Birth Stories: Matthew 1-2 / Exodus 1-2



# WALKING WITH MATTHEW IN THE LAND OF JESUS

DOWN AND CONNOR 2019

### WELCOME

- BEFORE WE GO: INTRODUCTION TO MATTHEW
- DAY 1: THE BIRTH NARRATIVES (MT 1-2 / Exodus 1-2)
- DAY 2: THE TEMPLE ACTION (MT 21)
- DAY 3: THE LORD'S PRAYER (MT 6)
- DAY 4: THE RESURRECTION (MT 28)
- DAY 5: THE TRANSFIGURATION (MT 17 / Exodus 24 and 34)
- DAY 6: CAESAREA PHILIPPI (MT 18
- DAY 7: THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT (MT 5-7 / Pentateuch)

# Sequence

- Noticing the Differences
- The stories behind the story
- Citations?
- And the genealogy?
- The big picture
- Why do this?

### **Luke 1-2**

- of John the Baptist
- 1. Annunciation of the birth 2. Annunciation of the birth of Jesus
  - 3. The Visitation
  - 4. The birth of John the **Baptist**

- 5. The birth of Jesus
- 6. The presentation
- 7. Jesus in the Temple

### Matthew 1-2

A.		Announcement to Joseph	1:18-25	Isaiah 7:14
	B.	The Magi	2:1-12	Micah 5:1, 3 2Sam 5:2
C.		The Flight into Egypt	2:13-15	Hosea 11:1
	D.	The Killing of Children	2:16-18	Jeremiah 31:15
E.		Return home (to Nazareth)	2:19-23	?Judges 13:5-7 ?Isaiah 11:1

# Stories behind the Story

Genealogy
 Abraham, David, Exile

• Birth Joseph

MagiBalaam / Balak

Herod Moses' birth

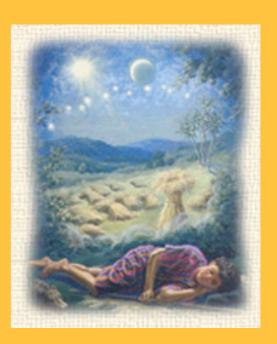
• Flight Moses

• Return Moses

# The "Joseph" Story

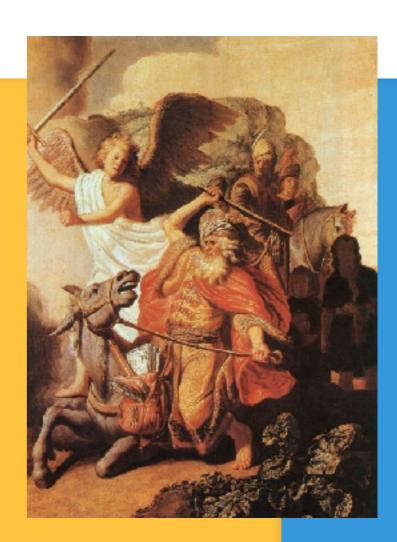
• **Genesis 37-50** 

- He dreams several times
- He goes down to Egypt
- In Egypt, he is a refuge for his family



### The "Balaam" Story

- Numbers 22-24
- A evil king (Balaam) tries to get a seer (Balak) to bring disaster on Israel
- The seer fails and, instead of cursing, utters an oracle of blessing
- He prophecies a glorious future, "a star shall come out of Jacob".



### No camels? No kings?

- Psa. 72:10 May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles render him tribute, may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts.
- 11 May all kings fall down before him, all nations give him service.
- Psa. 72:15 Long may he live! May gold of Sheba be given to him. May prayer be made for him continually, and blessings invoked for him all day long.





# No camels? No kings?

Is. 60:5 Then you shall see and be radiant;

your heart shall thrill and rejoice,

because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,

the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah;

all those from Sheba shall come.

They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

All the flocks of Kedar shall be gathered to you, the rams of Nebaioth shall minister to you; they shall be acceptable on my altar, and I will glorify my glorious house.

### The "Moses" Story

- Exodus 1: The Birth of Moses
- Exodus 2: Moses flees his homeland
- Exodus 3 and 15: Moses is called out of Egypt
- Let's look at the detail.





**Jesus** Moses



Matt. 2:13 Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him."

#### Moses

Ex. 2:15 When Pharaoh heard of it, he sought to kill Moses. But Moses fled from Pharaoh. He settled in the land of Midian, and sat down by a well.

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Matt. 2:20 "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead." 21 Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel.

Ex. 4:19b "Go back to Egypt; for all those who were seeking your life are dead." 20 So Moses took his wife and his sons, put them on a donkey and went back to the land of Egypt.

Is. 7:14 Therefore the LORD himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel.

Hebrew Bible (MT): young woman ('almah)

**Greek Old Testament (LXX): virgin (parthenos)** 

Mic. 5:2 But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

2Sam. 5:2 For some time, while Saul was king over us, it was you who led out Israel and brought it in. The LORD said to you: It is you who shall be shepherd of my people Israel, you who shall be ruler over Israel."

Hos. 11:1 When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son.

Jer. 31:15 Thus says the LORD:

A voice is heard in Ramah,
lamentation and bitter weeping.

Rachel is weeping for her children;
she refuses to be comforted for her children,
because they are no more.

The last quotation doesn't really exist as such in the OT.

Is. 4:3 Whoever is left in Zion and remains in Jerusalem will be called holy, everyone who has been recorded for life in Jerusalem,

Judg. 13:5 for you shall conceive and bear a son. No razor is to come on his head, for the boy shall be a nazirite to God from birth. It is he who shall begin to deliver Israel from the hand of the Philistines."

Judg. 13:7 but he said to me, 'You shall conceive and bear a son. So then drink no wine or strong drink, and eat nothing unclean, for the boy shall be a nazirite to God from birth to the day of his death.'"

Is. 11:1 A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch (nezer) shall grow out of his roots

Gen. 49:26 The blessings of your father Joseph are stronger than the blessings of the eternal mountains, the bounties of the everlasting hills; may they be on the head of Joseph, on the brow of him who was set apart (nazir) from his brothers.

# And the genealogy?

THE PATTERN OF THE GENEALOGY

**POSSESSION (David)** 

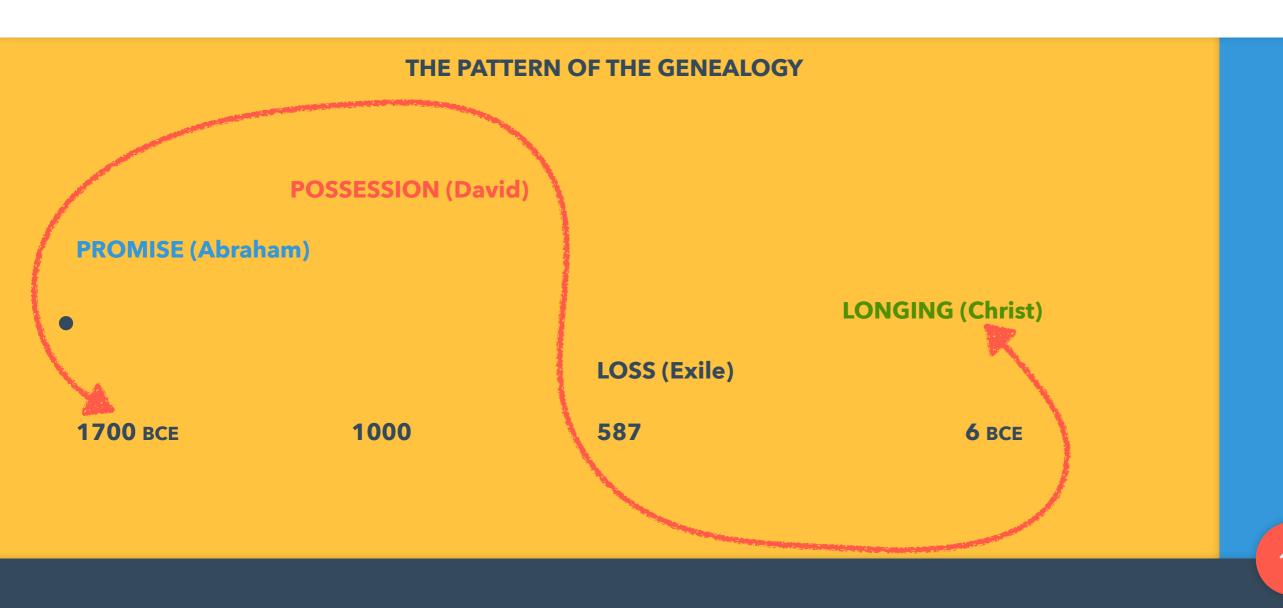
**PROMISE (Abraham)** 

**LONGING (Christ)** 

LOSS (Exile)

1700 BCE 1000 587 6 BCE

# And the genealogy?



## The big picture

WHO? 1:1-17 HOW? 1:18-25 WHERE? 2:1-12 WHENCE? 2:13-22

Abraham

David

Exile

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Tamar

Rahab

Ruth

Bathsheba

Mary

Ishmael

Isaac

Samson

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David (Is 7:14)

Moses

Baalam

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Kings

Camels

Jer 31 (Rachel)

Moses

\_\_\_\_

Nazorean

Is 4:3; Judge 16:7;

Gen 49:26; Is 11:1

Remnant

Samson

Joseph

David

ORIGIN BII

**BIRTH** 

**EXILE** 

**EXODUS** 

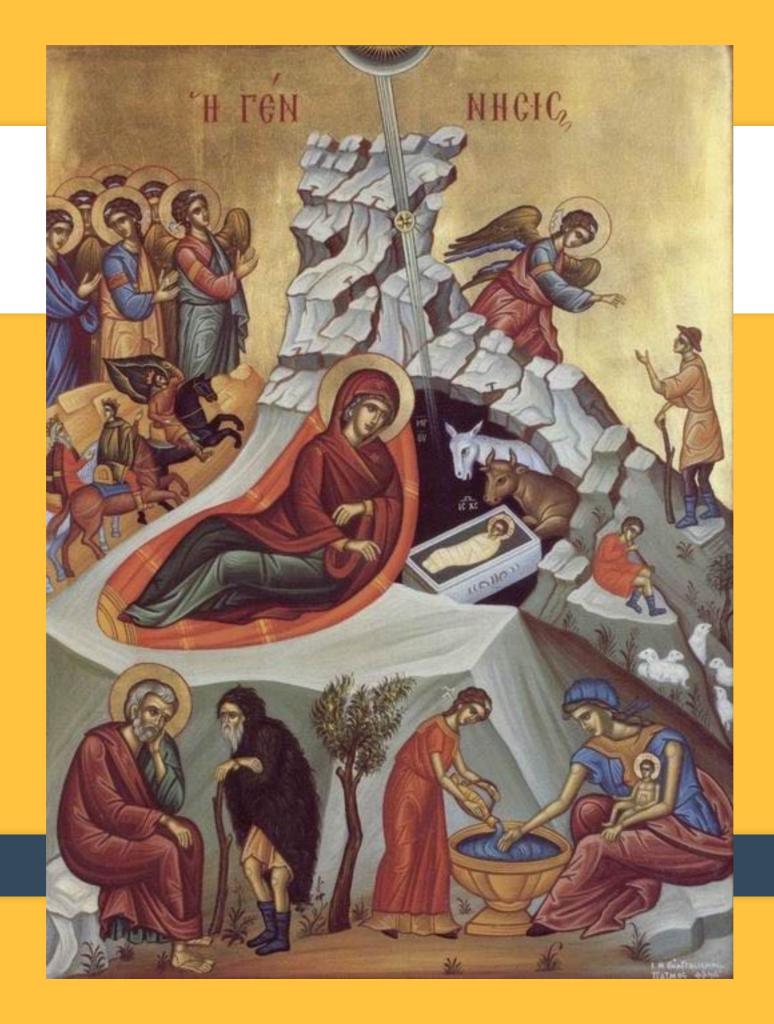
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# Question: why do this?

- Writing for Jewish-Christian community in Antioch in Syria
- Technically, a sect, which has just broken away from the parent religion
- Claim to be the perfect realisation of Judaism
- Takes to itself the major symbolic figures of the mother religion, especially the figure of Moses

# Question: why do this?

- Before the story starts (in 4:17), the fullest possible account of who Jesus is
- Descendant of Abraham, son of David, Son of God (Holy Spirit), Emmanuel, Jesus (= God saves), king of the Jews, ruler, shepherd of Israel, a nazir
- Matthew 3:1-4:16 continue presentation of Jesus before he begins his ministry



### Conversation

