

Joseph's Dream (mid 3 BC)

Matthew 1:18–25a

18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.
 19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just *man*, and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily.
 20 But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.
 21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.
 22 Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying,
 23 Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us. [[Isa 7:14](#)]
 24 Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife:
 25a And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son:

The Birth of Jesus (late 3 or early 2 BC)

Luke 2:1–7

1 And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed.
 2 (*And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.*)
 3 And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.
 4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:)
 5 To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.
 6 And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.
 7 And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

While Shepherds Watched (day of the birth)

Luke 2:8–20

8 And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.
 9 And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.
 10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.
 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.
 12 And this *shall be* a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.
 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,
 14 Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.
 15 And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.
 16 And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.
 17 And when they had seen *it*, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.
 18 And all they that heard *it* wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.
 19 But Mary kept all these things, and pondered *them* in her heart.
 20 And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

Jesus' Circumcision and Naming (8 days after birth)

Matthew 1:25b

Luke 2:21

25b and he [Joseph] called his name JESUS.

21 And when eight days were accomplished for the circumcising of the child, his name was called JESUS, which was so named of the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

Jesus' Royal Jewish Lineage (8 days after birth)

Matthew 1:1–17

Introduction

1 The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

Abraham to David

2 Abraham begat Isaac; and Isaac begat Jacob; and Jacob begat Judas and his brethren;
 3 And Judas begat Phares and Zara of Thamar; and Phares begat Esrom; and Esrom begat Aram;
 4 And Aram begat Aminadab; and Aminadab begat Naasson; and Naasson begat Salmon;
 5 And Salmon begat Booz of Rachab; and Booz begat Obed of Ruth; and Obed begat Jesse;
 6a And Jesse begat David the king; [cf. [1 Chr 2:3–15](#)]

David to Exile (Jechoniah/Jehoiachin)

6b and David the king begat Solomon of her *that had been the wife* of Urias;
 7 And Solomon begat Roboam; and Roboam begat Abia; and Abia begat Asa;
 8 And Asa begat Josaphat; and Josaphat begat Joram; and Joram begat Ozias;
 9 And Ozias begat Joatham; and Joatham begat Achaz; and Achaz begat Ezekias;
 10 And Ezekias begat Manasses; and Manasses begat Amon; and Amon begat Josias;
 11 And Josias begat Jechonias and his brethren, about the time they were carried away to Babylon: [cf. [1 Chr 3:10–14](#)]

Exile (Jechoniah/Jehoiachin) to Jesus

12 And after they were brought to Babylon, Jechonias begat Salathiel; and Salathiel begat Zorobabel;
 13 And Zorobabel begat Abiud; and Abiud begat Eliakim; and Eliakim begat Azor;
 14 And Azor begat Sadoc; and Sadoc begat Achim; and Achim begat Eliud;
 15 And Eliud begat Eleazar; and Eleazar begat Matthan; and Matthan begat Jacob;
 16 And Jacob begat Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ.

Summary

17 So all the generations from Abraham to David *are* fourteen generations; and from David until the carrying away into Babylon *are* fourteen generations; and from the carrying away into Babylon unto Christ *are* fourteen generations.

Jesus' Human Lineage (8 days after birth)

Luke 3:23b-38

Jesus to David

23b being (as was supposed) the son of Joseph, which was *the son* of Heli,
 24 Which was *the son* of Matthat, which was *the son* of Levi, which was *the son* of Melchi, which was *the son* of Janna, which was *the son* of Joseph,
 25 Which was *the son* of Mattathias, which was *the son* of Amos, which was *the son* of Naum, which was *the son* of Esli, which was *the son* of Nagge,
 26 Which was *the son* of Maath, which was *the son* of Mattathias, which was *the son* of Semei, which was *the son* of Joseph, which was *the son* of Juda,
 27 Which was *the son* of Joanna, which was *the son* of Rhesa, which was *the son* of Zorobabel, which was *the son* of Salathiel, which was *the son* of Neri,
 28 Which was *the son* of Melchi, which was *the son* of Addi, which was *the son* of Cosam, which was *the son* of Elmodam, which was *the son* of Er,
 29 Which was *the son* of Jose, which was *the son* of Eliezer, which was *the son* of Jorim, which was *the son* of Matthat, which was *the son* of Levi,
 30 Which was *the son* of Simeon, which was *the son* of Juda, which was *the son* of Joseph, which was *the son* of Jonan, which was *the son* of Eliakim,
 31 Which was *the son* of Melea, which was *the son* of Menan, which was *the son* of Mattatha, which was *the son* of Nathan, which was *the son* of David,

David to Abraham

32 Which was *the son* of Jesse, which was *the son* of Obed, which was *the son* of Booz, which was *the son* of Salmon, which was *the son* of Naasson,
 33 Which was *the son* of Aminadab, which was *the son* of Aram, which was *the son* of Esrom, which was *the son* of Phares, which was *the son* of Juda,
 34a Which was *the son* of Jacob, which was *the son* of Isaac, which was *the son* of Abraham,

Abraham to Adam

34b which was *the son* of Thara, which was *the son* of Nachor,
 35 Which was *the son* of Saruch, which was *the son* of Ragau, which was *the son* of Phalec, which was *the son* of Heber, which was

the son of Sala,

36 Which was *the son* of Cainan, which was *the son* of Arphaxad, which was *the son* of Sem, which was *the son* of Noe, which was *the son* of Lamech,

37 Which was *the son* of Mathusala, which was *the son* of Enoch, which was *the son* of Jared, which was *the son* of Maleleel, which was *the son* of Cainan,

38 Which was *the son* of Enos, which was *the son* of Seth, which was *the son* of Adam, which was *the son* of God.

Mary's Purification Rite / Jesus' Presentation at the Temple (40 days after birth)

Luke 2:22–39a

Jesus' Presentation

22 And when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were accomplished, they brought him to Jerusalem, to present *him* to the Lord;

23 (As it is written in the law of the Lord, Every male that openeth the womb shall be called holy to the Lord;) [[Exod 13:2, 12, 15](#)]

24 And to offer a sacrifice according to that which is said in the law of the Lord, A pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons. [[Lev 12:8](#)]

Simeon's Prophecy

25 And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him.

26 And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ.

27 And he came by the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law,

28 Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said,

29 Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word:

30 For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,

31 Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;

32 A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.

33 And Joseph and his mother marveled at those things which were spoken of him.

34 And Simeon blessed them, and said unto Mary his mother, Behold, this *child* is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against; [cf. [Isa 8:14–15](#)]

35 (Yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also,) that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.

Anna's Testimony

36 And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Aser: she was of a great age, and had lived with an husband seven years from her virginity;

37 And she was a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple, but served *God* with fastings and prayers night and day.

38 And she coming in that instant gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem.

Luke's Conclusion (he does not mention the Magi or the flight to Egypt)

39a And when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord,

Visit of the Magi (2 BC)

Matthew 2:1–12

1 Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem,

2 Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.

3 When Herod the king had heard *these things*, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

4 And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born.

5 And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet,

6 And thou Bethlehem, *in* the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel. [[Mic 5:2](#)]

7 Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared.

8 And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found *him*, bring me

word again, that I may come and worship him also.

9 When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was.

10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.

11 And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.

12 And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.

Flight to Egypt / Massacre of the Innocents (2 BC)

Matthew 2:13–18

13 And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him.

14 When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt:

15 And was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Out of Egypt have I called my son. [[Hos 11:1](#)]

16 Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently enquired of the wise men.

17 Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy the prophet, saying,

18 In Rama was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping *for* her children, and would not be comforted, because they are not. [[Jer 31:15](#)]

Scripture quotations are from The King James Version (KJV). The KJV is in the public domain.

Chronological Notes

- 1) For more detail on the historical accuracy of Luke's chronological notation concerning Quirinius (Luke 2:2), see the following: Harold W. **Hoehner**, "Chronological Aspects of the Life of Christ Part I: The Date of Christ's Birth," *BSac* 131:520 (Oct 1973): 338–351; Wayne **Brindle**, "The Census and Quirinius: Luke 2.2," *JETS* 21.1 (March 1984): 43–52; Jared M. **Compton**, "Once More: Quirinius's Census," *DBSJ* 14 (2009): 45–54 and John H. **Rhoads**, "Josephus Misdated the Census of Quirinius," *JETS* 54.1 (March 2011): 65–87.
- 2) Visit of the Magi.
 - A) It seems unlikely that Joseph and Mary would have returned to Nazareth immediately after Jesus' birth, only to return to Jerusalem a month and a half later. The more likely scenario would be for them to have stayed with relatives in Bethlehem until the forty day purification period was completed (cf. Lev 12). However, the question remains: did the magi visit them before or after Jesus' presentation at the temple? The answer is found in Luke 2:28 where it records that Joseph and Mary offered "a pair of doves or two young pigeons"—the offering prescribed for those who were poor (Lev 12:8). Had the Magi visited them before the presentation at the temple, Joseph and Mary, who were careful to observe the Law, could have afforded the more costly offering of a sheep (cf. Matt 2:11—the gift of "gold").¹ Thus we conclude that the Magi's visit to Bethlehem occurred just after Jesus' presentation at the temple.
 - B) What of the star which the Magi reported seeing prior to their journey to Jerusalem? There have been many proposals which attempt to explain the astronomical phenomenon described by the Magi.² However, there is not enough data in Matthew's account to determine definitively which proposal is correct. "At most we can say that the star could have appeared as early as 4 BC, no more than two years before Jesus' birth."³

¹ Andrew E. Steinmann, *From Abraham to Paul*, 252–253.

² See the extensive discussion in Finegan, *Handbook of Biblical Chronology*, 306–320.

³ Steinmann, 249–251.