its vicinity, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had carefully determined from the magi.*

17 *Then what had been spoken through Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled, saying,*
18 *"A VOICE WAS HEARD IN RAMAH, WEEPING AND GREAT MOURNING, RACHEL WEEPING FOR HER CHILDREN; AND SHE WAS REFUSING TO BE COMFORTED, BECAUSE THEY WERE NO MORE."*

Memory Verse:

And she will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.

(Matthew 1:21)

Discussion Questions

- 1. Why would Matthew and Luke include genealogies in their gospel accounts? Why are they different?**
- 2. Why do you think Luke included so much more background information than either Matthew or Mark?**
- 3. How do the birth narratives affect your understanding/appreciation of the gospel message?**
- 4. Why do you think Luke included all the background information on John the Baptist? How does that information impact the gospel?**
- 5. What specific information regarding the background and birth of Jesus most significantly affects you?**
- 6. Is there other information regarding the birth of Jesus that you would like to know? Why?**