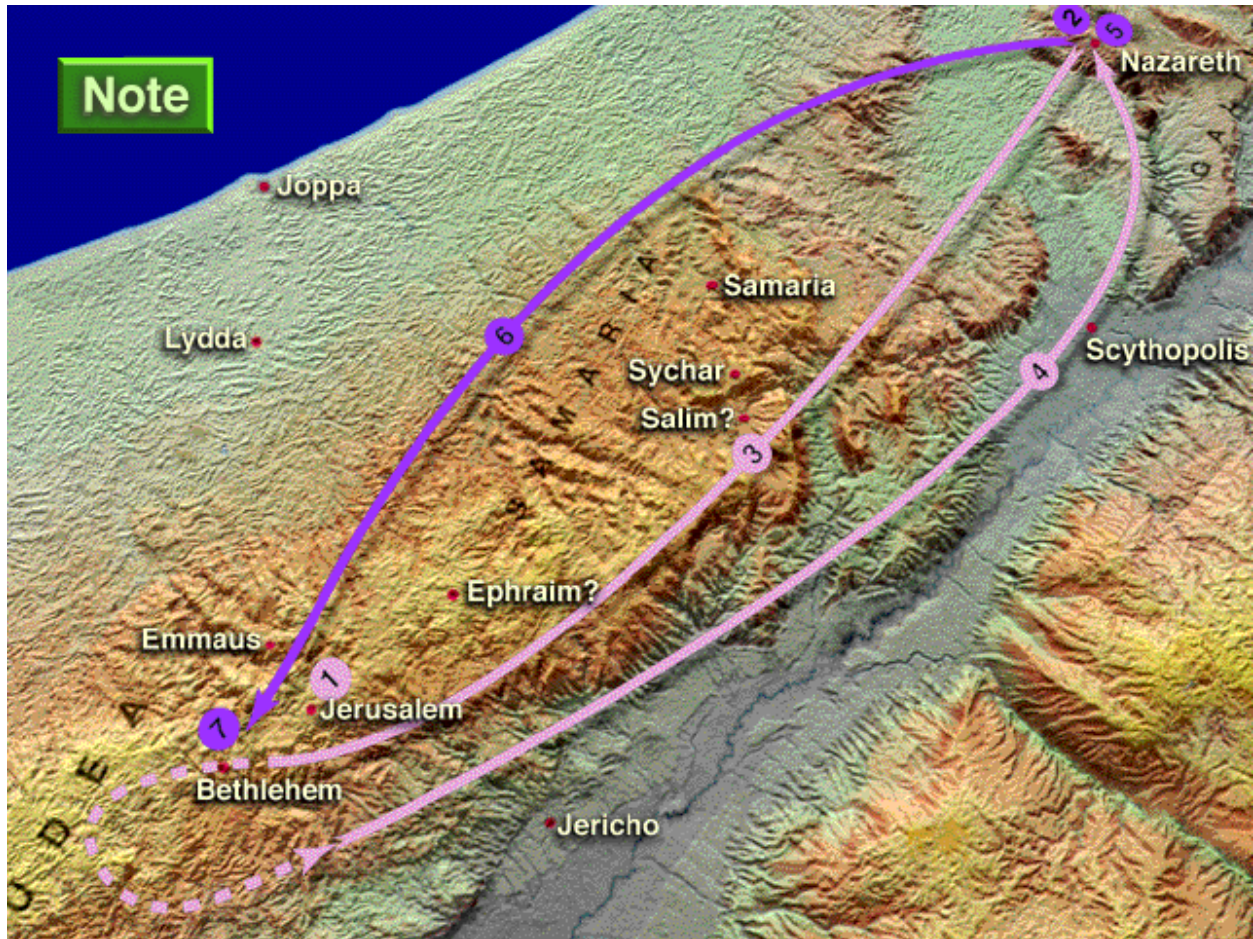


Gospel Chronology #1: Announcement, Birth, & Infancy of Jesus (Autumn, 5 B.C.)



#	@	Incident	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
1	-	Prologue to John's Gospel	--	--	--	Jn 1:1-18
2	-	Prologue to Luke's Gospel	--	--	Lk 1:1-4	--
3	-	The Human Ancestry of Jesus	Mt 1:1-17	--	Lk 3:23b-38	--
4	1	The Announcement to Zacharias	--	--	Lk 1:5-25	--
5	2	The Annunciation / Announcement	--	--	Lk 1:26-38	--
6	3,4	Mary's Visit to Elisabeth	--	--	Lk 1:39-56	--
7	1	Birth of John the Baptist	--	--	Lk 1:57-80	--

8	5	The Announcement to Joseph; Marriage of Joseph and Mary	Mt 1:18-25	--	--	--
9	6,7	Travel to Bethlehem and the Birth of Jesus	--	--	Lk 2:1-7	--
10	7	The Announcement to the Shepherds	--	--	Lk 2:8-20	--
11	1	The Circumcision	--	--	Lk 2:21	--
12	1	Presentation at the Temple (5 B.C.)	--	--	Lk 2:22-38	--
13	7	Visit of the Magi ("Wise Men")	Mt 2:1-12	--	--	--
14		Flight to Egypt (5-4 B.C.)	Mt 2:13-18	--	--	--
15		Return to Nazareth (4 B.C.)	Mt 2:19-23	--	--	--

Adapted from the SDA Bible Commentary

Announcement, Birth, & Infancy of Jesus (Autumn, 5 B.C.)

THE CENTRAL QUESTION:

What does this book/story say to us about God?

This question may be broken down further as follows:

- a. Why did God do it/allow it?
- b. Why did He record it for our study?

".... To be permitted to have a view of God is the highest privilege accorded to man. This privilege should be prized above all earthly distinction or honor."—Ellen G. White, *The Signs of the Times*,* June 16, 1898, par. 15.[†]

[\[https://egwwritings.org/read?panels=p820.15211&index=0\]](https://egwwritings.org/read?panels=p820.15211&index=0)[‡]

1. [Chronology of the Gospels, Incident #1: Prologue to John's Gospel (John 1:1-18) - Chronology Adapted from "A Harmony of the Gospels," The Fourfold Gospel Narrative. Nichol F. D. (Ed.) *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 5, (pages 196-201). Washington, DC. Review and Herald Publishing Association (1956)] = [Gospel Chronology #1: Prologue to John's Gospel (John 1:1-18)]
2. [Gospel Chronology #2: Prologue to Luke's Gospel (Luke 1:1-4)]
3. [Gospel Chronology #3: The Human Ancestry of Jesus (Matthew 1:1-17; Luke 3:23-38)]
Jesus is the only person ever born in our world who had the privilege of choosing His ancestors! Why did He choose the ancestors He did? Why would He allow the names of His ancestors who had dubious reputations to be included in the Bible? Would you have chosen that family? Would you have mentioned Tamar? Rahab? Ruth? And Bathsheba by name? (Matthew 1:3-6) Or, if you were going to name them as Jesus's ancestors in Matthew, why would you include so much dirty laundry about them in the Old Testament? Do we even know who Mary's ancestors were? Why are there

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differences between the genealogy in Matthew 1:1-17 and the one in Luke 3:23-38? Why did Matthew start from Abraham? Why did Luke end with Adam? Why did both of these men, especially Luke, trace the genealogy of Jesus through Joseph who had no blood relationship with Jesus rather than through Mary? (Or, did he?) See the handout entitled: The Genealogy of Jesus on www.Theox.org.

https://www.theox.org/images/uploads/bnt/KHart_BTGA_PDF_Gosp_Gos_Genealogy_Jesus_16.pdf

4. [Gospel Chronology #3: The Human Ancestry of Jesus] Tamar, a Canaanite girl, was the wife of Judah's son, Er. Er died before they had any child. According to the levirate rule, Er's brother was then to give Tamar children; but, he did not. Later, Tamar, who was the daughter-in-law of Judah, pretended to be a prostitute, and she became pregnant by Judah! Thus, Tamar became an ancestor of David and of Jesus. (See Genesis 38.) Rahab, a former prostitute from Jericho, (See Joshua 2.) married Salmon and had a son named Boaz. Boaz married Ruth (See the book of Ruth.) who was a descendant of Moab, the son born from the incestuous relationship between Lot and his older daughter. They became the great grandparents of King David! David later committed adultery with Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah the Hittite. Then, David arranged for Uriah's murder. (See 2 Samuel 11.) Bathsheba gave birth to Solomon, the son who inherited David's throne! (See 2 Samuel 12:24-25.) That family line did not lack for interesting characters or bad behavior!
5. [Gospel Chronology #3: The Human Ancestry of Jesus] ***If we knew that we had such people as our ancestors, most of us would probably keep quiet about them! Jesus did not hesitate to let people know that He descended from such people! What does that tell us about Him and about His Father?***
6. [Gospel Chronology #4: The Announcement to Zacharias (Luke 1:5-25)]
7. [Gospel Chronology #5: The Annunciation (Luke 1:26-38)]
8. [Gospel Chronology #6: Mary's Visit to Elisabeth (Luke 1:39-56)]
9. [Gospel Chronology #7: Birth of John the Baptist (Luke 1:57-80)]
10. [Gospel Chronology #8: The Announcement to Joseph; His Marriage (Matthew 1:18-25)]
Why would God choose the widowed father of several children (Matthew 13:55,56; Mark 6:1-4) to be the "father" of Jesus through whom the lineage of Jesus was traced? Today, would we consider Jesus to be an adopted son or stepson of Joseph?
 This is primarily a thought question since the Bible does not seem to comment on it. Unfortunately, we know very little about either Mary or Joseph. We seem to be told just enough to make it clear that Jesus was not Joseph's son, but rather, a Divine Messiah, "come from heaven," born to a human mother.
11. [Gospel Note:] ***Since we know so little of Jesus's childhood, why didn't He just show up one day and begin His ministry? Was it really necessary for Him to leave heaven for thirty years and spend them mostly in the wicked town of Nazareth?***
12. [Gospel Chronology #9: The Birth of Jesus (5 B.C.) (Luke 2:1-7)]
13. [Gospel Chronology #10: The Announcement to the Shepherds (Luke 2:8-20)]
14. [Gospel Chronology #11: The Circumcision (Luke 2:21)]

15. [Gospel Chronology #12: Presentation at the Temple (5 B.C.) (Luke 2:22-38)] **About 40 days after His birth, Jesus was taken to the temple where He was dedicated and His mother was purified. (Leviticus 12:1-4) Simeon and Anna recognized the Baby, but the priests saw nothing interesting in this Child of a poor Galilean family. (See Luke 2:22 and *The Desire of Ages* 52.1.) Jesus had already been circumcised on the eighth day according to the Law. (Luke 2:21; *The Desire of Ages* 50.1)**
16. [Gospel Note:] ***Where were Joseph's other children during this time? What was Joseph doing? Was he looking for work in the Bethlehem area? What did Joseph and Mary think about the words of Simeon and Anna? Why wasn't all of Jerusalem celebrating?***

[SDA Bible Commentary (comment on Luke 2:22):] **This visit evidently occurred before the visit of the Magi**, because thereafter Joseph and Mary would hardly have dared to visit Jerusalem. Furthermore, they left Bethlehem for Egypt almost immediately after the visit of the Magi (see Matt. 2:12-15)....

Every first-born male child was to be consecrated to the Lord. This was done in acknowledgment of God's promise to give His First-born to redeem man and in remembrance of and gratitude for the deliverance of the first-born at the time of the Exodus (see on Ex. 13:2, 12; Num 3:12, 13). The first-born was to be redeemed, or bought back, by a money payment, the amount stipulated being 5 shekels (Num. 18:15, 16). This amount represented approximately 20 Roman denarii, or the equivalent of 20 days' wages of a laboring man.—Article on Luke 2:22. Nichol F. D. (Ed.) (1956) *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 5, (page 701). Washington, D.C. Review and Herald Publishing Association.††

17. [Gospel Chronology #12: Presentation at the Temple (5 B.C.) (Luke 2:22-38)] ***What did Joseph and Mary think was meant by Simeon's words: "Yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also"? Did they ask him what he meant?***
18. [Gospel Chronology #13: Visit of the Magi (5 B.C.) (Matthew 2:1-12)] ***Why did God go to such trouble to guide the three magi to see baby Jesus? (Matthew 2:1-12) Why did God allow them to approach Herod and inquire of him about the Child if He knew that the result would be the death of all those other children in Bethlehem? Where did the wise men get their information about Jesus? (Numbers 24:17) Why did God send those heathen strangers hundreds of miles to see Jesus while He apparently made no effort to guide any of the Jewish religious leaders from Jerusalem just a few miles away? Or, did God try to tell the Jewish religious leaders, and none of them listened? Had God already abandoned His "chosen" people?***

It seems apparent that the book of Matthew while clearly being written primarily for the benefit of the Jewish people also **extends the mission of Christ to include the entire world.** (See Matthew 28:19-20.) **From the very beginning, Matthew repeatedly showed how different the responses of the Jews and the Gentiles were to Jesus.**

19. [Gospel Chronology #14: Flight to Egypt (5-4 B.C.) (Matthew 2:13-18)] ***Why would God send His Son as a baby with Mary and Joseph all the way to Egypt instead of just hiding them in Galilee?***

20. [Gospel Chronology #15: Return to Nazareth (4 B.C.) (Matthew 2:19-23; Luke 2:39-40)]

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