

# Matthew Chapter One

*In this first chapter, you will read the genealogy of Jesus Christ as given by his disciple, Matthew. Another genealogy appears in Luke.*



In the first chapter this week, you will consider birth, ancestry, and heredity. Question. What are these in relation to your true eternal spiritual being?

After you read and listen to this lecture, you will be able to:

- explain the spiritual sense of creation as the Son/Daughter of Spirit
- use divine Law actively to heal hereditary tendencies, disorders, and diseases
- correct mistakes in thinking regarding your actual identity

Correlative. Genesis Chapter 1, “In the beginning God created...”

DNA — Does Not Apply (to Spiritual Being)

“Heredity is not a law” (Mary Baker Eddy)

“In those days they shall say no more, The fathers have eaten a sour grape, and the children’s teeth are set on edge” (*Jeremiah 31:29*)



“Father-Mother God, loving me, guard me when I sleep;  
guide my little feet up to Thee” (Mary Baker Eddy).

Keyword in Matthew 1 — *begat*.

“To beget means to generate something, usually children, and it can be used to refer to the role of either a mother or a father. If we analyze the word beget, we get the prefix be-, which tends to intensify the meaning of the following verb, and get, which means to cause something to enter one's possession. The word is usually used to refer to having children, although it can be used to refer to anything that generates something else — for example, an inspiration can beget a brilliant idea” ([vocabulary.com](http://vocabulary.com)).

Jesus commands, “Call no man your father upon earth, for one is your father, even God” (Matt. 23:9). He teaches us to pray, “Our Father...” Acknowledge the one Creator, your very own Father-Mother.

No one is stuck with a condition, disease, or anything negative due to heredity. God's Law overrules it. His Law holds you perfect as His own precious Son or Daughter. It is written, "Now are we the sons of God" (*1 John 3:2*).

### **Matthew 1:1-17**

The Genealogy of Jesus Christ

**Mat 1:1** The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

**Mat 1:2** Abraham begat Isaac; and Isaac begat Jacob; and Jacob begat Judas and his brethren;

**Mat 1:3** And Judas begat Phares and Zara of Thamar; and Phares begat Esrom; and Esrom begat Aram;

**Mat 1:4** And Aram begat Aminadab; and Aminadab begat Naasson; and Naasson begat Salmon;

**Mat 1:5** And Salmon begat Booz of Rachab; and Booz begat Obed of Ruth; and Obed begat Jesse;

**Mat 1:6** And Jesse begat David the king; and David the king begat Solomon of her *that had been the wife* of Urias;

**Mat 1:7** And Solomon begat Roboam; and Roboam begat Abia; and Abia begat Asa;

**Mat 1:8** And Asa begat Josaphat; and Josaphat begat Joram; and Joram begat Ozias;

**Mat 1:9** And Ozias begat Joatham; and Joatham begat Achaz; and Achaz begat Ezekias;

**Mat 1:10** And Ezekias begat Manasses; and Manasses begat Amon; and Amon begat Josias;

**Mat 1:11** And Josias begat Jechonias and his brethren, about the time they were carried away to Babylon:

**Mat 1:12** And after they were brought to Babylon, Jechonias begat Salathiel; and Salathiel begat Zorobabel;

**Mat 1:13** And Zorobabel begat Abiud; and Abiud begat Eliakim; and Eliakim begat Azor;

**Mat 1:14** And Azor begat Sadoc; and Sadoc begat Achim; and Achim begat Eliud;

**Mat 1:15** And Eliud begat Eleazar; and Eleazar begat Matthan; and Matthan begat Jacob;

**Mat 1:16** And Jacob begat Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ

**Mat 1:17** So all the generations from Abraham to David *are* fourteen generations; and from David until the carrying away into Babylon *are* fourteen generations; and from the carrying away into Babylon unto Christ *are* fourteen generations.

**Note:** This genealogy connects back to David and Abraham. You will see that Luke's rendition differs. Mark and John do not give genealogies. Mark begins with Jesus' active ministry; John begins with the most spiritual basis.

The accounts of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and so forth are found early in the book of *Genesis*. There are some interesting names here! How many do you recognize from earlier Scriptures?

Notice the masculinity of the genealogy, and the explicit tie to the Hebrew Scriptures. This suits Matthew's originally intended audience — the Jewish people of that day. Nevertheless, the spiritual and divine message is universal, timeless, and works directly within you this day to produce good, increase spiritual understanding, and encircle you in protective divine Love.

The *New International Commentary on the New Testament* notes:

The first two words of Matthew's gospel are literally "Book of genesis" ... The effect on a Jewish reader is comparable to that of John's opening phrase, "In the beginning ...". The theme of the fulfillment of Scripture is signaled from the very start, and these opening words suggest that a new creation is now taking place. That particular concept of fulfillment is not clearly developed elsewhere in the gospel, which is concerned rather with how Jesus brings the history of God's people to its climax, but this passing echo of the beginning of the world's history adds a further allusive dimension for those who wish to think it through, perhaps particularly in the light of the creative act of God which will result in Jesus' birth.

The text mentions "fourteen generations" three times. Interpreting this in the light of the various meanings of Hebrew numbers we see *seven* twice (14) — *seven* means completeness, and *times two* signifies emphasis. Moreover, *three* times this number is repeated like a formula. *Three* is the trinity; it is Life, Truth, and Love, as well as resurrection (according to *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, by Mary Baker Eddy).

I think of this as: complete! complete! complete! Life and being are already complete — infinite — fully expressed without birth or death, without matter, without coming and going.

Life is God, ever-present and fully expressed. You are an essential part of that expression — like a ray of light to the sun. Your being is eternal. You have existed forever — perfect as His own "image and likeness" (*Genesis* 1:26). Knowing and understanding this truth is the power of resurrection, the power of healing.

The *New International Commentary on the New Testament* explains:

If there is deliberate symbolism in the choice of fourteen it is perhaps better perceived in the fact that fourteen is twice seven ... and seven is well-known in the Bible as a significant number, deriving from the seven days of creation. Three fourteens is six sevens, and a sequence of six sevens points to the coming of the seventh seven, the climax of

history when the ongoing purpose of God for his people from the time of Abraham reaches its culmination.

All of this points to the spiritual reality of the universe and man. This purely spiritual nature and substance of all things shines through Jesus' life from the very beginning, illustrating the truth of your being in the likeness of God, Spirit. "Beloved, now are we the sons of God" (*I John* 3:2).

"In the beginning..." Latin Vulgate — *en principio*. Synonym for God — Principle <sup>1</sup>(S&H). Principle — source, origin, creator. a fundamental source or basis of something. "Principle and its idea is one, and that one is God..." (S&H 465).

### **Matthew 1:18-25**

The Birth of Jesus Christ

**Mat 1:18** Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.

**Mat 1:19** Then Joseph her husband, being a just *man*, and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily.

**Mat 1:20** But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.

**Mat 1:21** And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

**Mat 1:22** Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying,

**Mat 1:23** Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

**Mat 1:24** Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife:

**Mat 1:25** And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS

**verse 18.** "...child of the Holy Ghost" — unique to Jesus Christ, but the underlying reality of each one of us (v. 18). It means that we are really the children or offspring of Spirit. Remember, Jesus taught us to pray, "Our Father..." Our Father is Spirit, Love.

**verse 19.** "...her husband" — meaning that they were engaged, not yet married, but promised.

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<sup>1</sup> S&H - Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures, by Mary Baker Eddy

**verse 20.** An angel appears to Joseph in a dream. Angels will appear to you in dreams as well, especially when you are systematically spiritualizing your thought (as you are doing with this course, reading, studying, pondering, prayer, and gaining in spiritual understanding). Angels, *Science and Health* explains, are divine messages from God that speak to our consciousness. These communications from divine Mind are natural, they are actually ongoing when in the mode of listening prayer. Angels come in our dreams, and they come when we are awake — our consciousness must be purified and spiritualized to receive best.

**verse 21.** Jesus' very name is tied directly to saving. He saves us from our sins — from wrong thinking that lurks behind evil or negative experiences. Christ saves us by illumining our consciousness with the Light of Truth and Love.

**verse 22.** Matthew quotes earlier Scriptures a great deal. It is recommended that you go back and find where these quotations are located, read them, and see the connections. Here it is prophecy fulfilled — the intention is to remove any doubt as to Jesus' place as the awaited Messiah and Savior of the world.

## **ACTION STEPS**

**verse 24.** Notice that Joseph takes action in accord with the angel message that came to him. We must be sure that we take action and follow the leadings and directions given to us by thoughts from divine Mind — gentle inspirations, intuitions, and ideas that are good. Take action.

Consciously listen for angel messages this week. Respond to them and take action.

## **SUMMARY**

The spiritual sense of creation rests on the fact of one Creator, Spirit, one Father-Mother God. Being His child, you are purely spiritual now and always — no matter what appears as physicality. This truth is a law of annihilation to any heredity so-called law that would limit or threaten your present experience. Hold to your perfection and to your true spiritual being that is perfect in His likeness until this truth manifests fully in health and healing. Remember that your true identity is in Spirit, God, and you are His own expression, His beloved.