

The Church of the Servant King
Home Bible Study
Survey of the Bible Series
The Gospel of Matthew
(Lesson SB-1)
Advance Reading Assignment & Questions

Reading Assignment: Matthew 1-2

Questions and Thought Provokers: (We will not be discussing these questions and issues in an open forum type setting; however, they will prepare you to better receive the information presented next week).

1. Matthew 1:1-17 – Why would a genealogy be important to include in a gospel narrative of Jesus?
2. Matthew 1:1-17 – Note the names of the women that Matthew includes in the genealogy. What could have been Matthew's purpose for including these particular women in the genealogy?
3. Read 1 Chronicles 3:16-17 and compare with Jeremiah 22:24-30 (especially verse 30). Then note Jeconiah's name in the genealogy of Matthew. How would you explain this apparent contradiction?
4. Do you note anything different in Matthew's progression from one generation to the next in 1:16 when compared to the manner in which he documents the progression in previous verses?
5. Difficult question to be addressed in class – Why did Matthew list fourteen generations from Abraham to David, from David to the Babylonian captivity, and from the Babylonian captivity to Christ? He obviously did not list everyone in the genealogy from Abraham to David, etc. So, why did he choose to list fourteen like he did instead of twelve or 30 or another number?
6. Thought provoker – Considering the significance of the fact that Jesus was born of a virgin, isn't it interesting that Matthew spends several verses in chapter 1 focusing upon Joseph's response to this phenomenon? Compare this to Luke 1:34-35 where the virgin birth is more clearly stated.
7. What insight into Joseph's character do you obtain by reading about his actions prior to the angel's appearance in 1:18-19?
8. Do we know how many wise men there were?
9. Are the events in Chapter 2 immediately after the events of Chapter 1? In other words, we know that Jesus was placed in a manger (probably a feed trough) at His birth per Luke 2:7. Was Jesus still in the feed trough when the wise men came inquiring for Him?
10. In what town were Joseph, Mary, and Jesus when they departed for Egypt?
11. Read Hosea 11:1 and Jeremiah 31:15. Did Matthew intend to imply that there had been a direct relationship between Hosea's and Jeremiah's statements (2:15 & 2:18 respectively) and the events Matthew recorded?
12. Can you locate the prophecy that predicts that Jesus will be called a Nazarene?