

## Lesson Two — His Birth

*Day One — The Record of His Birth*

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Last week we studied the prophecies and the birth of the forerunner of the Messiah — John the Baptist. We realized that his birth had been prophesied by the prophets and announced by the angel Gabriel. The child who had been prophesied and announced as the forerunner was born to older parents who had heretofore been barren.

God, after being silent before His people for 400 years, finally sent Gabriel to a man whose name means “God Remembers” who repeated the very last thing which had been recorded by the very last prophet, Malachi. Evidently, God wanted His people to know that *He remembered the oath* (the meaning of Elizabeth’s name) that He had spoken to Abraham and his descendants, and He was about to begin the process of fulfilling the oath concerning the Messiah. And the son born to Zacharias and Elizabeth was the one to announce the coming of Messiah.

This week we are going to look into the details surrounding the birth of the Messiah. Although within the pages of this study, you will be looking at many familiar passages of Scripture, hopefully you will see some of them in an expanded light, so to speak. Hopefully you will see how these passages fit into an overall picture of Scripture, which to a great extent, has been ignored when these passages are reviewed year after year at Christmas time.

We’ll begin this week by once again looking at some of those familiar passages. Why don’t you pray for a keen understanding of the things which you are about to read?

### Day One — The Record of His Birth

For our time today, we are simply going to read the details concerning the birth of the Messiah from a few chapters in the gospels. First, turn in your Appendix and read Matthew chapter one. Make any observational notes in the margins.

Now continue with Luke chapter two; then Matthew chapter two, in that order. When you are done, if you would like, you can write out any observations you make in each of the chapters in the spaces provided.

## Matthew Chapter One

## Luke Chapter Two

## Matthew Chapter Two

We'll consider some specific passages from these chapters throughout the remainder of the week. See you tomorrow.

## Day Two — Descendent of David

In our reading both yesterday and last week, there were several places wherein references were made to David. For our purposes today we need to notice these references in particular. A few of the passages are printed here.<sup>1</sup> As you read through these passages, underline the phrases which have to do with David.

### **Matthew 1**

**1 The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.**

### **Matthew 1**

**20 But when he had considered this, 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 that which has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.**

### **Luke 1**

**27 to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.**

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<sup>1</sup> By no means is this an exhaustive list of references concerning the fact that Jesus is the Son of David.

**Luke 1**

**32 “He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David...**

**Luke 1**

**69 And has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of David His servant —**

**Luke 2**

**4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David,**

**Luke 2**

**11 for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.**

**Luke 3**

**31 the son of Melea, the son of Menna, the son of Mattatha, the son of Nathan, the son of David,**

**John 7**

**42 “Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the offspring of David, and from Bethlehem, the village where David was?”**

**Romans 1**

**3 concerning His Son, who was born of a descendant of David according to the flesh,**

**II Timothy 2**

**8 Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, descendant of David, according to my gospel...**

All in all, what are your impressions of these references concerning Jesus Christ and David? What seems to be the overriding point in these passages?

During David’s reign, God used the prophet Nathan to give David some very important information about his lineage. Study the passage<sup>2</sup> below and carefully outline the detail of it in the chart provided.

**II Samuel 7**

**8 “Now therefore, thus you shall say to My servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts, “I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be ruler over My people Israel. 9 And I have been with you wherever you have gone and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make you a great name, like the names of the great men who are on the earth. 10 I will also appoint a place for My people Israel and will plant them, that they may live in their own place and not be disturbed again, nor will the wicked afflict them any more as formerly, 11 even from the day that I commanded judges to be**

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<sup>2</sup> This passage is repeated in the historical account given in I Chronicles 17:11-14.

over My people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. The LORD also declares to you that the LORD will make a house for you. 12 When your days are complete and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your descendant after you, who will come forth from you, and I will establish his kingdom.

Fill in the chart with the information from this passage.

**What God had already done  
for David:**

**What God would yet do  
for David:**

**II Samuel 7**

11 ...The LORD also declares to you that the LORD will make a house for you. 12 When your days are complete and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your descendant after you, who will come forth from you, and I will establish his kingdom. 13 He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. 14 I will be a father to him and he will be a son to Me; when he commits iniquity, I will correct him with the rod of men and the strokes of the sons of men, 15 but My lovingkindness shall not depart from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. 16 And your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever; your throne shall be established forever.”””

God is referring to a descendant of David. Make notes as to any new promises made to David and the promises concerning David's descendant.

**Promises Concerning David's  
Descendant:**

**New or Repeated Promises  
to David:**

David understood exactly what God had told him through the Prophet Nathan. In fact, David wrote about the promise in many of his Psalms. Here are just two examples of the subject he would often refer to in the Psalms. (And shouldn't he? What a promise was made to David!)

**Psalm 89**

**3 “I have made a covenant with My chosen; I have sworn to David My servant, 4 I will establish your seed forever, and build up your throne to all generations.”**

**Psalm 132**

**11 The LORD has sworn to David, A truth from which He will not turn back; “Of the fruit of your body I will set upon your throne. 12 If your sons will keep My covenant, and My testimony which I will teach them, Their sons also shall sit upon your throne forever.”**

As you can see, there was a condition attached to the promise of his sons and their sons being able to sit on David's throne. Write out what the condition was.

We'll study more about the birth of David's descendent tomorrow. See you then.

## Day Three — Joseph's and Mary's Lineage to David

Begin your study in prayer. Ask the Lord to open your eyes to His truth.

Today we are going to look closely at the lineage of Jesus, back to David, both through the line of Joseph and the line of Mary. First we will cover Joseph's line, as it is recorded in Matthew chapter one; then we'll cover Mary's line as it is recorded in Luke chapter three.

**Matthew 1**

**1 The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.**

Following this opening verse of the New Testament, Matthew traces Jesus' roots back to Abraham through David. From yesterday's study, why do you think this is important enough to be the absolute first verse for the entire New Testament?

Now notice a bit more information. Continuing in Matthew chapter one:

**5 and to Salmon was born Boaz by Rahab; and to Boaz was born Obed by Ruth; and to Obed, Jesse; 6 and to Jesse was born David the king. And to David was born Solomon by her who had been the wife of Uriah; 7 and to Solomon...**

From your previous Biblical knowledge, briefly write out what you know about the following people or couples:

## Salmon and Rahab

## Boaz and Ruth

## David and the wife of Uriah (Bathsheba)

## Solomon

Now let's fast-forward (keeping within the passage that has recorded Joseph's lineage) and jump down to v. 16:

**16 and to Jacob was born Joseph the husband of Mary, by whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ.**

Look closely and note how carefully Matthew recorded the facts. Christ's *legal right* to the throne *had to be* traced to David, through Solomon. Jesus' earthly father *had to be* a descendent of David's son Solomon. And we see in the Gospel of Matthew that Joseph was descended from Solomon.<sup>3</sup>

Yet the conditional clause must be remembered. Even as David was dying, he called Solomon to his bedside, and charged him with the responsibilities of the king.

### I Kings 2

**1 As David's time to die drew near, he charged Solomon his son, saying, 2 "I am going the way of all the earth. Be strong, therefore, and show yourself a man. 3 And keep the charge of the LORD your God, to walk in His ways, to keep His statutes, His commandments, His ordinances, and His testimonies, according to what is written in the law of Moses, that you may succeed in all that you do and wherever you turn, 4 so that the LORD may carry out His promise which He spoke concerning me, saying, 'If your sons are careful of their way, to walk before Me in truth with all their heart and with all their soul, you shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel.'...**

And later the record clearly reveals that David's son, Solomon, fully knew this condition, for early in his reign, he specifically recalled the condition. Underline the condition which Solomon spoke:

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<sup>3</sup> If you want to see the complete record of Joseph's lineage back to David through Solomon, see Mt. 1:1-16.

**I Kings 8<sup>4</sup>**

**25 “Now therefore, O LORD, the God of Israel, keep with Thy servant David my father that which Thou hast promised him, saying, ‘You shall not lack a man to sit on the throne of Israel, if only your sons take heed to their way to walk before Me as you have walked.’**

Sad to say, Solomon *did not* remain faithfully obedient to the Lord God, so once Solomon’s son, Rehoboam, succeeded Solomon to the throne, the kingdom divided, and eventually Solomon’s blood line no longer remained on the throne. Herein is a portion of the record.

**I Kings 11**

**1 Now King Solomon loved many foreign women along with the daughter of Pharaoh: Moabite, Ammonite, Edomite, Sidonian, and Hittite women, 2 from the nations concerning which the LORD had said to the sons of Israel, “You shall not associate with them, neither shall they associate with you, for they will surely turn your heart away after their gods.” Solomon held fast to these in love. 3 And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines, and his wives turned his heart away. 4 For it came about when Solomon was old, his wives turned his heart away after other gods; and his heart was not wholly devoted to the LORD his God, as the heart of David his father had been. 5 For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians and after Milcom the detestable idol of the Ammonites. 6 And Solomon did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, and did not follow the LORD fully, as David his father had done. 7 Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the detestable idol of Moab, on the mountain which is east of Jerusalem, and for Molech the detestable idol of the sons of Ammon. 8 Thus also he did for all his foreign wives, who burned incense and sacrificed to their gods.**

**9 Now the LORD was angry with Solomon because his heart was turned away from the LORD, the God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice, 10 and had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods; but he did not observe what the LORD had commanded. 11 So the LORD said to Solomon, “Because you have done this, and you have not kept My covenant and My statutes, which I have commanded you, I will surely tear the kingdom from you, and will give it to your servant. 12 Nevertheless I will not do it in your days for the sake of your father David, but I will tear it out of the hand of your son. 13 However, I will not tear away all the kingdom, but I will give one tribe to your son for the sake of My servant David and for the sake of Jerusalem which I have chosen.”**

Briefly describe what Solomon did.

Briefly describe what God did as a result of Solomon’s actions.

Yet, because of God’s promise to David (conditional though it was), and David’s walk of repentance and obedience, the *legal right* to the throne *had to come* through David’s bloodline, in spite of Solomon’s

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<sup>4</sup> This quote is exactly repeated in II Chronicles 6:16.

disobedience. And according to the passage in I Kings chapter eleven, Solomon's blood line *would not* continue to have right to the throne, though the legal right to the throne would have to come through Solomon.

Does this present a problem? Not to the God of all promises! God knew just how He would resolve this issue, all the while maintaining His absolute integrity, keeping His promise to David (due to David's faithfulness), as well as maintaining His judicial side of the conditions, which He had previously set forth.

In other words, the legal right to David's throne would, of necessity, come through Solomon, David's son who succeeded him on the throne; yet, Solomon lost the right for his own descendancy to remain on the throne due to his disobedience. So the question is: How would one of David's descendants, through Solomon's lineage, sit *legally* on David's throne as God had promised, and not be Solomon's direct descendent (i.e., a descendent through Solomon's blood line)?

It is easy to see that Joseph was a descendant of David through the lineage of Solomon. But Joseph was not *the physical father* of Jesus Christ, the Promised Son of David; he was *the adopted father*. And through this scenario, Joseph's Son, even though adopted, would have the *legal right* to the throne of David.

With the legal right to the throne settled, how would the one ascending David's throne also be a blood descendant of David, but not through Solomon, since Solomon lost the right to have one of his descendants remain on the throne?

In Matthew chapter one, it can be seen that Christ's lineage is traced back to David through Joseph's father, Jacob, with his lineage going back to David through David's son, Solomon (Mt. 1:6, 16). But an altogether different lineage is traced back to David in Luke chapter three, running Christ's lineage back to David through Joseph's *father-in-law*, Eli, with his lineage going back to David through *another* of David's sons, Nathan. Read it below:

### Luke 3

**21 Now it came about when all the people were baptized, that Jesus also was baptized, and while He was praying, heaven was opened, 22 and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in bodily form like a dove, and a voice came out of heaven, "Thou art My beloved Son, in Thee I am well-pleased." 23 And when He began His ministry, Jesus Himself was about thirty years of age, being supposedly the son of Joseph, the son of Eli...**

**...31 ... the son of Nathan, the son of David...**

It is said here that Jesus is "supposedly" the son of Joseph, who is the *son of Eli*, not the son of Jacob as in the Matthew account.

Let's look at the phrase, "being supposedly the son of Joseph" in v. 23. The Greek word *nomizo* — translated *supposedly* — is derived from the Greek word *nomos*, which is the word for *law*. Therefore the use of this word in the Greek gives a connotation of something being *looked upon in a legal sense*, or *deemed in a legal sense*. So according to this passage, Jesus was deemed, *in a legal sense*, to be the son of Joseph. Then at this point in the text, the lineage traced back to David is different here in the Gospel of Luke than it was in the Gospel of Matthew.

As we have already seen, Joseph was *the son of Jacob* in Matthew's gospel (Mt. 1:16); and the lineage from this point back to David is the lineage going back to David *through Solomon*. But notice in Luke's gospel that it is stated of Joseph that he was the *son of Eli*. This lineage goes back to David through David's son Nathan. This lineage runs the ancestry of Joseph back to David through his *father-in-law*, Eli

— Mary's father. In other words, this lineage is actually *Mary's blood line* back to David through David's son, Nathan, *who was a son also born to David by Bathsheba.*<sup>5</sup> And this could be done *legally*, because Joseph's father was, deemed *by law*, Eli (being Mary's father, or Joseph's father-**in-law**). And Jesus was born to Mary, who had conceived by the Holy Spirit, and adopted by Joseph, Mary's husband.

So now we see how Jesus' *legal right* to the throne of David is through Joseph (Jesus' adopted father), through Solomon; and His blood line to the throne of David is through Mary who is actually from David's blood line through David's son, Nathan, who, as we have seen, was also born to David by Bathsheba.

Amazing! God is so wonderful!

#### Acts 13

**22 “And after He [God] had removed him [Saul from the throne], He raised up David to be their king, concerning whom He also testified and said, ‘I HAVE FOUND DAVID the son of Jesse, A MAN AFTER MY HEART, who will do all My will.’ 23 From the offspring of this man, according to promise, God has brought to Israel a Savior, Jesus...**

We'll close today with this passage from the Prophet Isaiah.

#### Isaiah 11

**1 Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse, And a branch from his roots will bear fruit.**

Jesse was David's father. David was the father of both Solomon and Nathan, by Bathsheba. Joseph was descended from Solomon; Mary was descended from Nathan. Jesus was born to Mary, the wife of Joseph.

There you have it!

We will continue this tomorrow.

## Day Four — The Virgin Birth

In the past three days, we have perused the Scriptures which detail the birth of the Messiah. We have seen how the marriage of Joseph and Mary was the perfect line of descendancy through which the Messiah could come, in order to properly and completely fulfill prophecy. With all of this in mind, we will now go back to the record of His birth and catch some of the specific details. Go back to your Appendix and reread Matthew 1:18ff (p. 115).

Briefly write out the specifics about the record you just read.

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<sup>5</sup> **I Chronicles 3:5 And these were born to him in Jerusalem: Shimea, Shobab, Nathan, and Solomon, four, by Bathshua [Bathsheba] the daughter of Ammiel...**

According to v. 25, what does it say of Joseph and Mary's relationship until Jesus was born?

Let's talk about *the need* for a virgin birth. Why was it necessary that the Messiah, the prophesied Son of God (II Sam. 7:14) be born to *a virgin*? Let's look at it.

The first stated promise of a Redeemer, spoken by God to Satan, referred to "the seed of the *woman*," not the seed of the man. Let's read about it.

### Genesis 3

**15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel."**

What does the text say God will put between Satan and the woman?

What will happen to the seed of the woman?

What will happen to Satan?

From your knowledge of Scripture, what does the term "bruise him on the heel" refer to?

In Genesis 3:15, what might the absence of a reference to the man infer here?

In addition to this, it had been prophesied that the Savior would be born to a virgin. Read about it from the pen of the Prophet Isaiah:

### Isaiah 7

**14 "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel.**

Now look back at Matthew 1:23 and see what the name *Immanuel* means. What does the text say it means?

So why was it *absolutely necessary* for the Messiah to be born to a virgin? It was necessary because the *sin of Adam* was imputed to *all* of Adam's offspring. After Adam ate of the forbidden fruit, his entire lineage would be tainted with a sinful, fallen nature. And, simply stated, this could not be the nature of God the Son. God the Son could not house a fallen nature, being God Himself (*cf.* Col. 1:19, 2:9; John 1:14).

At the beginning, man was created in the image and likeness of God (Gen. 1:26), but now —

### Genesis 5

**1 This is the book of the generations of Adam. In the day when God created man, He made him in the likeness of God. 2 He created them male and female, and He blessed them**

**and named them Man in the day when they were created. 3 When Adam had lived one hundred and thirty years, he became the father of a son in his own likeness, according to his image, and named him Seth.**

In v. 1, what does this text say about the description of Adam in his creation?

In v. 3, what does the text say about the description of Seth?

Yes, from the moment of Adam's sin, every individual born to a man and woman (which includes all individuals save one — the One born to a virgin) would be born with Adam's fallen nature. God had told Adam in the Garden that when he ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, he would surely die. And as a result of Adam's actions nearly 6,000 years ago, death has been a continuous condition all of mankind. However, God has provided a way out.

**I Corinthians 15**

**21 For since by a man came death, by a man also came the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all shall be made alive.**

And so we see,

**Romans 5**

**2 Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned...**

And to show how that this condition of mankind has continued from Adam even until now, we will read a very short passage that states it in clearly! In speaking to the Church at Ephesus, Paul also speaks to us, saying —

**Ephesians 2**

**1 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins...**

But there came One whose seed did not come *through man*. A virgin conceived and bore a Son — the Son of God. Thus, the first man, the first Adam sinned, and through him every single individual born has been born dead in trespasses and sin. But later there came the Second Man (I Cor. 15:47), the Last Adam (I Cor. 15:45), and *in Him*, all will be made alive.

**Romans 5**

**18 So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men. 19 For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous.**

But Jesus coming to die for the redemption of mankind was *not the only reason for His coming*. Remember what we read and studied last week from Luke chapter one.

**Luke 1**

**31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb, and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. 32 He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; 33 and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever; and His kingdom will have no end.”**

On page 13 you wrote out the seven parts of this message which was given to Mary by the Angel Gabriel. Look back at those seven parts now, and write out how you are seeing this picture fit together.

With these things in mind, read another prophesy given to Isaiah, concerning this One born to a virgin..

**Isaiah 9**

**6 For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. 7 There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from then on and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this.**

In your own words, relate this prophecy to what the Angel told Mary.

Read Luke 2:1-13. Write out a brief summary of what took place, particularly noting the references to David.

That's it for today. I hope you are seeing a large picture beginning to take shape.

## Day Five — The Root and the Offspring of David

Today we will complete our study on the birth of the Messiah. I know that we have already read through Matthew chapter two, but there are some details which need our attention today. Before we begin today, why don't you pray for the anointing of the Holy Spirit upon you, to give you clarity and understanding of His Word?

Now go back to your Appendix and read Matthew 2:1-12, then write out a brief synopsis of what you read.

Look specifically at what the wise men from the East said when they arrived in Jerusalem. They asked a question, and then they made a statement. First, what was the question?

Second, what was the statement?

Why would the appearance of a star cause these wise men from the East to come looking for the One born King of the Jews? What is significant about this star? And what did it imply? For the answers to these questions, let's read from the Book of Numbers. This is the section where the Prophet Balaam (who had gone astray from the Lord's way, and had gone his own way [Nu. 22:32]), had been commissioned by Balak, the king of Moab, to curse God's people. Though, for monetary gain, Balaam was willing to curse God's people, God would only allow Balaam to bless them. In the end, the statement God proclaimed through Balaam was this —

**Numbers 24**

**15 And he [Balaam] took up his discourse and said, "The oracle of Balaam the son of Beor, And the oracle of the man whose eye is opened, 16 The oracle of him who hears the words of God, And knows the knowledge of the Most High, Who sees the vision of the Almighty, falling down, yet having his eyes uncovered. 17 I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near; A star shall come forth from Jacob<sup>6</sup>, And a scepter shall rise from Israel...**

**... 19 One from Jacob shall have dominion..."**

Essentially, in this section, what did God say through Balaam?

We'll talk about the star in a moment. But first, let's look at the scepter. According to v. 17, from where will it rise?

So, why do you think the appearance of a star moved these wise men to come looking for "He who has been born King of the Jews"?

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<sup>6</sup> God changed Jacob's name to Israel (see the end of the verse).

Progressive revelation proved to be even more specific than simply revealing that the scepter would rise *from Israel*. Scripture further describes the scepter as rising through Jacob's son, Judah. It had been recorded in Genesis chapter forty-nine, that at the end of Jacob's life, he prophesied over each of his sons, telling them what would befall each of them.

**Genesis 49**

**1 Then Jacob summoned his sons and said, "Assemble yourselves that I may tell you what shall befall you in the days to come. 2 Gather together and hear, O sons of Jacob; And listen to Israel your father..."**

When he got to his fourth son, Judah, Jacob said:

**8 "Judah, your brothers shall praise you; Your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies; Your father's sons shall bow down to you. 9 Judah is a lion's whelp; From the prey, my son, you have gone up. He couches, he lies down as a lion, And as a lion, who dares rouse him up? 10 The scepter shall not depart from Judah, Nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, Until Shiloh comes, And to him shall be the obedience of the peoples."**

List what Jacob said to his son, Judah.

Now let's read some passages that deal with this scepter.

**Psalm 60<sup>7</sup>**

**7 "Gilead is Mine, and Manasseh is Mine; Ephraim also is the helmet of My head; Judah is My scepter."**

That the One to hold the scepter will come from Judah is apparent; but what does a scepter imply?

**Psalm 45**

**6 Thy throne, O God, is forever and ever; A scepter of uprightness is the scepter of Thy kingdom.**

**Psalm 110**

**2 The LORD will stretch forth Thy strong scepter from Zion, saying, "Rule in the midst of Thine enemies."**

**Hebrews 1**

**8 But of the Son He says, "THY THRONE, O GOD, IS FOREVER AND EVER, AND THE RIGHTEOUS SCEPTER IS THE SCEPTER OF HIS KINGDOM."**

Putting all of this together, what is being inferred by all of this? What does holding a scepter imply?

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<sup>7</sup> Psalms 108:8 is a repeat verbatim.

Now let's deal with the appearance of the star. Compare what the wise men from the East said in Matthew 2:1, 2, about the star to what was said by Balaam concerning Israel in Numbers 24:17.

Most likely, the wise men were descendants of the dispersed Jews who had been exiled to Babylon from the Southern kingdom more than 600 years prior, living in "the East" at the time of Christ's birth. And because of their lineage, they would have undoubtedly been aware of the many prophecies concerning the birth of the Messiah. And with this knowledge of Scripture, they would have known what the star implied. Evidenced by their words, they knew!

And those who should have "known" in Jerusalem had an interesting reaction to what these men said. Look at what is said in Matthew 2:3. Along with Herod, who was troubled about the star?

It is understandable that Herod was troubled, but why "all of Jerusalem with him"? What attitude did this portend on the part of Israel at the time of Christ's birth?

After the wise men came to Herod, questioning him about the One born king of the Jews, Herod called the chief priests and scribes, and asked them where the Christ was to be born. What did they say in response to Herod (Mt. 2:5, 6)?

The chief priests and scribes knew the prophecy that came from the Prophet Micah. Micah wrote:

**Micah 5**

**2 "But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, from the days of eternity."**

Now this is interesting! Back in the Book of Ruth, it was from Bethlehem that Naomi and her family left during a time of famine, and traveled to the land of Moab. It was in Moab that both of Naomi's sons took wives for themselves, Ruth and Orpah. And it was back to Bethlehem that Naomi and Ruth traveled years later, after Naomi's husband and sons had died. And it was in Bethlehem that Ruth began working in Boaz's field, and where Boaz later took Ruth for his wife, and where they bore a son named, Obed.

Does the name Obed ring any bells for you? Look back at Matthew 1:5, 6. What does it say?

Now read the last few verses in the Book of Ruth.

**Ruth 4**

**17 And the neighbor women gave him a name, saying, "A son has been born to Naomi!" So they named him Obed. He is the father of Jesse, the father of David. 18 Now these are the**

**generations of Perez: to Perez was born Hezron, 19 and to Hezron was born Ram, and to Ram, Amminadab, 20 and to Amminadab was born Nahshon, and to Nahshon, Salmon, 21 and to Salmon was born Boaz, and to Boaz, Obed, 22 and to Obed was born Jesse, and to Jesse, David.**

Are you beginning to see how the complete story of JESUS, THE MESSIAH fits together?

We'll end our study this week with two verses from the Book of the Revelation. When John had been called into the heavens, into the Lord's Day, he realized that a heavenly search was taking place for One worthy to break the seals in chapter five. Underline v. 5 when you come to it.

#### **Revelation 5**

**1 And I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a book written inside and on the back, sealed up with seven seals. 2 And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the book and to break its seals?" 3 And no one in heaven, or on the earth, or under the earth, was able to open the book, or to look into it. 4 And I began to weep greatly, because no one was found worthy to open the book, or to look into it; 5 and one of the elders said to me, "Stop weeping; behold, the Lion that is from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has overcome so as to open the book and its seven seals."**

Relate what is said in v. 5 to what we have learned today. How does it all go together?

Now we will read the very last Words spoken by Jesus Christ in all of Scripture. It is found on the very last page in the Bible. Jesus says:

#### **Revelation 22**

**16 "I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things for the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, the bright morning star."**

What do you think He means when He says that He is *the root and the offspring of David*?

Think on these things. I'll see you in class.

## Notes

