

"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan

MATTHEW 1

Matthew 1

Matthew chapter one is the beginning of the Gospels of Jesus. Matthew is strategically placed at the beginning of the four gospels to introduce the King of the Jews and, even greater, the King of Kings. Matthew is the Gospel of the King and the Kingdom. The words king, kingdom, and inferences made about the king and kingdom are more numerous in Matthew than in any other gospel. The great parables of the king and kingdom are found in greater number and detail in Matthew than in any other gospel.

The word "Gospel" is the translation of the Greek word "**euangelion**." The "**u**" comes over to the English language as a "**v**," and when you see it written with a "**v**," it becomes more apparent, even transliterated from Greek to English, "evangelion." You can see the word evangel, evangelist, and evangelistic all come from this Greek term. The word is a compound word made from two words. The prefix "**eu**" is the word that means "good, well, or well-pleasing," and the word "**angelos or angel**," which means "**messenger**," or in this derivative, "**message**." When the two are put together, it forms the word "**Good Message**" or "**Good news**," which is the meaning of the word "**Gospel**."

"The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham:" (Matthew 1:1). This is the birth record, lineage, or genealogy of Jesus Christ. The Gospel opens by tracing the genealogy of Jesus of Nazareth to the two most important people in the Old Testament related to our salvation, our redemption. Abraham and David are the two most important figures in the Hall of Fame of faithful people in the Old Testament.

God made unconditional covenants with both of these men. The covenant with Abraham was actually made; the Hebrew terminology is to "cut" a covenant instead of "make" a covenant. The covenants, in this case, were made between God and men and involved sacrifices of blood and promises made and sealed with blood. An unconditional covenant implies just what it says- that the contract being cut is a series of promises made by one individual to another. In this case, it is God making promises that He will make, do, and keep those that are dependent on Himself alone. God will keep His promises regardless of Abraham's ability to live up to a promise that he, Abraham, would commit to do. This is why you see the "I will" phrase repeated over and over again in the covenant with both Abraham and, later, David.

God said He would act and perform as if it were, despite the actions or attitudes of either Abraham or David. God chose to act toward these two men supernaturally to bring to pass His promises. Abraham was promised a land, a lineage, and to be a light to the nations. God promised to bless those who blessed Abraham and curse those who cursed and mistreated Abraham's lineage. Abraham was to be the father of those who walked in trust and faith in the true and living God. God made promises to David to establish his lineage and establish his kingly lineage, and establish his kingdom. David's kingdom was to be an everlasting kingdom, and from his lineage would come the "**Anointed One**." In Hebrew, the word is **Mashiach**, transliterated in English as "**Messiah**," and in Greek, "**Christos**," transliterated as "**Christ**." "**Transliteration**" means bringing a word letter for letter from one language to another. The term "**translation**" means meaning for meaning.

Prayer and Action Steps

Lord, thank You for raising up Abraham and David to be the patriarchs of unconditional promises. Thank You that You were faithful even though they were not. Thank You for Your faithfulness to me and that You will not let me go when I fail. Even in my failure, You remain faithful. Amen