

The Birth of the King

Preached by: Matthew S. Black

Text: Matthew 1:18-25

Series: King of Kings

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Living Hope Bible Church of Roselle, IL

Introduction: Open your Bible to the book of **Matthew**. We are beginning a new series through the book of Matthew. We are in a series entitled: “King of kings!” Today’s message we are talking about “The Birth of the King”.

New Testament scholar D. A. Carson says this about the book of Matthew:

“During the first three centuries of the church, Matthew was the most highly revered and frequently quoted canonical Gospel.”

In fact, in the early church, whenever the words of Jesus in the Gospels were read, the believers would stand at attention, because it was their belief that one should stand when you hear the words of a king!

Rescue!

Friend Ralph Sr.

Firsts!

Firsts are important.

- My first day at Kindergarten – I held my sister’s hand all two blocks to our school.
- Some of you remember your first white Christmas
- The first time I saw my wife – I saw purity, compassion, and a deep love for God.

The First Page of the New Testament

The first thing we see in God’s revelation of Jesus Christ is the virgin birth. By putting the virgin birth of Christ on the first page of our New Testament, the Holy Spirit is giving this event great prominence. Why is it so important?

I. The Majesty of Jesus’ Birth (1:18).

- Matthew 1:1-17 explain Jesus’ legal right to the throne: He’s the son of DAVID.
- Matthew 1:18-24 explain Jesus’ divine right to the throne: He’s GOD.

Matthew is telling us not only that Jesus is has legal right to the throne, but that He is the theocratic King of the Old Testament. He is Yahweh, the LORD God come to take His throne.

Here we have the silence of 400 years, and those 400 years were preceded by 500 years of rebellion in a divided kingdom. And Yahweh pleads with Israel sending prophets, saying:

- Turn back from your idolatry!
- Turn back and receive me as your King!
- Tear down your high places, and worship at my dominion!
- And just when it seems that all is cut off, Yahweh sends the greatest prophet... Himself!
 - John says it this way, “The Word became flesh”. Jesus is the theocratic king of the Old Testament. He Himself is His own message!
 - The king was sending ambassadors over and over and over in the Old Testament.
 - Now the king has descended from His Almighty throne and come into His creation to be a prophet to us.

We saw the Genesis of Joseph, who being the adoptive father of the Son of God, gives Jesus legal right to the throne. Joseph is the rightful and true heir to the monarchy, not Herod.

The New Genesis

Matthew uses the word “Genesis” twice in his first chapter.

- **ORIGIN:**
Literally the “**γένεσις** *genesis*” of Jesus Christ. It is the same word in **Matthew 1:1** (ESV), “The book of the **genealogy** [*genesis*] of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.”
- **GENESIS**
Matthew 1:18 (ESV), “Now the **birth** of Jesus Christ took place in this way.”

When we turn to the beginning of the Old Testament, in the book of Genesis, we see what was “in the beginning”. And the earth was without form and chaotic. And God speaks and the Spirit hovers over the chaos, and there is light and life and newness. And so we read of the Spirit’s work again as we open up to the first verses of the New Testament. It is the Spirit that hovers over a new creation in Mary’s womb.

Let’s read about it.

Matthew 1:18-24 (ESV), “Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. 19 And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. 20 But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” 22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had

spoken by the prophet: 23 “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us). 24 When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, 25 but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.”

II. The **Miracle** of Jesus’ Birth (1:18).

Imagine being there for the creation of the world! What majesty! And so the Holy Spirit hovers over Mary’s womb, and God becomes incarnate!

A. The virgin birth confirms the **reliability** of Holy Scripture.

There is nothing more powerful than the life giving Word of God. For us, the Bible is our only hope. The **Bible** is the primary instrument that God will use to:

- Regenerate our heart
- Renew our mind
- Transform our entire life

The more we aggressively read the Word, the deeper our roots and the more far reaching our fruit for Christ will be.

The conception of Jesus without the help of a man confirms the reliability of Scripture. No one here this morning can comprehend the virgin birth. It would be like me telling you, if you ask how I got to church today, and I told you, “I levitated 1000 feet in the air, and I flew here”. You see it had never been heard before or since that a woman would conceive a child without a man. By putting this on the first page of the New Testament, Matthew is saying the miraculous conception of Christ is in perfect harmony with the entire record of God’s Word.

- When have you heard of turning a great body of water in to dry ground? Yet God told Moses, “Stand still and see the salvation of the Lord”.
- And you hear Isaiah say in **Isaiah 7:14** (ESV), “Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”

B. The virgin birth confirms the **sinless** nature of Christ.

Matthew 1:18, “Now the **birth** of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit”.

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Born sinless. Not tainted with the sin of Adam. He's the Seed of the woman, He's not a son of Adam, he's an equal with Adam. He is the "last Adam" (1 Cor. 14:45). He has come to usher in a new humanity, a new beginning is about to take place.

III. The **Mystery** of Jesus' Birth (1:19-20).

Matthew 1:19-20, "And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. 20 But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit."

Mary's pregnancy was a Mystery to Joseph.

- A. A **Human Scandal**. It was a travesty and a scandal. The Mosaic law called for her to be stoned or to be divorced. In Joseph's limited understanding, this pregnancy was a complete scandal. Mary was his beloved! He was essentially engaged to be married. This is to be a time of joy and celebration. Instead. It seemed God wanted the worst for Joseph.

Joseph was betrothed to Mary. Betrothed basically means engaged.

- When you were betrothed, it was the equivalent of marriage, usually lasted for a year. If you were to break off a betrothal it was equivalent of divorce. Before they entered into the physical consummation, Mary was found to be with child.

Here is the woman of Joseph's dreams, and Joseph has had no physical relationship with her. He's about to bring his wife into his home, but she's pregnant. The obvious to Joseph is that she has been unfaithful. The Holy Spirit adds this is a supernatural consummation. The angel appears to Joseph and tells him something never before heard. We might lose the impact of this story, but imagine how the first hearers of Matthew's Gospel heard this before the virgin birth was well known. A virgin giving birth? That which is in Mary's womb is by the Holy Spirit.

The angel addresses Joseph as "Son of David" to remind us all that Joseph is the rightful king of Israel. So now things go from baffling to bizarre. Not only is Mary pregnant,

but now we learn she's never had relations with a man. She's never felt a man's embrace. She is completely morally **pure** in every way, but she is **pregnant**.

Fear Not, Story of Adoption

Matthew 1 is a story of adoption. Joseph adopts Jesus, and through Jesus, God adopts us! The greater scandal is the divine scandal!

The angel tells Joseph, "Fear not". That baby is God. He's come to rescue you!

B. A Divine Scandal.

Mary's pregnancy is a Mystery to all! Who here can comprehend the Incarnation?

JI Packer said this:

"It is here, in the thing that happened at the first Christmas, that the profoundest and most unfathomable depths of Christian revelation lie. 'The Word became flesh' (Jn. 1:14); God became man; the divine Son became a Jew; the Almighty appeared on earth as a helpless human baby, unable to do more than lie and stare and wriggle and make noises, needing to be fed and changed and taught to talk like any other child. And there was no illusion or deception in this: the babyhood of the Son of God was a reality. The more you think about it, the more staggering it gets. Nothing in fiction is so fantastic as is this truth [and reality] of the Incarnation." JI Packer, *Knowing God*, p. 53

The Messiah in a Manger

The Messiah was born in a manger. The King was laid in a cradle. The Savior was found in a stable. The infinite became an infant. And all of that was promised and predicted and prophesied *700 years before* Mary and Joseph found no room in the inn.

Let me tell you something. Jesus wasn't just a good man. He wasn't even a godly man. He was the God-man. That cradle 2000 years ago held the creator. He was God in the flesh.

He was the earthly child of a heavenly father, and a heavenly child of an earthly mother. He was not half and half. He was all God, and all man. He was not man with a God-like character, nor was He God with man-like qualities. He was the God-man.

The Two Natures of Christ

- Jesus Sleeping in a boat in a storm (Matthew 8:23-27)
 - Yet He calms the sea!
- Jesus thirsting
 - Yet he made the oceans
- Jesus Crucified
 - Yet He rises again

IV. The **Mercy** of Jesus' Birth (1:21-25).

Solace, according to the dictionary is: a form of comfort given to one who is in sorrow or distress; **consolation** is an act of offering such comfort, or the result of such comfort having been provided

Matthew 1:21-25, "She will bear a son, and you shall call his name **Jesus**, for he will save his people from their sins." 22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: 23 "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us). 24 When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, 25 but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus."

Over 280 titles and names are given to God in the Bible. Here are two of them for our Lord.

THE NAME OF JESUS

- **JESUS:** "you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." (1:21).

Isaiah 49:1, "Listen to me, O coastlands,
and give attention, you peoples from afar.
The Lord called me from the womb,
from the body of my mother he named my **name**."

This is written to us! What is his name? "shall call his name **Jesus**, for he will save his people from their sins."

Jesus = Joshua

Jesus is the Greek name for Joshua. Literally his name shall be called "Yeshua". It means Yahweh saves! Jesus is our Joshua!

THE NAME OF IMMANUEL

- **IMMANUEL:** "All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: 23 "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us)" (1:23).

According to JI Packer, The greatest miracle in the history of the universe is recorded in eight short verses at the end of Matthew 1. He says:

The more you consider that Jesus the Christ became human flesh, the more you are blown away by God's love, your emotions are excited, and your life is challenged and transformed.

You will call His NAME Jesus for He will save His people from their sins. Call him JOSHUA! Jesus is not only the true David as King, but He's also the true Joshua

Conclusion: I'm praying that you will see Him today in an entirely new and life transforming way. That you will be gripped with the fact that God is worthy of your worship.