

### Joseph's Dream (mid 3 BC)

Matthew 1:18–25a

- 18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ happened this way. While his mother Mary was engaged to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit.
- 19 Because Joseph, her husband to be, was a righteous man, and because he did not want to disgrace her, he intended to divorce her privately.
- 20 When he had contemplated this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.
- 21 She will give birth to a son and you will name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”
- 22 This all happened so that what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet would be fulfilled:
- 23 “Look! The virgin will conceive and bear a son, and they will call him Emmanuel,” which means “God with us.” [\[Isa 7:14\]](#)
- 24 When Joseph awoke from sleep he did what the angel of the Lord told him. He took his wife,
- 25a but did not have marital 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 in those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus to register all the empire for taxes.
- 2 This was the first registration, taken when Quirinius was governor of Syria.
- 3 Everyone went to his own town to be registered.
- 4 So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family line of David.
- 5 He went to be registered with Mary, who was promised in marriage to him, and who was expecting a child.
- 6 While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child.
- 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 Now there were shepherds nearby living out in the field, keeping guard over their flock at night.
- 9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were absolutely terrified.
- 10 But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid! Listen carefully, for I proclaim to you good news that brings great joy to all the people:
- 11 Today your Savior is born in the city of David. He is Christ the Lord.
- 12 This will be a sign for you: You will find a baby wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger.”
- 13 Suddenly a vast, heavenly army appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,
- 14 “Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace among people with whom he is pleased!”
- 15 When the angels left them and went back to heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, that the Lord has made known to us.”
- 16 So they hurried off and located Mary and Joseph, and found the baby lying in a manger.
- 17 When they saw him, they related what they had been told about this child,
- 18 and all who heard it were astonished at what the shepherds said.
- 19 But Mary treasured up all these words, pondering in her heart what they might mean.
- 20 So the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen; everything was just as they had been told.

### Jesus' Circumcision and Naming (8 days after birth)

Matthew 1:25b

Luke 2:21

25b whom he [*Joseph*] named Jesus.

21 At the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was named 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 This is the record of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

### Abraham to David

2 Abraham was the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers,  
 3 Judah the father of Perez and Zerah (by Tamar), Perez the father of Hezron, Hezron the father of Ram,  
 4 Ram the father of Amminadab, Amminadab the father of Nahshon, Nahshon the father of Salmon,  
 5 Salmon the father of Boaz (by Rahab), Boaz the father of Obed (by Ruth), Obed the father of Jesse,  
 6a and Jesse 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 the wife of Uriah),  
 7 Solomon the father of Rehoboam, Rehoboam the father of Abijah, Abijah the father of Asa,  
 8 Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, Joram the father of Uzziah,  
 9 Uzziah the father of Jotham, Jotham the father of Ahaz, Ahaz the father of Hezekiah,  
 10 Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, Manasseh the father of Amon, Amon the father of Josiah,  
 11 and Josiah 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, Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel,  
 13 Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, Abiud the father of Eliakim, Eliakim the father of Azor,  
 14 Azor the father of Zadok, Zadok the father of Achim, Achim the father of Eliud,  
 15 Eliud the father of Eleazar, Eleazar the father of Matthan, Matthan the father of Jacob,  
 16 and Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, by whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ.

### Summary

17 So 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 Christ, fourteen generations.

## Jesus' Human Lineage (8 days after birth)

Luke 3:23b–38

### Jesus to David

23b He [Jesus] was the son (as was supposed) of Joseph, the son of Heli,  
 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 Mahalalel, the son of Kenan,  
 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 Now when the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, Joseph and Mary brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord

23 (just as it is written in the law of the Lord, *"Every firstborn male will be set apart to the Lord"*), [[Exod 13:2, 12, 15](#)]

24 and to offer a sacrifice according to what is specified in the law of the Lord, *a pair of doves or two young pigeons*. [[Lev 12:8](#)]

### Simeon's Prophecy

25 Now there was a man in Jerusalem named Simeon who was righteous and devout, looking for the restoration of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him.

26 It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Christ.

27 So Simeon, directed by the Spirit, came into the temple courts, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what was customary according to the law,

28 Simeon took him in his arms and blessed God, saying,

29 "Now, according to your word, Sovereign Lord, permit your servant to depart in peace.

30 For my eyes have seen your salvation

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

32 a light,

for revelation to the Gentiles,

and for glory to your people Israel."

33 So the child's father and mother were amazed at what was said about him.

34 Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "Listen carefully: This child is destined to be the cause of the falling and rising of many in Israel and to be a sign that will be rejected. [cf. [Isa 8:14–15](#)]

35 Indeed, as a result of him the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul as well!"

### Anna's Testimony

36 There was also a prophetess, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old, having been married to her husband for seven years until his death.

37 She had lived as a widow since then for eighty-four years. She never left the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day.

38 At that moment, she came up to them and began to give thanks to God and to speak about the child to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

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

39a So when Joseph and Mary had performed everything according to the law of the Lord,

## Visit of the Magi (2 BC)

Matthew 2:1–12

1 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, in the time of King Herod, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem

2 saying, "Where is the one who is born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

3 When King Herod heard this he was alarmed, and all Jerusalem with him.

4 After assembling all the chief priests and experts in the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born.

5 "In Bethlehem of Judea," they said, "for it is written this way by the prophet:

6 *'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,*

*are in no way least among the rulers of Judah,*

*for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.'*" [[Mic 5:2](#)]

7 Then Herod privately summoned the wise men and determined from them when the star had appeared.

8 He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and look carefully for the child. When you find him, inform me so that I can go and worship him as well."

9 After listening to the king they left, and once again the star they saw when it rose led them until it stopped above the place where the child was.

10 When they saw the star they shouted joyfully.

11 As they came into the house and saw the child with Mary his mother, they bowed down and worshiped him. They opened their treasure boxes and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

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

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

Matthew 2:13–18

13 After they had gone, 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 stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to look for the child to kill him.”

14 Then he got up, took the child and his mother during the night, and went to Egypt.

15 He stayed there until Herod died. In this way what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet was fulfilled: “*I called my Son out of Egypt.*” [[Hos 11:1](#)]

16 When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he became enraged. He sent men to kill all the children in Bethlehem and throughout the surrounding region from the age of two and under, according to the time he had learned from the wise men.

17 Then what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled:

18 “A voice was heard in Ramah,  
weeping and loud wailing,  
Rachel weeping for her children,  
and she did not want to be comforted, because they were gone.” [[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”).<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>2</sup> 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.”<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Andrew E. Steinmann, *From Abraham to Paul*, 252–253.

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

<sup>3</sup> Steinmann, 249–251.