

Gospel Beginnings: Matthew

The Gospel book of Matthew begins with a genealogy of Jesus' family tree. Why does the writer begin his telling of the Christmas story this way? What message does he want us to understand before he tells us the story of Christ's birth? This Advent season, discover Matthew's purpose, the gospel truths he reveals to us through this long list of names, and what it means for our place in the family of God.

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- What do you already know about Jesus' family tree and lineage?
- Why is it helpful to study and understand how something begins?



LISTEN TO THE EPISODE: [Gospel Beginnings: Matthew](#)

READ [Matthew 1](#)

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- How are you observing Advent in spiritual preparation for Christmas?
- Why is the connection of Matthew's gospel to the Old Testament important? What does it affirm about God and his promises?
- What skeletons or blemishes exist in your life? Do they keep you from a relationship with God? How are you encouraged in your faith by the record of Jesus' genealogy in [Matthew 1](#)?
- How does a genealogy help us see Jesus as Immanuel (God with us)? Why was this meaningful to the Jewish contemporaries of the apostle Matthew? Why is understanding its importance to the original audience helpful for us? Is it meaningful to you? Does it comfort you?

RELATED PASSAGES for further study

[Luke 3:21-38](#), [1 Chronicles 3](#), [Genesis 38:6-30](#), [Joshua 2:1-21](#), [Joshua 6:17-25](#), [Ruth 4:13-22](#), [2 Samuel 11:2-12:25](#)

CONCLUSION

Reflect on your family tree. How has it shaped who you are? Where have you seen God's grace? If you were to create a family tree that reflected those who influenced your faith journey, who would you include? Offer prayers of thanksgiving as you reflect on specific individuals and on God's hand in your faith journey. Conclude by reflecting in prayer on God's faithfulness throughout the generations and what it means to you that in Jesus Christ he became God with us.

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