

A Different King

Who is This Jesus and Where Does He Come From? Matthew 1:1—2:23

“All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet....” Matthew 1:22

1. Read Matthew 1:1–2:23. Matthew wants us to know that Jesus is the long-awaited promised Messiah. What are the prophecies that are mentioned here?

1:22, 23

2:5, 6

2:14, 15

2:22, 23

2. There are five women mentioned in Jesus’ genealogy. Write down some things you know about these women. (Nationality, reputation, occupation, character, etc.) Why do you think Matthew includes them in the genealogy of Jesus?

Tamar (Genesis 38)

Rahab (Joshua 2:1–21)

Ruth (Ruth 1:1–22; 2:10–12; 4:13–15)

Bathsheba (2 Samuel 11)

Mary (Matthew 1:18–25)

3. How does Mary become pregnant? Why is this significant?
4. What character qualities does Joseph display? What do his actions reveal about his faith?
5. How did God speak to Joseph? How does God speak to you?

6. Why is Herod (and “all Jerusalem” as well) so “disturbed” (verse 3) by what the Magi say?

7. When Herod’s plan to kill Jesus is thwarted by the Magi, what does he do to make sure that the “King of the Jews” will never threaten his throne?

8. Jesus was born into a world much like ours—full of political unrest, merciless killings, and untold heartbreak. Are there any parts of the Bible that have encouraged you during troubled times? Share one with your group.

9. How do the following people respond to the news of Jesus’ birth? How do their actions reveal what is most important to them?

Actions:

What’s Important:

Wise Men

Chief Priests
And Scribes

Herod

Joseph

10. Examining your own actions and attitudes this week, what was most important to you? How does your relationship with God affect what you want? How do you want to see this study in Matthew affect your relationship with God?