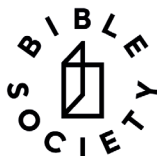


Matthew tells us the  
**Good News**  
about **Jesus**



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Reprinted 2022, 2023

**EasyEnglish Gospel of Matthew**  
ISBN 978 0 564 04953 0

Typography and typesetting by Bible Society Resources Ltd,  
a wholly-owned subsidiary of The British and Foreign Bible Society  
Cover design by Patrick Knowles  
Production arranged by Bible Society Resources Ltd

EEGMAT/BSRL/2024/0.25M  
Printed in the United Kingdom



# Matthew tells us the Good News about Jesus

A word list at the end explains words with a star\* by them

## **This is about the book that Matthew wrote**

A man called Matthew wrote this book at some time between the years AD\* 59 and AD\* 70. Matthew was a Jew\* and he was sometimes called Levi. He received taxes\* for the government before he became a disciple\* of Jesus. He may have written his book when he was living in Israel\*. But he may have written it when he was living in Antioch. Antioch is a city in the country called Syria. Matthew wrote the book in the Greek\* language. He wrote it for Jews\* who understood Greek\*. In his book, Matthew wrote many things about the messages that God's prophets\* had written a long time ago. The Jews\* who read Matthew's book would know all about these things.

Matthew tells us the Good News about the Kingdom\* of God. He tells us about the birth of Jesus and how he lived. He tells us how Jesus died. He tells us how he went to live with God again. He also tells us who Jesus is. And he tells us why he came to live in the world. Matthew explained the things that Jesus taught the people. And he tells us about many things that Jesus did.

The Jews\* were waiting for God to send a special person to them. They called this person the Messiah. God had promised to send him. It means the person whom God sent to save people from punishment\*. He would also be the king of the Jews\*. He is the only person who can put us right with God. In the Greek\* language, the special person was called Christ.

Matthew knew that Jesus was that special person. He wanted other people also to know this.

**Matthew wrote his book in 8 parts:**

- 1:1 – 2:23 what happened when Jesus was born.
- 3:1 – 4:11 what happened when Jesus began his work.
- 4:12 – 14:12 what happened when Jesus was working in Galilee.
- 14:13 – 17:21 what happened when Jesus went to other places in the north of Israel\*.
- 17:22 – 18:35 what happened when Jesus returned to Galilee.
- 19:1 – 20:34 what happened when Jesus taught the people in Judea and Perea.
- 21:1 – 27:66 what happened in the city called Jerusalem in the last week of Jesus' life.
- 28:1 – 28:20 people see Jesus alive again after he died.  
(Galilee, Judea and Perea were all different parts of the country called Israel\*.)

# MATTHEW

## 1

### **The ancestors\* of Jesus**

<sup>1</sup>These are the names of people in the family of Jesus Christ. Jesus was in the family of King David. David was in the family of Abraham.

<sup>2</sup>Abraham was the father of Isaac.

Isaac was the father of Jacob.

Jacob was the father of Judah and his brothers.

<sup>3</sup>Judah was the father of Perez and Zerah. Their mother was called Tamar.

Perez was the father of Hezron.

Hezron was the father of Ram.

<sup>4</sup>Ram was the father of Amminadab.

Amminadab was the father of Nahshon.

Nahshon was the father of Salmon.

<sup>5</sup>Salmon was the father of Boaz (his mother was called Rahab).

Boaz was the father of Obed (his mother was called Ruth).

Obed was the father of Jesse.

<sup>6</sup>Jesse was the father of King David.

David was Solomon's father. Solomon's mother was the wife of Uriah.

<sup>7</sup>Solomon was the father of Rehoboam.

Rehoboam was the father of Abijah.

Abijah was the father of Asa.

<sup>8</sup>Asa was the father of Jehoshaphat.

Jehoshaphat was the father of Jehoram.

Jehoram was the father of Uzziah.

<sup>9</sup>Uzziah was the father of Jotham.

Jotham was the father of Ahaz.

Ahaz was the father of Hezekiah.

<sup>10</sup>Hezekiah was the father of Manasseh.

Manasseh was the father of Amon.

Amon was the father of Josiah.

Josiah was the father of Jeconiah and his brothers.

<sup>11</sup>This was when soldiers from Babylon took the Jews\* away to Babylon.

<sup>12</sup>Here is a list of the people who lived after that time:

Jeconiah was the father of Shealtiel.

Shealtiel was the father of Zerubbabel.

<sup>13</sup>Zerubbabel was the father of Abiud.

Abiud was the father of Eliakim.

Eliakim was the father of Azor.

<sup>14</sup>Azor was the father of Zadok.

Zadok was the father of Akim.

Akim was the father of Eliud.

<sup>15</sup>Eliud was the father of Eleazar.

Eleazar was the father of Matthan.

Matthan was the father of Jacob.

<sup>16</sup>Jacob was the father of Joseph.

Joseph married Mary. Mary was the mother of Jesus Christ. Jesus was the special person that God sent to save his people.

<sup>17</sup>So then, there were 14 generations from Abraham to David. There were 14 generations from David to the time the Jews\* went to Babylon. There were 14 generations from then until Jesus was born.

### **Jesus is born**

<sup>18</sup>Now this is how Jesus Christ was born. His mother's name was Mary. She had promised to marry a man called Joseph. Then she discovered that a baby was growing inside her. This happened before she married Joseph. The powerful Holy

Spirit\* had caused this to happen to her. <sup>19</sup>Joseph always wanted to do what was right. He did not want everyone to know about Mary's baby. He did not want her to be ashamed. So he had a plan to stop the marriage secretly.

<sup>20</sup>Joseph thought about what to do. Then an angel\* came from God to see him. While he was dreaming, the angel\* said, 'Joseph, you who are from the family of King David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. The baby that is growing inside her is from God's Holy Spirit\*. <sup>21</sup>Mary's baby will be a boy. He will save his people from the wrong things that they have done. Because of this, you must name him Jesus.'

<sup>22</sup>Many years before, God had spoken to one of his prophets\* about this. Now God's words would soon become true. The prophet\* called Isaiah had said, <sup>23</sup>'There will be a young woman who has never had sex. A baby boy will grow inside her. People will call him Immanuel . This name means "God is with us".'

<sup>24</sup>Then Joseph woke up from his sleep. He did what God's angel\* had asked him to do. He married Mary. <sup>25</sup>Joseph did not have sex with Mary before the baby boy was born. Joseph said that the baby should be called Jesus.

## 2

### **Some men come to visit Jesus**

<sup>1</sup>Jesus was born in the town called Bethlehem in Judea. At that time, King Herod ruled Judea. Soon after Jesus was born, some clever men came from the east to Jerusalem.

<sup>2</sup>The men arrived in Jerusalem and they asked people, 'Where is the baby who was born a short time ago as the King of the Jews\*? We ask because we saw a special star. This star rose in the east. We knew about the baby king when we saw this star. We want to bend our knees in front of him. We want to tell him how great and important he is.'

<sup>3</sup>Herod heard what the men were saying. And he became anxious\*. Many people in Jerusalem were also anxious\*. <sup>4</sup>Then Herod asked all the leaders of the priests\* and the teachers of the Law\* to meet with him. He asked them, ‘God promised to send a special person. Where will that special person be born?’ <sup>5</sup>Then the leaders of the priests\* and the teachers of the Law\* replied, ‘The special person will be born in Bethlehem in Judea. This is what the prophet\* wrote about Bethlehem.

<sup>6</sup>“God said:

People in Bethlehem,  
your town is one of the most important towns in Judea.  
A person born in your town will rule my people Israel\*. He  
will guide my people.”’

<sup>7</sup>Herod listened to all these things. So he asked the visitors to meet with him by himself. Herod asked them some questions. And he discovered the time that the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>Then Herod sent the men to Bethlehem. ‘Go and look everywhere for this child’, he said. ‘And when you find him, come back here. Then you can tell me where he is. After that, I can also bend my knees in front of him. I can tell him how great and important he is.’

<sup>9</sup>After the men had heard the king, they continued their journey. While they were travelling, the same star appeared again. <sup>10</sup>The star moved along in front of them. Then it stopped above the place where the child was staying. The men were very happy when they saw the star. <sup>11</sup>They went into the house and they saw the child. He was with Mary, his mother. They went down on their knees in front of the child. They said to him, ‘You are very great and important.’ Then they opened their bags. They took out valuable gifts and they gave them to the child. The gifts were gold, incense called frankincense and myrrh. <sup>12</sup>God said to them in a dream, ‘Do not go back to see Herod.’ So the men returned to their own country by a different road.