

GENESIS

The Creation

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.^A Jn 1:1-3

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. Jr 4:23; Jb 26:13; 33:4; Ps 33:6

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."^B 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. Jb 38:8-11; Ps 33:7; 136:6; Jr 5:22

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. Gn 8:17; 9:1; Ps 104:25-28

²⁴ Then God said, "Let the earth produce living creatures according

^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*

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 ^A in ^B our image, according to our likeness. They will rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the livestock, the whole earth, ^C and the creatures that crawl ^D on the earth."

²⁷ So God created man in his own image; he created him in ^E the image of God; he created them male and female. Gn 5:2; Mt 19:4; Mk 10:6

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 ^F 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 ^G 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. Gn 9:1,7; Gn 9:3; Ps 104:14-15

2 So the heavens and the earth and everything in them were completed. ² On the seventh ^H day God had completed his work that he had done, and he rested ^I 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. ^J Neh 9:6; Ps 33:6; Is 34:4; 45:12; 31:17

Man and Woman in the Garden

⁴ These are the records of the heavens and the earth, concerning their creation. At the time ^K that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens, ⁵ no shrub of the field had yet grown on the land, ^L 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 ^M out from Eden to water the garden. From there it divided and became the source of four rivers. ^N ¹¹ The name of the first

^A1:26 Or human beings; Hb 'adam, also in v. 27 ^B1:26 Or as ^C1:26 Syr reads sky, and over every animal of the land ^D1:26 Or scurry ^E1:27 Or man as his own image; he created him as ^F1:28 Or and all scurrying animals ^G1:30 I have given added for clarity ^H2:2 Sam, LXX, Syr read sixth ^I2:2 Or ceased, also in v. 3 ^J2:3 Lit work that God created to make ^K2:4 Lit creation on the day ^L2:5 Or earth ^M2:10 Or goes ^N2:10 Lit became four heads

is Pishon, which flows through the entire land of Havilah,^A where there is gold.¹² Gold from that land is pure;^B bdellium^C and onyx^D 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. Gn 10:7,29; 25:18; 1Sm 15:7; Dn 10:4

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. I will make a helper corresponding to him."¹⁹ The LORD God formed out of the ground every wild animal and every bird of the sky, and brought each to the man to see what he would call it. And whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name.²⁰ The man gave names to all the livestock, to the birds of the sky, and to every wild animal; but for the man^E no helper was found corresponding to him.²¹ So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to come over the man, and he slept. God took one of his ribs and closed the flesh at that place.²² Then the LORD God made the rib he had taken from the man into a woman and brought her to the man.

²³ And the man said: Gn 3:5; Dt 30:15,19-20

This one, at last, is bone
of my bone
and flesh of my flesh;

this one will be
called "woman,"
for she was taken from man.

²⁴ This is why a man leaves his father and mother and bonds with his wife, and they become one flesh.²⁵ Both the man and his wife were naked, yet felt no shame. Mal 2:15

The Temptation and the Fall

3 Now the serpent was the most cunning of all the wild animals that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You can't eat from any tree in the garden?'" Mt 10:16; 2Co 11:3; Rv 12:9

² The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit from the trees in the garden.³ But about the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden, God said, 'You must not eat it or touch it, or you will die.'" Gn 2:17

⁴ "No! You will not die," the serpent said to the woman.⁵ "In fact, God knows that when^F you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like God,^G knowing good and evil."⁶ The woman saw that the tree was good for food and delightful to look at, and that it was desirable for obtaining wisdom. So she took some of its fruit and ate it; she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves. Jn 8:44; 1Tm 2:14

Sin's Consequences

⁸ Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of

^A2:11 Or of the Havilah ^B2:12 Lit good ^C2:12 A yellowish, transparent gum resin ^D2:12 Identity of this precious stone uncertain ^E2:20 Or for Adam ^F3:5 Lit on the day ^G3:5 Or gods, or divine beings

the evening breeze,^A and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ So the LORD God called out to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" Jb 34:22-23

¹⁰ And he said, "I heard you^B in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked, so I hid."

¹¹ Then he asked, "Who told you that you were naked? Did you eat from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"

¹² The man replied, "The woman you gave to be with me — she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate." Jb 31:33; Pr 28:13

¹³ So the LORD God asked the woman, "What is this you have done?"

And the woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." Rm 7:11

¹⁴ So the LORD God said to the serpent:

Because you have done this, you are cursed more than any livestock and more than any wild animal.

You will move on your belly and eat dust all the days of your life. Is 65:25; Mc 7:17

¹⁵ I will put hostility between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring. He will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.

¹⁶ He said to the woman: I will intensify your labor pains; you will bear children with painful effort. Jn 16:21 Your desire will be for your husband, Gn 4:7 yet he will rule over you.

¹⁷ And he said to the man, "Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'Do not eat from it':

The ground is cursed because of you. Gn 5:29; Heb 6:8

You will eat from it by means of painful labor^C all the days of your life.

¹⁸ It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. Gn 2:5

¹⁹ You will eat bread^D by the sweat of your brow until you return to the ground, Ps 90:3; 104:29 since you were taken from it. For you are dust, and you will return to dust."

²⁰ The man named his wife Eve^E because she was the mother of all the living. ²¹ The LORD God made clothing from skins for the man and his wife, and he clothed them.

²² The LORD God said, "Since the man has become like one of us, knowing good and evil, he must not reach out, take from the tree of life, eat, and live forever." ²³ So the LORD God sent him away from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. ²⁴ He drove the man out and stationed the cherubim and the flaming, whirling sword east of the garden of Eden to guard the way to the tree of life. Gn 2:9; Rv 2:7

Cain Murders Abel

4 The man was intimate with his wife Eve, and she conceived and gave birth to Cain. She said, "I have had a male child with the

^A3:8 Lit at the wind of the day ^B3:10 Lit the sound of you ^C3:17 Lit it through pain ^D3:19 Or food ^E3:20 Lit Living, or Life

LORD's help."^A ² She also gave birth to his brother Abel. Now Abel became a shepherd of flocks, but Cain worked the ground. ³ In the course of time Cain presented some of the land's produce as an offering to the LORD. ⁴ And Abel also presented an offering — some of the firstborn of his flock and their fat portions. The LORD had regard for Abel and his offering, ⁵ but he did not have regard for Cain and his offering. Cain was furious, and he looked despondent.^B

Ex 23:19; 34:26; Neh 10:35; Pr 3:9

⁶ Then the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you furious? And why do you look despondent?"^C ⁷ If you do what is right, won't you be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, but you must rule over it."

Gn 3:16; Jnh 4:4

⁸ Cain said to his brother Abel, "Let's go out to the field."^D And while they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.

Mt 23:35; Lk 11:51; 1Jn 3:12-15; Jd 11

⁹ Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?"

"I don't know," he replied. "Am I my brother's guardian?"

¹⁰ Then he said, "What have you done? Your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground! ¹¹ So now you are cursed, alienated from the ground that opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood you have shed.^E ¹² If you work the ground, it will never again give you its yield. You will be a restless wanderer on the earth."

Nm 35:33

¹³ But Cain answered the LORD, "My punishment^F is too great to

bear!¹⁴ Since you are banishing me today from the face of the earth, and I must hide from your presence and become a restless wanderer on the earth, whoever finds me will kill me."

Nm 35:26-27

¹⁵ Then the LORD replied to him, "In that case,^G whoever kills Cain will suffer vengeance seven times over."^H And he placed a mark on Cain so that whoever found him would not kill him. ¹⁶ Then Cain went out from the LORD's presence and lived in the land of Nod, east of Eden. Ex 9:4; Ezk 9:4,6; Rv 13:16-17

The Line of Cain

¹⁷ Cain was intimate with his wife, and she conceived and gave birth to Enoch. Then Cain became the builder of a city, and he named the city Enoch after his son. ¹⁸ Irad was born to Enoch, Irad fathered Methujael, Methujael fathered Methushael, and Methushael fathered Lamech. ¹⁹ Lamech took two wives for himself, one named Adah and the other named Zillah. ²⁰ Adah bore Jabal; he was the father of the nomadic herdsmen.^I ²¹ His brother was named Jubal; he was the father of all who play the lyre and the flute. ²² Zillah bore Tubal-cain, who made all kinds of bronze and iron tools. Tubal-cain's sister was Naamah.

²³ Lamech said to his wives:

Adah and Zillah,
hear my voice;
wives of Lamech,
pay attention to my words.
For I killed a man
for wounding me,
a young man for striking me.

^A4:1 Lit the LORD ^B4:5 Lit and his face fell ^C4:6 Lit why has your face fallen ^D4:8 Sam, LXX, Syr, Vg; MT omits "Let's go out to the field." ^E4:11 Lit blood from your hand ^F4:13 Or sin ^G4:15 LXX, Syr, Vg read "Not so!" ^H4:15 Or suffer severely ^I4:20 Lit the dweller of tent and livestock

24 If Cain is to be avenged seven times over, then for Lamech it will be seventy-seven times!

25 Adam was intimate with his wife again, and she gave birth to a son and named him Seth, for she said, "God has given^A me another child^B in place of Abel, since Cain killed him."²⁶ A son was born to Seth also, and he named him Enosh. At that time people began to call on the name of the LORD. Gn 12:8; 26:25

The Line of Seth

5 This is the document containing the family^C records of Adam.^D On the day that God created man,^E he made him in the likeness of God;² he created them male and female. When they were created, he blessed them and called them mankind.^F Gn 2:4; 26:25

³ Adam was 130 years old when he fathered a son in his likeness, according to his image, and named him Seth. ⁴ Adam lived 800 years after he fathered Seth, and he fathered other sons and daughters. ⁵ So Adam's life lasted 930 years; then he died.

⁶ Seth was 105 years old when he fathered Enosh. ⁷ Seth lived 807 years after he fathered Enosh, and he fathered other sons and daughters. ⁸ So Seth's life lasted 912 years; then he died.

⁹ Enosh was 90 years old when he fathered Kenan. ¹⁰ Enosh lived 815 years after he fathered Kenan, and he fathered other sons and daughters. ¹¹ So Enosh's life lasted 905 years; then he died.

¹² Kenan was 70 years old when he fathered Mahalalel. ¹³ Kenan lived 840 years after he fathered Mahalalel, and he fathered other sons and daughters. ¹⁴ So Kenan's life lasted 910 years; then he died.

¹⁵ Mahalalel was 65 years old when he fathered Jared. ¹⁶ Mahalalel lived 830 years after he fathered Jared, and he fathered other sons and daughters. ¹⁷ So Mahalalel's life lasted 895 years; then he died.

¹⁸ Jared was 162 years old when he fathered Enoch. ¹⁹ Jared lived 800 years after he fathered Enoch, and he fathered other sons and daughters. ²⁰ So Jared's life lasted 962 years; then he died.

²¹ Enoch was 65 years old when he fathered Methuselah. ²² And after he fathered Methuselah, Enoch walked with God 300 years and fathered other sons and daughters. ²³ So Enoch's life lasted 365 years. ²⁴ Enoch walked with God; then he was not there because God took him. Gn 6:9; 17:1; 24:40; 48:15; 2Kg 2:11; Heb 11:5

²⁵ Methuselah was 187 years old when he fathered Lamech. ²⁶ Methuselah lived 782 years after he fathered Lamech, and he fathered other sons and daughters. ²⁷ So Methuselah's life lasted 969 years; then he died.

²⁸ Lamech was 182 years old when he fathered a son. ²⁹ And he named him Noah,^G saying, "This one will bring us relief from the agonizing labor of our hands, caused by the ground the LORD has cursed."³⁰ Lamech lived 595 years after he fathered Noah, and he fathered other sons and daughters. ³¹ So Lamech's life lasted 777 years; then he died.

^A4:25 The Hb word for *given* sounds like the name "Seth." ^B4:25 Lit *seed* ^C5:1 Lit *written family*

^D5:1 Or *mankind* ^E5:1 Or *Adam, human beings* ^F5:2 Hb *'adam* ^G5:29 In Hb, the name *Noah* sounds like "bring us relief."

THE BOOKS OF LAW

The Bible is made up of sixty-six different books. The books are separated into ten divisions. The first five books of the Bible are in the division called the Pentateuch, or the books of Law. Although the focus is on the law, these books also deliver the plan of an even greater influence on God's people in the coming Messiah, Jesus Christ.

GENESIS is about the beginning of things, including how God created the world and everything in it, the great flood, the Tower of Babel, and the beginnings of the nation of Israel. Moses wrote this book. Even with the introduction of sin, God begins the plan of His redemption through His only Son, Jesus Christ.

EXODUS, also written by Moses, tells about the departure or exodus of the people of Israel from Egypt. Exodus also describes their wandering in the wilderness and how God gave His law to the people of Israel. Just as God used Moses to free His people from slavery in Egypt, God would one day free His people from slavery to sin through Jesus Christ.

LEVITICUS is a continuation of the history told in the book of Exodus. Moses wrote this book, and it contains the ceremonial and religious law. The Israelite tribe of Levi had the job of making sure the people followed that law. The laws recorded in this book would one day be completed with the perfect sacrifice of God's Son, Jesus Christ.

NUMBERS tells of the census or numbering of the people of Israel and the history of their journey after leaving Egypt. God shows His continual care and love by providing for His people, a care and love that would ultimately point to Christ and the cross. Moses wrote this book.

DEUTERONOMY was written mostly by Moses and consists of a second account of the giving of the Law. Moses shared the good news of another leader who would come after him, Jesus Christ. The book ends with Moses' death.

CREATION

One of the most important things God tells us about Himself in the Bible is that He created everything. There is no place you can go that God has not created and not a thing in the universe that He has not made.

Sometimes He makes things instantly, as He did with Adam and Eve. Sometimes He makes things by giving them a way to grow or change, like a seed that will become a tree or a caterpillar that will turn into a butterfly. And sometimes what He makes is used by people to build with and turn into other things such as houses or machines. But nobody can make something out of nothing—except for God. That’s how powerful He is!

The book of Genesis tells us a lot about God’s creation of the world, but it doesn’t tell us all the things we sometimes wish we knew. For example, we know that some creatures lived a long time ago but don’t exist anymore. Yes, it would be interesting to know how they fit into what the Bible says about the Creation. But the main thing the Bible tells us about Creation is not its date or how God did it; the most important thing is that God is the one who did it. Creation is not an accident. It did not happen by chance, and it did not always exist. God made the universe on purpose and for a reason.

When God was busy making the world, He wasn’t just making all the things you can see and touch; He was also making things that are invisible. He made the gravity that holds you on the ground. He made the sounds you can hear plus lots of other sounds your ears don’t even know are there. He made the numbers you use to count. He made the way you know about what’s right and wrong. He even made time.

Think about that. Look around the room or out the window. Everything you see right now, everything you will ever see, touch, or hear was made by God on purpose. Every place you have ever been and every place you will ever go—even if it is all the way across the universe—was made by God. It all points to Him—including you! He made it all, and He rules it all, and those are just a few of the reasons He deserves our worship and praise.

FAMILY OF ABRAHAM

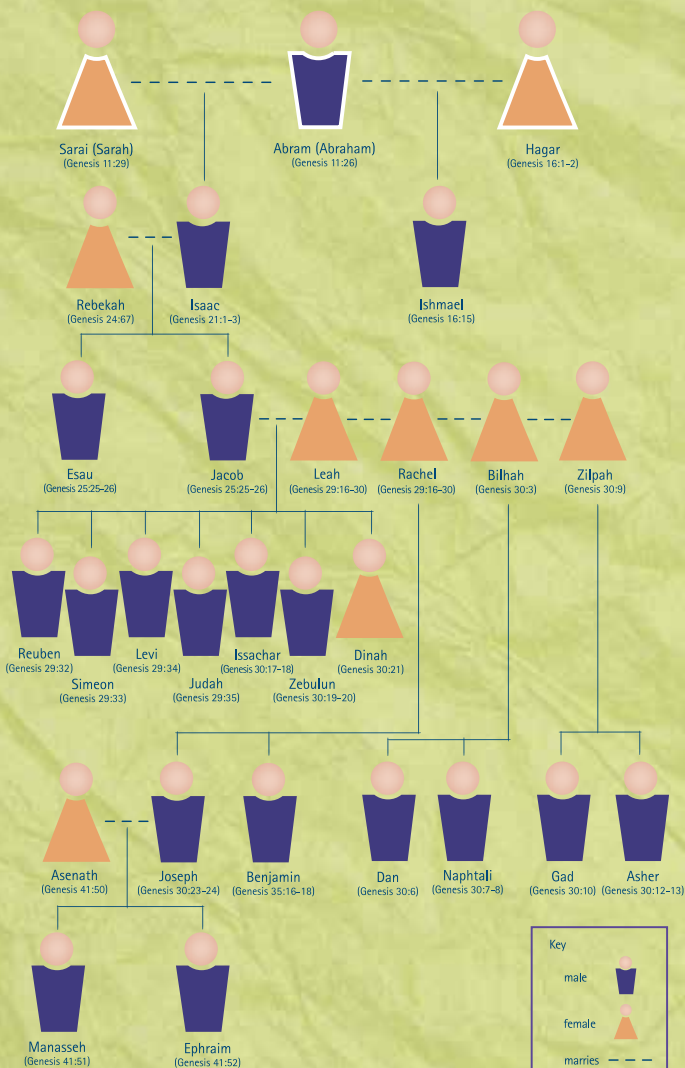


Illustration by Stacy Morrow

THE NAMES OF GOD

Bibles printed in English use several words for God's names. These names come from the Hebrew language. The Hebrew people described God by the actions He took toward His people or by the qualities of who He is. Think about all God's names, and praise Him for who He is.

HEBREW NAME	REFERENCE	MEANING	ENGLISH NAME
Elohim	Genesis 1:1	Powerful God	God
Adonai	Genesis 15:2	Lord	Lord GOD
El Elyon	Genesis 14:19–20	God Most High	God Most High
El Shaddai	Genesis 17:1	God Almighty	God Almighty
Jehovah Jireh	Genesis 22:14	The Lord Provides	The LORD Will Provide
Yahweh	Exodus 3:14	Israel's Covenantal God	I AM
Jehovah Rophe	Exodus 15:26	The Lord Heals	The LORD Who Heals You
Jehovah Nissi	Exodus 17:15–16	The Lord Is My Banner	The LORD Is My Banner
Jehovah Mekadesh	Leviticus 20:8	The Lord Who Sanctifies You	The LORD Who Sets You Apart
Jehovah Shalom	Judges 6:24	The Lord Is Peace	The LORD Is Peace
Jehovah Tsidkenu	Jeremiah 23:6	The Lord Is Our Righteousness	The LORD Is Our Righteousness
Jehovah Shammah	Ezekiel 48:35	The Lord Is There	The LORD Is There

MATTHEW

The Genealogy of Jesus Christ

1 An account of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham: Ru 4:18-22; Mk 12:26

From Abraham to David

- 2** Abraham fathered^A Isaac, Isaac fathered Jacob, Jacob fathered Judah and his brothers, Gn 29:35
- 3** Judah fathered Perez and Zerah by Tamar, Perez fathered Hezron, Hezron fathered Aram, Gn 46:12
- 4** Aram fathered Amminadab, Amminadab fathered Nahshon, Nahshon fathered Salmon,
- 5** Salmon fathered Boaz by Rahab, Boaz fathered Obed by Ruth, Obed fathered Jesse, Ru 1:4; 2:1
- 6** and Jesse fathered King David.

From David to the Babylonian Exile

- David fathered Solomon^B by Uriah's wife, 1Sm 16:1; 17:12
- 7** Solomon fathered Rehoboam, Rehoboam fathered Abijah, Abijah fathered Asa,^C
- 8** Asa^C fathered Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat fathered Joram,^D Joram fathered Uzziah, 1Kg 14:31
- 9** Uzziah fathered Jotham, Jotham fathered Ahaz, Ahaz fathered Hezekiah,

- 10** Hezekiah fathered Manasseh, Manasseh fathered Amon,^E Amon fathered Josiah, 2Kg 16:20
- 11** and Josiah fathered Jeconiah and his brothers at the time of the exile to Babylon. 2Kg 24:6,14; Is 5:13

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, Gn 10:10
- 14** Azor fathered Zadok, Zadok fathered Achim, Achim fathered Eliud,
- 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. 2Kg 24:14; Jr 27:20; Dn 9:25-26

The Nativity of the Christ

18 The birth of Jesus Christ came about this way: After his mother Mary had been engaged^F to Joseph, it was discovered before they

^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* ^F1:18 Or *betrothed*

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. Mt 12:46; 13:17; Mk 10:12; Lk 1:27, 35

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." Mt 27:19; Jn 6:20

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,** ^A

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. ^B And he named him Jesus. Mt 1:6; 13:49; Lk 1:1

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." ^C Gn 25:6; 1Kg 4:30; Lk 1:5; 2:4-7

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. Mt 16:21

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."** ^D 25m 5:2

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 search carefully for the child. When you find him, report back to me so that I too can go and worship him." ^E Mk 5:6; Lk 1:7; Ac 13:6; Rv 1:16

⁹ After hearing the king, they went on their way. And there it was — the star they had seen at its rising. It led them until it came and stopped above the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ Entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and falling to their knees, they worshiped him. ^F Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² And being warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their own country by another route. Ps 72:10; Is 60:6; Mt 1:18; 12:46

The Flight into Egypt

¹³ After they were gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Get up! Take

^A1:23 Is 7:14 ^B1:25 Other mss read to her firstborn son ^C2:2 Or to pay him homage ^D2:6 Mc 5:2

^E2:8 Or and pay him homage ^F2:11 Or they paid him homage

the child and his mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you. For Herod is about to search for the child to kill him." ¹⁴ So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night, and escaped to Egypt. ¹⁵ He stayed there until Herod's death, so that what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet might be fulfilled: **Out of Egypt I called my Son.** ^A Mt 1:20; 13:49

The Massacre of the Innocents

¹⁶ Then Herod, when he realized that he had been outwitted by the wise men, flew into a rage. He gave orders to massacre all the boys in and around Bethlehem who were two years old and under, in keeping with the time he had learned from the wise men. ¹⁷ Then what was spoken through Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled: ^{Is 59:7; Mk 10:34}

¹⁸ **A voice was heard
in Ramah,
weeping,^B and
great mourning,
Rachel weeping
for her children;
and she refused
to be consoled,
because they are no more.^C**

The Return to Nazareth

¹⁹ After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, ²⁰ saying, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, because those who intended to kill the child are dead." ²¹ So he got up, took the child and his mother, and entered the land of Israel. ²² But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father

Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being warned in a dream, he withdrew to the region of Galilee. ²³ Then he went and settled in a town called Nazareth to fulfill what was spoken through the prophets, that he would be called a Nazarene. Mt 1:20; 13:49; Lk 1:5,11; Jd 5

The Herald of the Christ

3 In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea ² and saying, "Repent, because the kingdom of heaven has come near!" ³ For he is the one spoken of through the prophet Isaiah, who said: ^{Mk 1:3-8; Lk 3:2-17; Jn 1:6-8,19-28}

**A voice of one crying out
in the wilderness:**

Prepare the way

for the Lord;

make his paths straight!^D

⁴ Now John had a camel-hair garment with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ Then people from Jerusalem, all Judea, and all the vicinity of the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶ and they were baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins. ^{Mt 23:37; Mk 1:5; Lk 3:3; Jn 15:22}

⁷ When he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸ Therefore produce fruit consistent with ^E repentance. ⁹ And don't presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you that God is able to raise up children for Abraham from these stones. ¹⁰ The ax is already at the root of the trees. Therefore,

^A2:15 Hs 11:1 ^B2:18 Other mss read *Ramah, lamentation, and weeping,* ^C2:18 Jr 31:15 ^D3:3 Is 40:3
^E3:8 Lit *fruit worthy of*

every tree that doesn't produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. Mt 16:1; 22:23

¹¹ "I baptize you with^A water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I. I am not worthy to remove^B his sandals. He himself will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² His winnowing shovel is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn. But the chaff he will burn with fire that never goes out." Is 4:4; Mk 1:4,8; Jn 1:26,33; Ac 1:5

The Baptism of Jesus

¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴ But John tried to stop him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and yet you come to me?"

¹⁵ Jesus answered him, "**Allow it for now, because this is the way for us to fulfill all righteousness.**" Then John allowed him to be baptized.

¹⁶ When Jesus was baptized, he went up immediately from the water. The heavens suddenly opened for him,^C and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming down on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from heaven said: "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased." Mt 24:35; Lk 12:33; Ac 17:24; Eph 6:9

The Temptation of Jesus

4 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ² After he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³ Then the tempter approached him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." Mk 1:12-13; Lk 4:1-13

⁴ He answered, "**It is written: Man must not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.**"^D Dt 8:3

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city, had him stand on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down. For it is written:

He will give his angels orders concerning you, and they will support you with their hands so that you will not strike your foot against a stone."^E

⁷ Jesus told him, "**It is also written: Do not test the Lord your God.**"^F

⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. ⁹ And he said to him, "I will give you all these things if you will fall down and worship me."^G

¹⁰ Then Jesus told him, "**Go away,^H Satan! For it is written: Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.**"^I Dt 6:13; 1Ch 21:1

¹¹ Then the devil left him, and angels came and began to serve him.

Ministry in Galilee

¹² When he heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee. ¹³ He left Nazareth and went to live in Capernaum by the sea, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali. ¹⁴ This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah:

¹⁵ Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, along the road by the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles.

^A3:11 Or in ^B3:11 Or to carry ^C3:16 Other mss omit for him ^D4:4 Dt 8:3 ^E4:6 Ps 91:11-12

^F4:7 Dt 6:16 ^G4:9 Or and pay me homage ^H4:10 Other mss read "Get behind me" ^I4:10 Dt 6:13

16 **The people who live in darkness have seen a great light, and for those living in the land of the shadow of death, a light has dawned.**^{A,B} Is 9:1-2

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

The First Disciples

18 As he was walking along the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter), and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the sea — for they were fishermen. 19 **“Follow me,”** he told them, **“and I will make you fish for^C people.”** 20 Immediately they left their nets and followed him. Mk 7:31

21 Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They were in a boat with Zebedee their father, preparing their nets, and he called them. 22 Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

Teaching, Preaching, and Healing

23 Now Jesus began to go all over Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every^D disease and sickness^E among the people. 24 Then the news about him spread throughout Syria. So they brought to him all those who were afflicted, those suffering from various diseases and intense pains, the demon-possessed, the epileptics, and the paralytics. And he healed them. 25 Large crowds followed him from Galilee, the Decapolis,

Jerusalem, Judea, and beyond the Jordan. Mk 1:35-39; 13:54; 24:14; Lk 4:42-44

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

5 When he saw the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. 2 Then^F he began to teach them, saying: Mk 3:13; Lk 9:28; 18:14

The Beatitudes

3 **“Blessed are the poor in spirit,** Is 57:15; 66:2
for the kingdom of heaven
is theirs. Mt 19:14; 25:34; Mk 10:14

4 **Blessed are those who**
mourn, Is 61:2; Mt 11:29; 21:5; Jn 16:20
for they will be comforted.

5 **Blessed are the humble,** Ps 37:11
for they will inherit
the earth.

6 **Blessed are those who**
hunger and thirst
for righteousness, Is 55:1-2
for they will be filled.

7 **Blessed are the merciful,**
for they will be shown mercy.

8 **Blessed are the pure in heart,**
for they will see God. Ps 24:4

9 **Blessed are the peacemakers,**
for they will be called
sons of God. Mt 5:45; Lk 6:35; 1Jn 3:1

10 **Blessed are those who**
are persecuted because
of righteousness,
for the kingdom of heaven
is theirs. Mt 19:14; 25:34; Mk 10:14

11 **“You are blessed when they insult you and persecute you and falsely say every kind of evil against you because of me. 12 Be glad and rejoice, because your reward is great in heaven. For that is how**

^A4:16 Lit dawned on them ^B4:15-16 Is 9:1-2 ^C4:19 Or you fishers of ^D4:23 Or every kind of

^E4:23 Or physical ailment ^F5:2 Lit Then opening his mouth

they persecuted the prophets who were before you. ^{Mt 2:23; Ac 7:52; 2Tm 3:12}

Believers Are Salt and Light

¹³ "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt should lose its taste, how can it be made salty? ^A It's no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet.

^{Mk 9:50; Lk 14:34}

¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A city situated on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ No one lights a lamp and puts it under a basket, but rather on a lampstand, and it gives light for all who are in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. ^{Pr 4:18; Jn 8:12}

Christ Fulfills the Law

¹⁷ "Don't think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to abolish but to fulfill.

¹⁸ For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter ^B or one stroke of a letter will pass away from the law until all things are accomplished.

¹⁹ Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commands and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven. But whoever does and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ For I tell you, unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven. ^{Mt 7:12; Rm 3:31; 10:4; 13:8; Gl 3:24}

Murder Begins in the Heart

²¹ "You have heard that it was said to our ancestors, **Do not murder,** ^C and whoever murders will be subject to judgment. ²² But I tell you, everyone who is angry with his brother or sister ^D will be subject to judgment. Whoever insults ^E his brother or sister, will be subject to the court. ^F Whoever says, 'You fool!' will be subject to hell-fire. ^G ²³ So if you are offering your gift on the altar, and there you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled with your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. ²⁵ Reach a settlement quickly with your adversary while you're on the way with him to the court, or your adversary will hand you over to the judge, and the judge to ^H the officer, and you will be thrown into prison. ²⁶ Truly I tell you, you will never get out of there until you have paid the last penny. ^I ^{Ex 20:13; Dt 5:17}

Adultery Begins in the Heart

²⁷ "You have heard that it was said, **Do not commit adultery.** ^J ²⁸ But I tell you, everyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. ²⁹ If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of the parts of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. ³⁰ And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and

^{A5:13} Or *how can the earth be salted?* ^{B5:18} Or *not one iota*; *iota* is the smallest letter of the Gk alphabet. ^{C5:21} Ex 20:13; Dt 5:17 ^{D5:22} Other mss add *without a cause* ^{E5:22} Lit *Whoever says 'Raca'*; an Aramaic term of abuse that puts someone down, insulting one's intelligence ^{F5:22} Lit *Sanhedrin* ^{G5:22} Lit *the gehenna of fire* ^{H5:25} Other mss read *judge will hand you over to* ^{I5:26} Lit *quadrans*, the smallest and least valuable Roman coin, worth 1/64 of a daily wage ^{J5:27} Ex 20:14; Dt 5:18