

Joseph's Dream (mid 3 BC)

Matthew 1:18–25a

- 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.
- 19 And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man and not wanting to disgrace her, planned to send her away secretly.
- 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 Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.
- 21 She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."
- 22 Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet:
- 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." [\[Isa 7:14\]](#)
- 24 And Joseph awoke from his sleep and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him, and took *Mary* as his wife,
- 25a but kept her a virgin until she gave birth to a Son;

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

Luke 2:1–7

- 1 Now in those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus, that a census be taken of all the inhabited earth.
- 2 This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria.
- 3 And everyone was on his way to register for the census, each to his own city.
- 4 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 engaged to him, and was with child.
- 6 While they were there, the days were completed 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 room for them in the inn.

While Shepherds Watched (day of the birth)

Luke 2:8–20

- 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 suddenly 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 This *will be* a 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 When the angels had gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds *began* saying to one another, "Let us go straight to Bethlehem then, and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us."
- 16 So they came in a hurry and found their way to Mary and Joseph, and the baby as He lay in the manger.
- 17 When they had seen this, they made known the statement which had been told them about this Child.
- 18 And all who heard it wondered at the things which were told them by the shepherds.
- 19 But Mary treasured all these things, pondering them in her heart.
- 20 The shepherds went back, glorifying and praising God for all that they had heard and seen, just as had been told 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 had passed, before His circumcision, His name *was then* called Jesus, the name given 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 record of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham:

Abraham to David

- 2 Abraham was the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers.
 3 Judah was the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, Perez was the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram.
 4 Ram was the father of Amminadab, Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon.
 5 Salmon was the father of Boaz by Rahab, Boaz was the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse.
 6a Jesse was the father of David the king. [cf. [1 Chr 2:3–15](#)]

David to Exile (Jeconiah/Jehoiachin)

- 6b David was the father of Solomon by Bathsheba who had been the wife of Uriah.
 7 Solomon was the father of Rehoboam, Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asa.
 8 Asa was the father of Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah.
 9 Uzziah was the father of Jotham, Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah.
 10 Hezekiah was the father of Manasseh, Manasseh the father of Amon, and Amon the father of Josiah.
 11 Josiah became the father of Jeconiah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon. [cf. [1 Chr 3:10–14](#)]

Exile (Jeconiah/Jehoiachin) to Jesus

- 12 After the deportation to Babylon: Jeconiah became the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel.
 13 Zerubbabel was the father of Abihud, Abihud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor.
 14 Azor was the father of Zadok, Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud.
 15 Eliud was the father of Eleazar, Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob.
 16 Jacob was the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, by whom Jesus was born, who is called the Messiah.

Summary

17 So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; from David to the deportation to Babylon, fourteen generations; and from the deportation to Babylon to the Messiah, 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, 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,

David to Abraham

- 32 the son of Jesse, the son of Obed, the son of Boaz, the son of Salmon, the son of Nahshon,
 33 the son of Amminadab, the son of Admin, the son of Ram, 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 Heber, 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 for their purification according to the law of Moses were completed, they brought Him up to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord

23 (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "EVERY *firstborn* MALE THAT OPENS THE WOMB SHALL BE CALLED HOLY TO THE LORD"), [[Exod 13:2](#)]

24 and to offer a sacrifice according to what was said in the Law of the Lord, "A PAIR OF TURTLEDOVES OR TWO YOUNG PIGEONS." [[Lev 12:8](#)]

Simeon's Prophecy

25 And there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; and this man was righteous and devout, looking for 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 had seen the Lord's Christ.

27 And he came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to carry out for Him the custom of the Law,

28 then he took Him into his arms, and blessed God, and said,

29 "Now Lord, You are releasing Your bond-servant to depart in peace,
According to Your word;

30 For my eyes have seen Your salvation,

31 Which You have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

32 A LIGHT OF REVELATION TO THE GENTILES,
And the glory of Your people Israel."

33 And His father and mother were amazed at the things which were being said about Him.

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

35 and a sword will pierce even your own soul—to the end that thoughts from many hearts may 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 and had lived with *her* husband seven years after her marriage,

37 and then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple, serving night and day with fastings and prayers.

38 At that very moment she came up and *began* giving thanks to God, and continued to speak of Him to all those who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

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

39a When they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord,

Visit of the Magi (2 BC)

Matthew 2:1–12

1 Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, 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 When Herod the king heard *this*, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

4 Gathering together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.

5 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 RULER
WHO WILL SHEPHERD MY PEOPLE ISRAEL.'" [[Mic 5:2](#)]

7 Then Herod secretly called the magi and determined from them the exact 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 After hearing the king, they went their way; and the star, which they had seen in the east, went on before them until it came and stood over *the place* where the Child was.

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

11 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 *by God* in a dream not to return to Herod, the magi left for their own country by another way.

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

Matthew 2:13–18

13 Now when they had gone, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “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 left for Egypt.

15 He remained there until the death of Herod. *This was* to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: “OUT OF EGYPT I CALLED MY SON.” [[Hos 11:1](#)]

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 determined from the magi.

17 Then what had been spoken through Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled:

18 “A VOICE WAS HEARD IN RAMAH,
WEEPING AND GREAT MOURNING,
RACHEL WEEPING FOR HER CHILDREN;
AND SHE REFUSED TO BE COMFORTED,
BECAUSE THEY WERE NO MORE.” [[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.
 - 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.