

# Fulfilled Prophecies

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By Dan Maines

## **Matthew 1**

### **Matthew 1:1**

The record of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham:

† Matthew roots Jesus directly in covenant history. He is the son of David, the promised King, and the son of Abraham, through whom all nations would be blessed (Genesis 12:3; 2 Samuel 7:12-16). This confirms Jesus as the rightful heir of both

the throne and the covenant.

† Josephus records how the Jews carefully preserved genealogies to verify kingship and priesthood (Against Apion 1.30-31). Matthew uses this same standard to present Jesus as the rightful King.

† To us today, this shows our faith is grounded in fulfilled promises, not myths. Christ is the culmination of God's plan through history.

### **Matthew 1:2-6**

Abraham fathered Isaac, Isaac fathered Jacob, and Jacob fathered Judah and his brothers. Judah fathered Perez and Zerah by Tamar, Perez fathered Hezron, and Hezron fathered Ram. Ram fathered Amminadab, Amminadab fathered Nahshon, and Nahshon fathered Salmon. Salmon fathered Boaz by Rahab, Boaz fathered Obed by Ruth, and Obed fathered Jesse. Jesse fathered David the king.

† The genealogy highlights God's grace by including Tamar, Rahab, and Ruth. Tamar disguised herself as a prostitute (Genesis 38), Rahab was a Canaanite prostitute (Joshua 2), and Ruth was a Moabite foreigner. God worked His plan even through the weak and unexpected.

† Philo emphasizes that divine providence rules history, even when human actions are questionable (On Providence II). This principle is seen in how God used these women.

† To us today, it proves no one is excluded by background or past. God's kingdom embraces all nations, just as seen in Christ's lineage.

### **Matthew 1:7-11**

Solomon fathered Rehoboam, Rehoboam fathered Abijah, and Abijah fathered Asa. Asa fathered Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat

fathered Joram, and Joram fathered Uzziah. Uzziah fathered Jotham, Jotham fathered Ahaz, and Ahaz fathered Hezekiah. Hezekiah fathered Manasseh, Manasseh fathered Amon, and Amon fathered Josiah. Josiah fathered Jeconiah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

† Matthew points to the exile, the lowest point in Israel's history, when the Davidic throne seemed lost. Yet the line of David was preserved, showing that God's promises could not be broken.

† Tacitus notes how Jews clung to hope of restoration during exile (Histories 5.13). Matthew declares that Christ is that restoration.

† To us today, it shows that even when nations collapse, God's covenantal plan stands firm.

### **Matthew 1:12-16**

After the deportation to Babylon: Jeconiah fathered Shealtiel, and Shealtiel fathered Zerubbabel. Zerubbabel fathered Abihud, Abihud fathered Eliakim, and Eliakim fathered Azor. Azor fathered Zadok, Zadok fathered Achim, and Achim fathered Eliud. Eliud fathered Eleazar, Eleazar fathered Matthan, and Matthan fathered Jacob. Jacob fathered Joseph the husband of Mary, by whom Jesus was born, who is called the Messiah.

† The line continues through exile until it reaches Joseph. Although Joseph was not Jesus' biological father, his adoption of Jesus gave Him full legal right to the Davidic throne.

† The Dead Sea Scrolls show expectation for a Davidic Messiah (4QFlorilegium, 4Q252). Matthew shows Jesus is that fulfillment.

† To us today, this proves God's timing is perfect. Even when centuries passed, His plan was not abandoned.

## **Matthew 1:17**

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.

† Matthew organizes history into three sets of fourteen. The number fourteen corresponds to the numeric value of David's name (14 = דוד). This reinforces Jesus as the true Davidic heir.

† The Mishnah records how genealogies were used to prove heritage (Kiddushin 4:1). Matthew shows divine order and intention in Jesus' arrival.

† To us today, it proves history is not random. God arranges it with purpose to lead to Christ.

## **Matthew 1:18-19**

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah was as follows: when His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be pregnant by the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, since he was a righteous man and did not want to disgrace her, planned to send her away secretly.

† Joseph's dilemma shows the tension between law and mercy. To the world, Mary appeared unfaithful. Yet the conception was by the Holy Spirit, fulfilling Isaiah 7:14.

† Josephus testifies to the strict standards of Jewish marriage law (Antiquities 15.259). Joseph's choice of mercy demonstrates true righteousness.

† To us today, Joseph's example teaches us to act with grace even when we don't understand God's plan.

## **Matthew 1:20-21**

But when he had thought this over, 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. She will give birth to a Son; and you shall name Him Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.”

† The angel calls Joseph “son of David,” reminding him of his royal lineage. The name Jesus (Yeshua) means Yahweh saves, pointing directly to His mission of redemption.

† Justin Martyr stressed this as fulfillment of prophecy in Isaiah (Dialogue with Trypho 43).

† To us today, it assures us that salvation is God's work, not man's.

### **Matthew 1:22-23**

Now all this took place so that what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet would be fulfilled: “Behold, the virgin will conceive and give birth to a Son, and they shall name Him Immanuel,” which translated means, “God with us.”

† Matthew ties Jesus' birth directly to Isaiah 7:14. The sign of Immanuel is fulfilled here, not postponed for another age.

† Irenaeus pointed to this as proof of Christ's divinity (Against Heresies 3.21.4).

† To us today, it means we live in covenant fellowship with God. He is with us, not distant.

### **Matthew 1:24-25**

And Joseph awoke from his sleep and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him, and took Mary as his wife, but kept her a virgin until she gave birth to a Son; and he named Him Jesus.

† Joseph obeyed, giving Jesus legal claim to David's throne. His faith secured the line of promise.

† Origen noted Joseph's obedience as part of God's providential plan (Commentary on Matthew 1.5).

† To us today, obedience is the true mark of faith. When God directs, we act.

**† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †**

### Source Index

† Josephus, Against Apion 1.30-31; Antiquities 15.259

† Philo, On Providence II

† Tacitus, Histories 5.13

† Dead Sea Scrolls: 4QFlorilegium, 4Q252

† Mishnah Kiddushin 4:1

† Justin Martyr, Dialogue with Trypho 43

† Irenaeus, Against Heresies 3.21.4

† Origen, Commentary on Matthew 1.5

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