

# Fulfilled Prophecies

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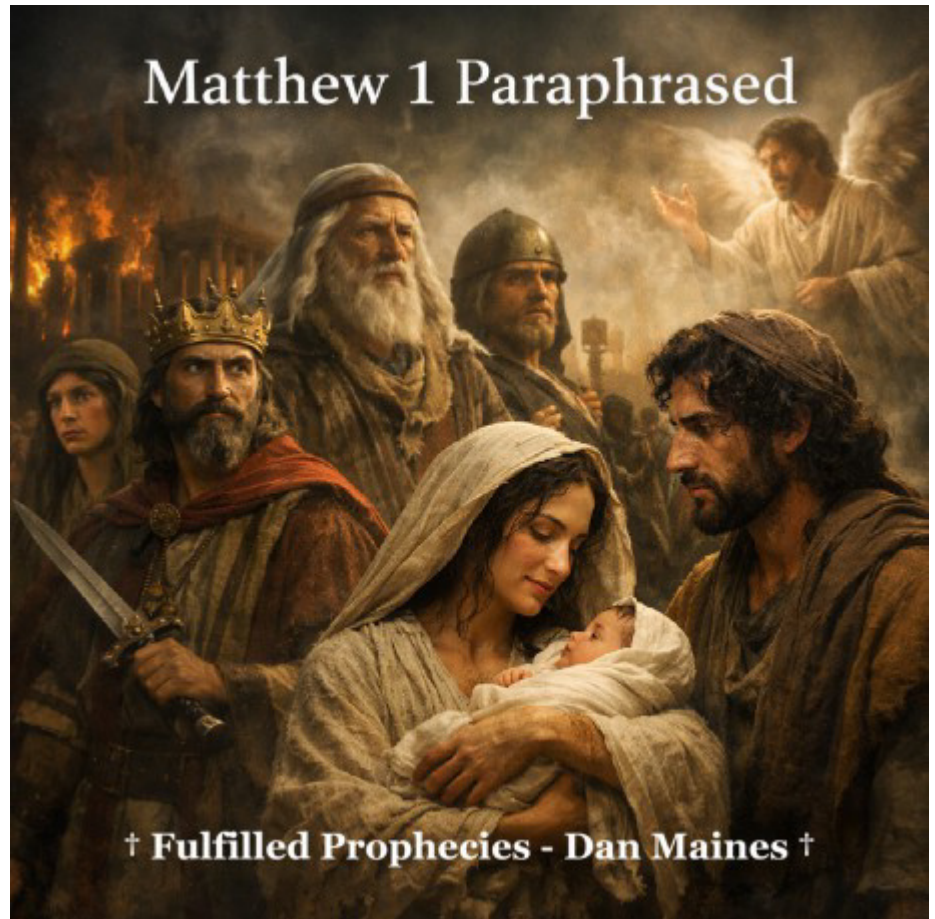
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## Matthew 1 Paraphrased



By Dan Maines

## Matthew 1 Paraphrased

### Introduction

† Matthew begins by showing that Jesus did not appear randomly in history, He came through the exact family line God promised throughout the Old Testament (Genesis 12:3, 2 Samuel 7:12-13).

† The genealogy proves that Jesus is both the promised Son of Abraham and the rightful heir to David's throne, fulfilling the

covenant promises made centuries earlier (Genesis 22:18, Psalm 132:11).

† This opening chapter also shows that God works through real history, real families, and even broken people to accomplish His plan of redemption (Romans 11:29).

## **Matthew 1:1**

The record of the family line of Jesus the Messiah, the descendant of David, the descendant of Abraham.

† Matthew immediately identifies Jesus as the promised Messiah who fulfills the covenant promises given to Abraham and David (Genesis 12:3).

† Calling Him the son of David shows His legal right to the throne of Israel (2 Samuel 7:12-13).

† The title Messiah means the anointed one promised throughout the prophets (Isaiah 61:1).

## **Matthew 1:2**

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

† The line begins with Abraham because God promised that through his offspring all nations would be blessed (Genesis 22:18).

† Judah is highlighted because the royal line was prophesied to come through him (Genesis 49:10).

† This shows that God's promises were carried through specific generations exactly as foretold.

### **Matthew 1:3**

Judah became the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, Perez became the father of Hezron, and Hezron became the father of Ram.

† Tamar's inclusion reminds us that God often works through difficult and unexpected circumstances (Genesis 38:27-30).

† Perez became the continuation of the royal line leading toward David (Ruth 4:18-22).

† Even flawed people were used by God to carry forward His covenant purposes.

### **Matthew 1:4**

Ram became the father of Amminadab, Amminadab became the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon became the father of Salmon.

† Nahshon was a leader of the tribe of Judah during the wilderness period (Numbers 1:7).

† This shows the continuity between the Exodus generation and the royal line.

† God's covenant plan continued through Israel's national history.

### **Matthew 1:5**

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

† Rahab was a Gentile who believed the God of Israel and was brought into the covenant people (Joshua 2:9-11).

† Ruth was also a Gentile who joined Israel through faith and loyalty (Ruth 1:16).

† Their presence in the genealogy shows that God's plan always included the nations.

### **Matthew 1:6**

Jesse became the father of David the king. David became the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah.

† David is called the king because the covenant promise of an eternal throne was given to him (2 Samuel 7:12-13).

† The mention of Uriah's wife reminds readers of David's sin, yet God's covenant promises still continued (2 Samuel 11:3-4).

† God's grace works even through human failure.

### **Matthew 1:7**

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

† This section traces the royal line of Judah after David.

† These kings ruled in Jerusalem, preserving the Davidic throne.

† Despite spiritual decline in many of these kings, God's promise to David remained.

### **Matthew 1:8**

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

† Jehoshaphat was known for seeking the Lord and bringing reforms to Judah (2 Chronicles 17:3-4).

† This genealogy compresses some generations, a common Jewish practice in genealogical records.

† The key purpose is to trace the royal authority leading to the Messiah.

### **Matthew 1:9**

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

† Hezekiah was a king who brought major spiritual reform in Judah (2 Kings 18:3-6).

† These kings lived during the time when many prophets warned Israel and Judah about coming judgment.

† The Davidic line continued even during times of national crisis.

### **Matthew 1:10**

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

† Manasseh was one of Judah's most wicked kings, yet God still preserved the covenant line (2 Kings 21:1-2).

† Josiah later led one of the greatest reforms in Judah's history (2 Kings 23:25).

† This demonstrates God's faithfulness even when leaders failed.

### **Matthew 1:11**

Josiah became the father of Jeconiah and his brothers at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

† The Babylonian exile marked the end of Judah's independent monarchy (2 Kings 24:14).

† This event fulfilled prophetic warnings given by Jeremiah (Jeremiah 25:11).

† Even through exile, God preserved the lineage that would lead to the Messiah.

### **Matthew 1:12**

After the deportation to Babylon, Jeconiah became the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel became the father of Zerubbabel.

† Zerubbabel later led the return from exile and helped rebuild the temple (Ezra 3:8).

† His leadership signaled that God's promises to Israel were still moving forward.

† The messianic line continued even in foreign lands.

### **Matthew 1:13**

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

† These generations lived during the long period between the Old Testament prophets and the birth of Christ.

† Though the scriptures are mostly silent about them, God was still guiding history.

† The Messiah's arrival was quietly approaching.

### **Matthew 1:14**

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

† These lesser known generations remind us that God's plan often unfolds quietly across centuries.

† Each generation carried the promise forward.

† None of these names were accidental in God's unfolding purpose.

### **Matthew 1:15**

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

† These final generations lead directly to Joseph, the legal father of Jesus.

† The genealogy shows an unbroken legal line leading to the Messiah.

† God's promise had now reached its appointed moment.

### **Matthew 1:16**

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

† Jesus is not described as Joseph's biological son, highlighting the miraculous nature of His birth.

† Joseph provided the legal Davidic lineage.

† Mary provided the human birth through which the Messiah entered the world.

### **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 the genealogy to highlight three major periods of Israel's history.

† Abraham to David represents the rise of the covenant nation.

† David to exile represents the fall of the kingdom.

† Exile to Christ represents the arrival of the promised restoration.

### **Matthew 1:18**

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah happened in this way. When His mother Mary had been promised in marriage to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit.

† This reveals the supernatural nature of Jesus' conception.

† The child was not the result of human union but of God's direct action.

† This fulfills the prophetic expectation of a miraculous birth (Isaiah 7:14).

### **Matthew 1:19**

Joseph her husband, being a righteous man and not wanting to disgrace her publicly, decided to end the engagement quietly.

† Joseph's reaction shows both his righteousness and his compassion.

† According to the law, Mary could have faced severe punishment (Deuteronomy 22:23-24).

† Instead, Joseph chose mercy.

### **Matthew 1:20**

But while he was thinking about these things, 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.

† The angel addresses Joseph as son of David, confirming the royal lineage.

† This divine message assures Joseph that the pregnancy is God's work.

† The Messiah was entering the world exactly according to God's plan.

### **Matthew 1:21**

She will give birth to a son, and you will name Him Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins.

† The name Jesus means the Lord saves.

† His mission is clearly stated, salvation from sin.

† This salvation would be accomplished through His death and resurrection.

### **Matthew 1:22**

All this happened to fulfill what the Lord had spoken through the prophet.

† Matthew constantly connects events in Jesus' life to Old Testament prophecy.

† This emphasizes that nothing in the gospel story is accidental.

† Everything unfolded according to God's revealed plan.

### **Matthew 1:23**

Look, the virgin will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they will call His name Immanuel, which means God with us.

† This prophecy comes from Isaiah 7:14.

† Immanuel describes the presence of God among His people.

† In Jesus, God entered human history directly.

### **Matthew 1:24**

When Joseph woke from sleep, he did exactly as the angel of the Lord instructed him and took Mary as his wife.

† Joseph's obedience demonstrates faithful submission to God's will.

† His actions protected Mary and ensured the child would be raised within the Davidic household.

† Obedience to God often requires trust in difficult circumstances.

## **Matthew 1:25**

But he did not have marital relations with her until she gave birth to a son, and he named Him Jesus.

† This confirms the virgin birth.

† Joseph faithfully followed the angel's instruction.

† The child received the name that revealed His mission, salvation.

## **Historical References**

† Justin Martyr wrote that Jesus fulfilled the prophecies concerning the lineage of David and the virgin birth in his Dialogue with Trypho.

† Irenaeus explained that the genealogy proves Jesus came through the historical line promised to Abraham and David in Against Heresies.

† Eusebius documented the preserved genealogical records of Jewish families confirming the royal lineage in Ecclesiastical History.

## **How It Applies To Us Today**

† God keeps His promises even when centuries pass between the promise and the fulfillment (2 Peter 3:9).

† The genealogy reminds us that God works through ordinary people and imperfect lives to accomplish His purposes (Romans 8:28).

† Jesus entering history proves that salvation was part of God's plan from the very beginning.

## **Q & A Appendix**

**Q:** Why does Matthew start with a genealogy?

**A:** Because it proves Jesus is the promised descendant of Abraham and David, fulfilling God's covenant promises (Genesis 22:18; 2 Samuel 7:12-13).

**Q:** Why are Gentile women included in the genealogy?

**A:** Their inclusion shows that God's plan of redemption was always intended for the nations, not just Israel (Isaiah 49:6).

**Q:** Why does Matthew emphasize the virgin birth?

**A:** Because it fulfills prophecy and confirms that Jesus' origin is divine, not merely human (Isaiah 7:14).

**Q:** Why does Matthew divide the genealogy into three groups of fourteen generations?

**A:** Matthew highlights three major periods in Israel's history, the rise of the kingdom from Abraham to David, the decline from David to the Babylonian exile, and the restoration leading to the Messiah. This structure shows that history was moving toward the arrival of Christ exactly as God planned (Daniel 9:24-25).

**Q:** Why is Joseph listed in the genealogy if Jesus was born of a virgin?

**A:** Joseph provides the legal right to David's throne. In Jewish law, legal descent passed through the father, so Joseph adopting and naming Jesus established His rightful claim as the Son of David (Matthew 1:20-21).

**Q:** Why are sinful people included in the Messiah's family line?

**A:** The genealogy openly shows flawed individuals like David and others because God's plan of redemption works through real human history. It demonstrates God's mercy and faithfulness, not human perfection (Romans 5:8).

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

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## **Source Index**

† Genesis 12:3; Genesis 22:18; Genesis 49:10; 2 Samuel 7:12-13; Isaiah 7:14; Isaiah 61:1; Jeremiah 25:11; 2 Kings 24:14; Ruth 4:18-22; Joshua 2:9-11; Ezra 3:8; Romans 11:29; Romans 8:28; 2 Peter 3:9

† Justin Martyr, Dialogue with Trypho; Irenaeus, Against Heresies; Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History.

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