



WEEK 01

JESUS IS THE SON OF DAVID & SON OF GOD

WEEK 01

READ

MATTHEW 1:1-2:23

In our Bibles, Malachi 4:6 (the last verse in the Old Testament) and Matthew 1:1 are separated by a mere turn of the page. But what is represented in those few inches is 400 years of silence. 400 years! For centuries, God had been consistently speaking to His people through prophets like Moses, Samuel, Isaiah, and Jeremiah. He had been warning them about coming judgment, and He had been reminding them of His gospel promises that one day a Messianic King would come to make all things new, reestablish David's throne, and rule over an Eden-like Kingdom forever. The prophets who preached these promises never revoked them, but they did grow silent for a season that dragged on 150 years longer than the existence of our country.

Fast forward 400 years, and we come to a time when Israel was being ruled by God-hating pagans,

the Davidic dynasty was nowhere to be found, Israel was essentially in exile while living in their own land, and the gospel promises of an eternal Eden-like Kingdom were starting to fade into the trash bins of history. But then, all of a sudden, the silence is broken. Matthew begins his gospel like a rollercoaster that goes from 0 to 100 mph in a split second. There are genealogies, fulfilled prophecies, angelic appearances, Old Testament allusions, and God sightings that come at readers left and right. And the exciting pace is meant to communicate loud and clear: the promised Messiah, the Savior of the world, the one we have been waiting for for thousands of years—He is here! He is finally here! Now let's turn to Matthew and let him share his Holy Spirit-inspired perspective on the best story ever told.

MEDITATE ON
Matthew 1:21

PRAY
Psalm 119:18

STEP 01

OBSERVE

MATTHEW 1:1-2:23

PRAYERFULLY READ MATTHEW 1:1-17

- 01 | As you read through the genealogy, what stands out as surprising or unexpected?

- 02 | Consider how Matthew begins and ends the genealogy. Which ancestors of Jesus does Matthew seem to be highlighting? What do these highlights imply about Jesus' identity?

- 03 | Consider the five women mentioned in the genealogy. What implications does their inclusion have for Jesus' mission and identity? (*Hint: consider their ethnicity, morality, marital status, etc.*)

- 04 | Ponder: of all the ways to start a Gospel, why a genealogy? What does it communicate about the identity and mission of Jesus?

PRAYERFULLY READ MATTHEW 1:18-25

- 05 | Consider the different characters mentioned in this passage. What does each character's relationship to Jesus imply about His identity (e.g., Mary being Jesus' birth mom implies He is fully human)?
- 06 | What does the meaning of Jesus' name reveal about who He is?

PRAYERFULLY READ MATTHEW 2:1-12

- 07 | Compare and contrast how the religious leaders, Herod, and the wise men responded to Jesus. What stands out about their responses?
- 08 | What does this passage reveal about who Jesus is and how we should respond to Him?

PRAYERFULLY READ MATTHEW 2:13-23

- 09 | According to this passage, what type of man was King Herod? What would it have been like to be ruled by that type of ruler?
- 10 | Why does Matthew keep emphasizing that events in Jesus' life fulfill Old Testament prophecies? What do these fulfillments imply about His identity?

MEDITATE ON

Matthew 1:21

STEP 02

INTERPRET

MATTHEW 1:1-2:23

Jesus' identity is like a diamond—it is multifaceted and beautiful. In the first two chapters of his Gospel, Matthew turns the diamond from side to side so that his readers can begin to fathom all that Jesus is and has come to accomplish. Here in Step

02, we will gaze at a few different facets of the diamond with the goal of having the same response to Him as the wise men did, which was fully surrendered worship. Then we will consider to whom this good news about Jesus applies.

WE WILL SEEK TO DISCOVER

ZOOM OUT 01 / Jesus is the Messianic Son of David

ZOOM OUT 02 / Jesus is the Son of God Incarnate

ZOOM OUT 03 / Who did Jesus come to save?

CONSIDER THE CROSS REFERENCES ON PAGES 128-129

- 01 | Go through the genealogy (Matthew 1:1-17) and circle every occurrence of David's name. How does the genealogy highlight Jesus' identity as the son of David?
- 02 | Now consider Matthew 2:1-12. What clues do you see in the text that point to Jesus being a king from the line of David?
- 03 | Read 2 Samuel 7:13-14 and Isaiah 9:6-7. Why is it significant that Jesus is the promised son of David?

REFLECT

Genealogies in the Bible are tempting to skip over with all the difficult-to-pronounce names and hard-to-trace family connections, but each name in Jesus' genealogy holds great significance, points us to Jesus' identity as the promised Messiah, and can lead us to worship. Which parts or names of the genealogy of Jesus stood out to you, surprised you, and drew you to worship the promised Savior and King?

In the previous *zoom out*, we considered the many ways Matthew 1-2 shouts that Jesus is the long-awaited son of David. He is the Savior that was promised all the way back in the beginning, and He has come to establish a universal and eternal kingdom characterized by peace, righteousness, flourishing, and the presence of God. This indeed is very good news.

In this *zoom out*, we are going to consider how the news just keeps getting better and better. Ever since the first messianic prophecy back in Genesis 3:15,

the expectation was that the Messiah would be a human. He would be a seed of the woman and offspring of Abraham and David. Matthew's account of Jesus' birth does confirm that Jesus was indeed fully human, as He was born of Mary.

However, Matthew includes many clues for his readers that point to Jesus being fully human *and* fully God. Let's consider the evidence of the incarnation together so that we can marvel at the greatest miracle in the history of the world.

CONSIDER THE CROSS REFERENCES ON PAGES 129-130

04 | Matthew gives multiple indicators that point readers to consider the *deity* of Jesus. Find as many as you can and write them down (primarily focus on 1:18-2:12).

05 | According to Matthew, how should readers respond to Jesus?

REFLECT

The Christmas story is so familiar to us and can be challenging to read with fresh eyes. The tangibility of “Immanuel—God with us” leaps out at us. God Himself takes on human form, not only to be among us, but to save us for an eternity with him.

What stands out to you as you read this story again? Imagine what it would have been like for Jesus to become like us. Meditate on how Paul reflects on this incredible truth from Philippians 2:5-8.

In the previous *zoom outs*, we have seen that Jesus is the fully human Messiah, the long-awaited son of David, *and* the fully divine incarnation of Yahweh who is worthy of our worship. In *Zoom Out 03*, we will consider one of the most beautiful verses in the Gospel of Matthew, if not the whole Bible. Matthew reports the angel's words to Joseph in 1:21, saying, "She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

We have already considered the good news that Jesus' name means "Yahweh saves."

Later in this study, we will consider what it means to be saved from our "sins." But for now, we need to ask: Who are "his people"? What does the angel mean when he says Jesus will save *his people* from their sins? The answer to this very important question will develop throughout the Gospel, but there are clues from the very beginning. Let's consider some of them now.

CONSIDER THE CROSS REFERENCES ON PAGE 130

- 06 | Did Jesus come to save Jews only, or Jews and Gentiles? Look for clues in the first two chapters that give hints to the answer to this very important question. Consider Genesis 12:1-3 / Matthew 1:1-17 / Galatians 3:7-9 as you look for your answer.
- 07 | Read Matthew 3:7-10, 12:46-50, 28:18-20. Based on clues from these passages, who are "his people" whom Jesus came to save?

REFLECT

Reflect on the personal and intricate way God designed to save His people. Throughout the entire story of mankind, God has been weaving a path to come to us in the flesh to save and bless any who put their faith in the Son.

Jesus' promise to be "with you always, to the end of the age" is more than words in our text. How do this promise and Jesus' mission to save people from all nations cause you to worship and follow Him?

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REFLECT & APPLY

REFLECT 01

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper has a slightly textured appearance and is set against a dark background.

REFLECT 02

[illegible]

REFLECT 03

[illegible]

STEP 03

RESPOND IN PRAYER

MATTHEW 1:1-2:23

- PRAISE** Give praise to the King of kings! Worship Jesus and rejoice exceedingly with great joy that He has come to save you from your sins, to dwell among us, and to rule as the great King and good Shepherd of His people.
- ADMIT** Confess where your heart may feel more like Herod's or the religious leaders' than that of the wise men. Is there any hostility or indifference toward Jesus? Jesus invites you to bring those dark places into the light. Tell Him the state of your heart today.
- ASK** Ask the Spirit to continue to soften your heart and illuminate the Word to you. Pray that you grow in knowledge and understanding.
- THANK** Thank God for His timing. As we see in the plan to send Jesus, it wasn't a quick fix but a beautifully intricate plan to save His people. Thank Him for His love for you to send Jesus, and for the ways He works all things to completion.