

IT
WAS
VERY
GOOD
INDEED

KEY VERSE

God saw all that he had made, and it was very good indeed. 1:31

Genesis

ON THE TIMELINE:

Authorship of the Torah (the first five books of the Old Testament) has consistently been attributed to Moses, an influential Israelite leader from the fifteenth century BC. Though Genesis is technically anonymous, both the Old and New Testaments recognize Moses as the Torah's author. Genesis was likely written during the forty years when the Israelites wandered in the desert (1446-1406 BC). The events in Genesis begin at creation and conclude about 1800 BC with the circumstances leading up to the Israelites' time in the land of Egypt.

A LITTLE BACKGROUND:

The Torah (also a Hebrew term for "law") was seen as one unit until at least the second century BC. Some time before Christ was born, it was divided into five separate books and was referred to as the Pentateuch. Genesis can be divided into two sections: the "primeval history," or the general history found in chapters 1-11, and the "patriarchal history," or the history focusing on God's covenant with Abraham and his descendants, found in chapters 12-50.

MESSAGE AND PURPOSE:

Genesis is a book of new beginnings. It reveals the beginning of the heavens and the earth, of humanity and marriage, of sin and nations and languages, and the beginning of our need for a Savior. In Genesis we see that all God's creation was, in the beginning, thoroughly good; and in Genesis we see mankind's first sin and the consequences of that sin. All of our brokenness begins here, in the first book of the Bible, as does God's covenant to redeem His people.

Genesis provides both the universal history of humankind and the patriarchal history of the nation of Israel. It unfolds God's plan to bless and redeem humanity through Abraham's descendants, remaining faithful to His people despite their unfaithfulness to Him.

GIVE THANKS FOR THE BOOK OF GENESIS:

Genesis lays the groundwork for everything else we read and experience in Scripture. Through Genesis we understand where we came from, how we fell, and the beginnings of God's gracious work on our behalf. Genesis establishes our foundational understanding of God's covenant with Israel through the giving of the Law. Without an understanding of the Law, we are unable to see our desperate need for our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Read & Understand Genesis

The Bible is a complete work in which many stories combine to tell one story. As you read the book of Genesis, consider reading the additional passages to discover how the whole of Scripture works together.

READING PLAN

Week 1

GOING DEEPER

<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 1-3	John 1:1-5 Romans 16:20
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 4-5	Colossians 1:15-20 Hebrews 12:24
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 6-8	Psalms 144:13-14 Romans 3:10-25
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 9-10	Luke 1:68-75 Revelation 10:1
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 11	Psalms 2 Luke 1:51

Week 3

<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 23:1-25:18	Ecclesiastes 12:7 Romans 9:9-23
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 25:19-26:35	1 Samuel 14:47 Hebrews 6:13-18
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 27-28	Psalms 121:5-8 Matthew 20:1-16
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 29-30	Psalms 25:18 Song of Songs 1:1-7
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 31-32	Psalms 34:7 Ephesians 3:7-12

Week 5

<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 42-43	Romans 8:28 1 Timothy 1:16
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 44:1-45:15	Galatians 3:14 1 Peter 1:10-12
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 45:16-46:34	Psalms 90:10-17 Isaiah 41:8-10
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 47:1-49:28	Isaiah 63:9 Hebrews 7:23-25
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 49:29-50:26	Acts 2:22-24 Romans 12:19

Week 2

<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 12:1-13:4	Matthew 1:1-2 Galatians 3:10-14
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 13:5-16:16	Galatians 3:15-4:7 Hebrews 7:11-22
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 17-18	Mark 10:23-31 Hebrews 9:15
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 19-20	Psalms 136:23 2 Peter 2:7-9
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 21-22	Isaiah 54:1 Hebrews 11:8-12

Week 4

<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 33-34	Psalms 44:11 Hebrews 11:20-22
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 35-36	Psalms 116:1-2 Isaiah 43:2
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 37-38	Psalms 77:2 Matthew 27:27-31
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 39	Psalms 1 Matthew 5:16
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 40-41	Psalms 25:14 2 Corinthians 3:5

OUTLINE

ch. 1–2

CREATION OF HEAVEN AND EARTH

Creator and creation **1:1–2**

Six days of creation **1:3–31**

Seventh day—day of
consecration **2:1–3**

ch. 2–4

THE HUMAN FAMILY IN AND OUTSIDE THE GARDEN

The man and woman in the
garden **2:4–25**

The man and woman expelled
from the garden **3:1–24**

Adam and Eve's family outside
the garden **4:1–26**

ch. 5–6

ADAM'S FAMILY LINE

Introduction: Creation and
blessing **5:1–2**

"Image of God" from Adam to
Noah **5:3–32**

Conclusion: Procreation and
perversion **6:1–8**

OUTLINE

ch. 6–9

NOAH AND HIS FAMILY

Righteous Noah and the corrupt world **6:9–12**

Coming judgment but the ark of promise **6:13–7:10**

Worldwide flood of judgment **7:11–24**

God's remembrance and rescue of Noah **8:1–14**

Exiting the ark **8:15–19**

Worship and the word of promise **8:20–22**

God's covenant with the new world **9:1–17**

Noah's sons and future blessing **9:18–29**

ch. 10–11

THE NATIONS AND THE TOWER OF BABYLON

Table of Nations **10:1–32**

Tower of Babylon **11:1–9**

Family line of Abram **11:10–26**

ch. 11–25

FATHER ABRAHAM

Abram's beginnings **11:27–32**

The promissory call and Abram's obedience **12:1–9**

Abram and Sarai in Egypt: Blessing begins **12:10–13:1**

Abram and Lot part: Promises recalled **13:2–18**

Abram rescues Lot: Abram's faithfulness **14:1–24**

Covenant promises confirmed **15:1–21**

Abram's firstborn son, Ishmael **16:1–16**

Covenant sign of circumcision **17:1–27**

Divine judgment and mercy **18:1–19:38**

Abraham and Sarah in Gerar: Promises preserved **20:1–18**

Abraham's promised son: The birth of Isaac **21:1–21**

Treaty with Abimelech **21:22–34**

ch. 11–25

**FATHER ABRAHAM
(CONTINUED)**

Abraham's test **22:1-19**

Family line of Rebekah **22:20-24**

Sarah's burial site **23:1-20**

A wife for Isaac **24:1-67**

Abraham's death and burial
25:1-11

ch. 25

**ISHMAEL'S FAMILY
LINE**

ch. 25–35

**ISAAC'S FAMILY:
JACOB AND ESAU**

Struggle at birth and birthright
25:19-34

Isaac's deception and strife with
the Philistines **26:1-35**

Stolen blessing and flight to
Paddan-aram **27:1-28:9**

Promise of blessing at Bethel
28:10-22

Laban deceives Jacob **29:1-30**

Birth of Jacob's children
29:31-30:24

Birth of Jacob's herds **30:25-43**

Jacob deceives Laban **31:1-55**

Struggle for blessing at Peniel
32:1-32

Restored gift and return to
Shechem **33:1-20**

Dinah, deception, and strife with
the Hivites **34:1-31**

Blessing and struggle at birth
35:1-29

OUTLINE

ch. 36

ESAU'S FAMILY

ch. 36–37

ESAU, FATHER OF THE EDMITES

ch. 37–50

JACOB'S FAMILY: JOSEPH AND HIS BROTHERS

The early days of Joseph **37:2–36**

Judah and Tamar **38:1–30**

Joseph in Egypt **39:1–23**

Joseph, savior of Egypt
40:1–41:57

The brothers' journeys to Egypt
42:1–43:34

Joseph tests the brothers
44:1–34

Joseph reveals his identity
45:1–28

Jacob's migration to Egypt
46:1–27

Joseph, savior of the family
46:28–47:12

Joseph's administration in
Egypt **47:13–31**

Jacob's blessings **48:1–49:28**

The death and burial of Jacob
49:29–50:14

The final days of Joseph **50:15–26**

THE CREATION

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.^A

² Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness covered the surface of the watery depths, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters. ³ Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. ⁴ God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." There was an evening, and there was a morning: one day.

⁶ Then God said, "Let there be an expanse between the waters, separating water from water."⁷ So God made the expanse and separated the water under the expanse from the water above the expanse. And it was so. ⁸ God called the expanse "sky."⁹ Evening came and then morning: the second day.

⁹ Then God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. ¹⁰ God called the dry land "earth," and the gathering of the water he called "seas." And God saw that it was good. ¹¹ Then God said, "Let the earth produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and fruit trees on the earth bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds." And it was so. ¹² The earth produced vegetation: seed-bearing plants according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. ¹³ Evening came and then morning: the third day.

¹⁴ Then God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to separate the day from the night. They will serve as signs for seasons^C and for days and years. ¹⁵ They will be lights in the expanse of the sky to provide light on the earth." And it was so. ¹⁶ God made the two great lights — the greater light to rule over the day and the lesser light to rule over the night — as well as the stars. ¹⁷ God placed them in the expanse of the sky to provide light on the earth, ¹⁸ to rule the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹ Evening came and then morning: the fourth day.

²⁰ Then God said, "Let the water swarm with^D living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the sky."²¹ So God created the large sea-creatures^E and every living creature that moves and swarms in the water, according to their kinds. He also created every winged creature according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. ²² God blessed them: "Be fruitful, multiply, and fill the waters of the seas, and let the birds multiply on the earth."²³ Evening came and then morning: the fifth day.

²⁴ Then God said, "Let the earth produce living creatures according to their kinds: livestock, creatures that crawl, and the wildlife of the earth according to their kinds." And it was so. ²⁵ So God made the wildlife of the earth according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that crawl on the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make man^F in^G our image, according to our likeness. They will rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the livestock, the whole earth,^H and the creatures that crawl^I on the earth."

^A1:1 Or *created the universe* ^B1:8 Or "heavens." ^C1:14 Or *for the appointed times*

^D1:20 Lit *with swarms of* ^E1:21 Or *created sea monsters* ^F1:26 Or *human beings*;

Hb 'adam, also in v. 27 ^G1:26 Or *as* ^H1:26 Syr reads *sky, and over every animal of the land* ^I1:26 Or *scurry*

Creation Days

The creation account in Genesis 1 tells us more than what God made; it reveals intentionality behind His design. Creation has order. Everything God made was designed to work together, and human beings were given the specific responsibility of caring for God's creation.

The chart below highlights some specific ways God designed the universe.



"God had completed his work that he had done, and he rested . . ." GN 2:2

²⁷ So God created man in his own image;
he created him in^A the image of God;
he created them male and female.

²⁸ God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it. Rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, and every creature that crawls^B on the earth."²⁹ God also said, "Look, I have given you every seed-bearing plant on the surface of the entire earth and every tree whose fruit contains seed. This will be food for you,³⁰ for all the wildlife of the earth, for every bird of the sky, and for every creature that crawls on the earth — everything having the breath of life in it — I have given^C every green plant for food." And it was so.³¹ God saw all that he had made, and it was very good indeed. Evening came and then morning: the sixth day.

2 So the heavens and the earth and everything in them were completed.
² On the seventh^D day God had completed his work that he had done, and he rested^E on the seventh day from all his work that he had done.³ God blessed the seventh day and declared it holy, for on it he rested from all his work of creation.^F

MAN AND WOMAN IN THE GARDEN

⁴ These are the records of the heavens and the earth, concerning their creation. At the time^G that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens,⁵ no shrub of the field had yet grown on the land,^H and no plant of the field had yet sprouted, for the LORD God had not made it rain on the land, and there was no man to work the ground.⁶ But mist would come up from the earth and water all the ground.⁷ Then the LORD God formed the man out of the dust from the ground and breathed the breath of life into his nostrils, and the man became a living being.

⁸ The LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he placed the man he had formed.⁹ The LORD God caused to grow out of the ground every tree pleasing in appearance and good for food, including the tree of life in the middle of the garden, as well as the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

¹⁰ A river went^I out from Eden to water the garden. From there it divided and became the source of four rivers.^J ¹¹ The name of the first is Pishon, which flows through the entire land of Havilah,^K where there is gold.¹² Gold from that land is pure;^L bdellium^M and onyx^N are also there.¹³ The name of the second river is Gihon, which flows through the entire land of Cush.¹⁴ The name of the third river is Tigris, which runs east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

¹⁵ The LORD God took the man and placed him in the garden of Eden to work it and watch over it.¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree of the garden,¹⁷ but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for on the day you eat from it, you will certainly die."¹⁸ Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone.

^A1:27 Or *man as his own image; he created him as* ^B1:28 Or *and all scurrying animals*

^C1:30 *I have given* added for clarity ^D2:2 Sam, LXX, Syr read *sixth* ^E2:2 Or *ceased*,

also in v. 3 ^F2:3 Lit *work that God created to make* ^G2:4 Lit *creation on the day*

^H2:5 Or *earth* ^I2:10 Or *goes* ^J2:10 Lit *became four heads* ^K2:11 Or *of the Havilah*

^L2:12 Lit *good* ^M2:12 A yellowish, transparent gum resin ^N2:12 Identity of this

precious stone uncertain

KING
DOM

KEY VERSE

*From then on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, because the kingdom
of heaven has come near." 4:17*

Matthew

ON THE TIMELINE:

Matthew was written in the first century, around AD 60, before the fall of the temple in Jerusalem in AD 70. The events of Matthew took place during the earthly life of Christ, roughly between 5 BC and AD 33.

A LITTLE BACKGROUND:

Though he did not identify himself in the text, the early church unanimously affirmed that the apostle Matthew authored the Gospel of Matthew. Most scholars believe that Matthew used Mark's Gospel in writing his own. If this is correct, Matthew's Gospel was written after Mark's, though the date of Mark's Gospel is

also a bit of a mystery. Irenaeus (ca AD 180) claimed that Mark wrote his Gospel after Peter's death in the mid-60s. However, Clement of Alexandria, who wrote only twenty years after Irenaeus, claimed that Mark wrote his Gospel while Peter was still alive.

MESSAGE & PURPOSE:

It seems fitting that the first book of the New Testament begins with the words: "An account of the genealogy of Jesus Christ." This Gospel was written from a strong Jewish perspective to show that Jesus truly is the Messiah and coming King promised in the Old Testament:

Matthew presents an eyewitness testimony of the ministry of Jesus and emphasizes certain theological truths.

1. Jesus is the Messiah, the long-awaited King of God's people.
2. Jesus is the new Abraham, the founder of a new spiritual Israel consisting of all people (both Jews and Gentiles) who follow Him.
3. Jesus is the new Moses, the deliverer, instructor, and mediator of God's people.
4. Jesus is the Immanuel, the virgin-born Son of God who fulfills the promises of the Old Testament.

GIVE THANKS FOR THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW:

As the first book in the NT, the Gospel of Matthew serves as a gateway between the Old and New Testaments. Of the NT books, and certainly of the four Gospels, Matthew makes the most direct connections to the OT. Matthew gives us God's entire plan from Genesis to Revelation, referring to Hebrew prophecies about sixty times. Matthew looks forward by discussing not only the Messiah's coming and His ministry, but also His future plan for His Church and kingdom.

Read & Understand Matthew

The Bible is a complete work in which many stories combine to tell one story. As you read the Gospel of Matthew, consider reading the additional passages to discover how the whole of Scripture works together.

READING PLAN

Week 1

GOING DEEPER

<input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 1-2	Isaiah 9:2-7; 11:1-9 Jeremiah 31:15
<input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 3-4	Isaiah 40:3 Malachi 4:1-6
<input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 5:1-16	Psalms 37:11 2 Corinthians 7:10
<input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 5:17-48	2 Timothy 3:15-16 James 4:1-2
<input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 6-7	1 Chronicles 29:11-13 1 John 2:28-29

Week 3

<input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 13:1-52	Exodus 34:35 1 Corinthians 5:6-7
<input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 13:53-14:36	Deuteronomy 8:3 Isaiah 43:10-13
<input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 15-16	Zechariah 12:10 2 Peter 1:16-18
<input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 17-18	1 Kings 8:10-13 Jeremiah 23:1-4
<input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 19-20	Deuteronomy 6:4 2 Peter 3:10-13

Week 2

<input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 8	2 Samuel 22:16 Isaiah 53:4-5
<input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 9	Numbers 19:11-21 Hosea 2:19-20
<input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 10	Acts 1:13 James 2:1-7
<input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 11	Isaiah 29:18-19 1 John 5:3
<input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 12	Leviticus 19:9-10 Isaiah 42:1-4

Week 4

<input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 21-22	Ezekiel 16:10-13 Zechariah 9:9
<input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 23-24	Exodus 10:21-23 Romans 8:22-23
<input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 25	Isaiah 54:4-6 Daniel 7:13-14
<input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 26	Leviticus 23:5-6 Isaiah 53:7
<input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 27-28	Psalms 22:7-8 1 Corinthians 15:6

OUTLINE

ch. 1–2

BIRTH AND INFANCY OF JESUS

Genealogy **1:1–17**

Birth narratives **1:18–2:18**

Settlement in Nazareth **2:19–23**

ch. 3–4

BEGINNING OF JESUS'S MINISTRY IN GALILEE

Ministry of John the Baptist **3:1–12**

Baptism of Jesus **3:13–17**

Temptation of Jesus **4:1–11**

Summary of Galilean ministry **4:12–25**

ch. 5–7

DISCOURSE ONE: THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

The Beatitudes **5:1–12**

Character of kingdom righteousness **5:13–48**

Practice of kingdom righteousness **6:1–7:12**

Choice of the kingdom **7:13–27**

Manner of Jesus's teaching **7:28–29**

OUTLINE

ch. 8–9

JESUS'S FIRST MIRACLES

A series of miracles **8:1–9:8**

The kingdom and the old order
9:9–17

More miracles **9:18–38**

ch. 10

DISCOURSE TWO: MINISTRY OF JESUS'S DISCIPLES

The preachers and their mission
10:1–15

The response to be expected
10:16–42

ch. 11–12

RESPONSES TO JESUS'S MINISTRY

The kingdom and John the
Baptist **11:1–15**

Challenge to the present
generation **11:16–30**

Opposition to the kingdom
12:1–45

Fellowship in the kingdom
12:46–50

ch. 13

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DISCOURSE THREE: PARABLES ABOUT THE KINGDOM

Parable of the Sower **13:1-9**

The parable method explained
13:10-23

Other parables **13:24-52**

Response to Jesus's parables
13:53-58

ch. 14-17

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CLOSE OF JESUS'S MINISTRY IN GALILEE

Crisis of opposition **14:1-15:20**

Withdrawal to the north **15:21-39**

Further conflict **16:1-12**

Crisis of faith **16:13-20**

Preparation of Jesus's disciples
for His death **16:21-17:27**

ch. 18

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DISCOURSE FOUR: CHARACTER OF JESUS'S DISCIPLES

Humility **18:1-20**

Forgiveness **18:21-35**

OUTLINE

ch. 19–20

JESUS'S MINISTRY ON THE WAY TO JERUSALEM

Teachings on the way to
Jerusalem **19:1–20:28**

Healing at Jericho **20:29–34**

ch. 21–23

JESUS'S MINISTRY IN JERUSALEM

Events in Jerusalem **21:1–22**

Controversies with the Jews
21:23–22:46

Denunciation of the scribes and
Pharisees **23:1–39**

ch. 24–25

DISCOURSE FIVE: OLIVET DISCOURSE

Prophecy of the coming of the
kingdom **24:1–35**

Exhortations to readiness
24:36–25:30

Judgment of the nations **25:31–46**

ch. 26–27

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BETRAYAL, CRUCIFIXION, AND BURIAL

The plot to betray Jesus **26:1-16**

The Last Supper **26:17-30**

Events in Gethsemane **26:31-56**

The trials **26:57-27:26**

Crucifixion and burial **27:27-66**

ch. 28

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RESURRECTION AND COMMISSION

Women and the angel at the
tomb **28:1-10**

False witness of the guards
28:11-15

Jesus's Great Commission
28:16-20

THE GENEALOGY OF JESUS CHRIST

n account of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham:

FROM ABRAHAM TO DAVID

- ² Abraham fathered[^] Isaac,
Isaac fathered Jacob,
Jacob fathered Judah and his brothers,
³ Judah fathered Perez and Zerah by Tamar,
Perez fathered Hezron,
Hezron fathered Aram,
⁴ Aram fathered Amminadab,
Amminadab fathered Nahshon,
Nahshon fathered Salmon,
⁵ Salmon fathered Boaz by Rahab,
Boaz fathered Obed by Ruth,
Obed fathered Jesse,
⁶ and Jesse fathered King David.

FROM DAVID TO THE BABYLONIAN EXILE

- David fathered Solomon^B by Uriah's wife,
⁷ Solomon fathered Rehoboam,
Rehoboam fathered Abijah,
Abijah fathered Asa,^C
⁸ Asa^C fathered Jehoshaphat,
Jehoshaphat fathered Joram,^D
Joram fathered Uzziah,
⁹ Uzziah fathered Jotham,
Jotham fathered Ahaz,
Ahaz fathered Hezekiah,
¹⁰ Hezekiah fathered Manasseh,
Manasseh fathered Amon,^E
Amon fathered Josiah,
¹¹ and Josiah fathered Jeconiah and his brothers
at the time of the exile to Babylon.

FROM THE EXILE TO THE CHRIST

- ¹² After the exile to Babylon
Jeconiah fathered Shealtiel,
Shealtiel fathered Zerubbabel,
¹³ Zerubbabel fathered Abiud,
Abiud fathered Eliakim,
Eliakim fathered Azor,
¹⁴ Azor fathered Zadok,
Zadok fathered Achim,
Achim fathered Eliud,

^A1:2 In vv. 2-16 either a son, as here, or a later descendant, as in v. 8

^B1:6 Other mss add *King* ^C1:7,8 Other mss read *Asaph* ^D1:8 = Jehoram

^E1:10 Other mss read *Amos*

¹⁵ Eliud fathered Eleazar,
 Eleazar fathered Matthan,
 Matthan fathered Jacob,
¹⁶ and Jacob fathered Joseph the husband of Mary,
 who gave birth to Jesus who is called the Christ.

¹⁷ So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations; and from David until the exile to Babylon, fourteen generations; and from the exile to Babylon until the Christ, fourteen generations.

THE NATIVITY OF THE CHRIST

¹⁸ The birth of Jesus Christ came about this way: After his mother Mary had been engaged ^a to Joseph, it was discovered before they came together that she was pregnant from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ So her husband Joseph, being a righteous man, and not wanting to disgrace her publicly, decided to divorce her secretly.

²⁰ But after he had considered these things, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because what has been conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

²² Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³ **See, the virgin will become pregnant
 and give birth to a son,
 and they will name him Immanuel,^b**

which is translated "God is with us."

²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did as the Lord's angel had commanded him. He married her ²⁵ but did not have sexual relations with her until she gave birth to a son. ^c And he named him Jesus.

WISE MEN VISIT THE KING

2 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of King Herod, wise men from the east arrived in Jerusalem, ² saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star at its rising and have come to worship him."^d

³ When King Herod heard this, he was deeply disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴ So he assembled all the chief priests and scribes of the people and asked them where the Christ would be born.

⁵ "In Bethlehem of Judea," they told him, "because this is what was written by the prophet:

⁶ **And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
 are by no means least among the rulers of Judah:
 Because out of you will come a ruler
 who will shepherd my people Israel."**^e

⁷ Then Herod secretly summoned the wise men and asked them the exact time the star appeared. ⁸ He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and

^a1:18 Or *betrothed* ^b1:23 Is 7:14 ^c1:25 Other mss read *to her firstborn son*

^d2:2 Or *to pay him homage* ^e2:6 Mc 5:2