

Joseph's Dream (mid 3 BC)

Matthew 1:18–25a

- 18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ occurred in this way. His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, *but* before they came together, she was found to be pregnant by the Holy Spirit.
- 19 So Joseph her husband, being righteous and not wanting to disgrace her, intended to divorce her secretly.
- 20 But *as* he was considering these things, 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 what has been conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.
- 21 And she will give birth to a son, and you will call his name ‘Jesus,’ because he will save his people from their sins.”
- 22 Now all this happened in order that what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet would be fulfilled, saying,
- 23 “Behold, the virgin will become pregnant and will give birth to a son, and they will call his name Emmanuel,” which is translated, “God with us.” [\[Isa 7:14\]](#)
- 24 And Joseph, *when he* woke up from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him, and he took his wife
- 25b and did not have sexual relations with her until she gave birth to a son.

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

Luke 2:1–7

- 1 Now it happened that in those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus to register all the empire.
- 2 (This first registration took place *when* Quirinius was governor of Syria.)
- 3 And everyone went to be registered, each one to his own town.
- 4 So Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family line of David,
- 5 to be registered together with Mary, who was legally promised in marriage to him *and* was pregnant.
- 6 And it happened that while they were there, the time came for her to give birth.
- 7 And she gave birth to her firstborn son, and wrapped him in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

While Shepherds Watched (day of the birth)

Luke 2:8–20

- 8 And there were shepherds in the same region, living out of doors and keeping watch, guarding over their flock by night.
- 9 And an angel of the Lord stood near them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terribly frightened.
- 10 And the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring good news to you of great joy which will be for all the people:
- 11 that today a Savior, who is Christ the Lord, was born for you in the city of David.
- 12 And this will be the sign for you: you will find the baby wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger.”
- 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly army, praising God and saying,
- 14 “Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace
among people with whom he is pleased!”
- 15 And it happened that when the angels had departed from them into heaven, the shepherds began to say to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has revealed to us!”
- 16 And they went hurrying and found both Mary and Joseph, and the baby who was lying in the manger.
- 17 And *when they saw it*, they made known the statement that had been told to them about this child.
- 18 And all who heard *it* were astonished concerning what had been said to them by the shepherds.
- 19 But Mary treasured up all these words, pondering *them* in her heart.
- 20 And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all that they had heard and seen, just as it had been told to 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 completed so that he could be circumcised, he was named Jesus, his name *that he* was called by 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 genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

Abraham to David

2 Abraham became the father of Isaac, and Isaac became the father of Jacob, and Jacob became the father of Judah and his brothers,

3 and Judah became the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez became the father of Hezron, and Hezron became the father of Aram,

4 and Aram became the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab became the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon became the father of Salmon,

5 and Salmon became the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz became the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed became the father of Jesse,

6a and Jesse became the father of David the king. [cf. [1 Chr 2:3–15](#)]

David to Exile (Jechoniah/Jehoiachin)

6b And David became the father of Solomon by the *wife* of Uriah,

7 and Solomon became the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam became the father of Abijah, and Abijah became the father of Asa,

8 and Asa became the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat became the father of Joram, and Joram became the father of Uzziah,

9 and Uzziah became the father of Jotham, and Jotham became the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz became the father of Hezekiah,

10 and Hezekiah became the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh became the father of Amon, and Amon became the father of Josiah,

11 and Josiah became the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon. [cf. [1 Chr 3:10–14](#)]

Exile (Jechoniah/Jehoiachin) to Jesus

12 And after the deportation to Babylon, Jechoniah became the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel became the father of Zerubbabel,

13 and Zerubbabel became the father of Abiud, and Abiud became the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim became the father of Azor,

14 and Azor became the father of Zadok, and Zadok became the father of Achim, and Achim became the father of Eliud,

15 and Eliud became the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar became the father of Matthan, and Matthan became the father of Jacob,

16 and Jacob became the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary by whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ.

Summary

17 Therefore all the generations from Abraham to David *are* fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon *are* fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ *are* fourteen generations.

Jesus' Human Lineage (8 days after birth)

Luke 3:23b–38

Jesus to David

23b being the son (as it was believed) 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 Esli, 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,

David to Abraham

32 the *son* of Jesse, the *son* of Obed, the *son* of Boaz, the *son* of Sala, the *son* of Nahshon,

33 the *son* of Amminadab, the *son* of Admin, the *son* of Arni, the *son* of Hezron, the *son* of Perez, the *son* of Judah,

34a the *son* of Jacob, the *son* of Isaac, the *son* of Abraham,

Abraham to Adam

34b the *son* of Terah, the *son* of Nahor,

35 the *son* of Serug, the *son* of Reu, the *son* of Peleg, the *son* of Eber, the *son* of Shelah,

36 the *son* of Cainan, the *son* of Arphaxad, the *son* of Shem, the *son* of Noah, the *son* of Lamech,
 37 the *son* of Methuselah, the *son* of Enoch, the *son* of Jared, the *son* of Mahalaleel, the *son* of Cainan,
 38 the *son* of Enosh, the *son* of Seth, the *son* of Adam, 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 their purification were completed according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present *him* to the Lord

23 (just as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every male that opens the womb will be called holy to the Lord") [[Exod 13:2, 12, 15](#)]

24 and to offer a sacrifice according to what was stated 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 this man *was* righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him.

26 And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit *that he would* not see death before he would see the Lord's Christ.

27 And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus so that they could do for him according to what was customary under the law,

28 he took him in *his* arms and praised God and said,

29 "Now dismiss your slave in peace, Lord,
 according to your word.

30 For my eyes have seen your salvation

31 that you have prepared in the presence of all the peoples,

32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
 and glory to your people Israel."

33 And his father and mother were astonished at what was said about him.

34 And Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed— [cf. [Isa 8:14–15](#)]

35 and a sword will pierce your own soul also, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed!"

Anna's Testimony

36 And there was a prophetess, Anna the daughter of Phanuel of the tribe of Asher (she was advanced in years, having lived with *her* husband seven years after her marriage,

37 and herself *as* a widow up to eighty-four years) who did not depart from the temple with fastings and prayers, serving night and day.

38 And at *that* same hour she approached *and* began to give thanks to God, and to speak about him to all those who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

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

39a And when they had completed everything according to the law of the Lord,

Visit of the Magi (2 BC)

Matthew 2:1–12

2:1 Now *after* Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem,

2 saying, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star at its rising and have come to worship him."

3 And *when* King Herod heard *it*, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him,

4 and *after* calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired from them where the Christ was to be born.

5 So they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet,

6 'And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah,
 are by no means least among the rulers of Judah,

for from you will go out a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel.” [Mic 5:2]

7 Then Herod secretly summoned the wise men *and* determined precisely from them the time *when* the star appeared.

8 And he sent them to Bethlehem *and* said, “Go, inquire carefully concerning the child, and when you have found *him*, report to me so that I also may come *and* worship him.”

9 *After* they listened to the king, they went out, and behold, the star which they had seen at its rising led them until it came *and* stood above *the place* where the child was.

10 Now *when they* saw the star, they rejoiced *with* very great joy.

11 And *when they* came into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down *and* worshiped him. And opening their treasure boxes, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh.

12 And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back to their *own* country by another route.

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

Matthew 2:13–18

13 Now *after* they had gone away, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph, saying, “Get up, take the child and his mother and flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you. For Herod is about to seek the child to destroy him.”

14 So he got up *and* took the child and his mother during the night and went away to Egypt.

15 And he was there until the death of Herod, in order that what was said by the Lord through the prophet would be fulfilled, saying,

“Out of Egypt I called my son.” [Hos 11:1]

16 Then Herod, *when he* saw that he had been deceived by the wise men, became very angry, and he sent *soldiers and* executed all the children in Bethlehem and in all the region *around* it from *the age of* two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined precisely from the wise men.

17 Then what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled, saying,

18 “A voice was heard in Ramah,
weeping and great mourning,
Rachel weeping *for* her children,
and she did not want to be comforted,
because they exist no longer.” [Jer 31:15]

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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.

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

- 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

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

³ Steinmann, 249–251.