

# Matthew 1:1

<https://thebiblesays.com/commentary/matt/matt-1/matthew-11/>

*Matthew begins his Gospel account by sharing the genealogy of Jesus, the Messiah. By beginning with Abraham, Matthew is showing how Jesus is the fulfillment of key provisions of God's covenant with Abraham.*

The parallel accounts of Jesus's genealogy are found in Luke 3:23-38 and John 1:1-18.

Genealogies are important to Jewish culture. They provide individual identity and they ground every member into his unique place within the national story of Israel. Genealogies are also useful in establishing royal lineage. Matthew's *genealogy of Jesus* demonstrates all three of these things. It identifies *Jesus* as the *Messiah*. It establishes his royal lineage to King *David*. And it grounds his Jewish heritage in *Abraham*.

Matthew was one of Jesus' twelve disciples, called away from his job as a tax collector to follow Christ (Matthew 9:9). Many Israelites considered tax collectors to be corrupt traitors to the nation for collecting taxes for Rome, which was at that time Israel's occupying pagan ruler. It is worth reflection that God chose someone with a seedy reputation to redeem and convey the story of His Son, the redeemer of all humanity.

Jesus's relationship to *Abraham* was important because *Abraham* is the founding patriarch of the nation of Israel. It was also important because of the promises God made to *Abraham*, most particularly the promise that "in you all the families of the earth will be blessed" (Genesis 12:3). This was a prophecy that the *Messiah* would come from the lineage of *Abraham*, and become the savior of all nations. The word translated *Messiah* is the Greek word "Christos" which means "the anointed one." *Messiah* is an English transliteration of a Hebrew word that means "anointed one."

Jesus was the *son of David*, which indicates his anointing was kingly. God promised David that He would "establish the throne of [David's son's] kingdom forever" (2 Sam 7:13). So Matthew 1:1 opens with a declaration that *Jesus* is the *Messiah* God anointed to sit on the throne of *David* and fulfill the promise God made to *Abraham*. This opening sets the tone for the entire book, which presents *Jesus* as the heir to the throne of King *David*, the promised *Messiah* of Israel, and the savior of all nations.

## Biblical Text

**<sup>1</sup>The record of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham:**