

The Birth of Jesus

1. Old Testament genealogies communicated several things:
 - a. Something about a person's status
 - b. Connection between the individual and the whole community
 - c. Something important about the person himself

2. In Matthew's genealogy we see that it proclaims that the history of God's people, Israel, has moved towards a common goal.
 - a. 14 . . . 14 . . . 14
 - b. God, not human characters, has directed the affairs of Israel toward their climax.

3. The structure of Mathew's genealogy
 - a. 14 . . . 14 . . . 14 and 1 Chronicles 1-2
 - b. Goes through Israel's history with a culmination in the dawn of the Messianic age in Jesus.
 - i. Helps us understand why the disciples did not always understand who Jesus was.

4. Notice, that it matters to Matthew that Jesus is the goal of the history of a *people* (Israel).
 - a. Why is this important?

5. Women in the genealogy
 - a. 5 of them
 - i. Tamar
 - ii. Rahab
 - iii. Ruth
 - iv. wife of Uriah
 - v. Mary

 - b. Why include the first 4?
 - c. In Mary we see an escalation, an increase, an enlargement of the way and the extent to which God acts in surprising ways. In other words, the other 4 can be seen as a type of Mary.

6. How does the genealogy of Jesus help us understand,
 - a. His status

- b. His connection between the individual and the community
 - c. The importance of who he is.
7. Was Joseph doing the right thing? Why or why not?
8. In Joseph we see the theme that to know the ways of God and Christ, they must be revealed.
- a. Wisemen
 - b. Peter's confession
9. Why are the names given to Jesus in Matthew 2 significant?
- a. Immanuel
 - b. Jesus
10. The not so wise (or even wise) wise men.
- a. There is no reference to the magi as "wised" men before the 8th century AD.
 - b. Never in the OT or Jewish literature are magi "wise" in the sense of "learned in matters of significance".
 - i. Daniel 2
 - c. They should be thought more of as magicians and those that dealt with evil spirits.
 - d. The gifts they bring are normal for any king.
 - e. They are to show that Jesus is the promise of a ruler foretold and that he is coming to the Gentiles too.