

# GENESIS

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**G**enesis is the first book of the Bible. It is also the first of the five books of the Law. *Genesis* actually means “beginning,” and it is filled with beginnings: the beginning of the universe, the earth, plant and animal life, and people, families, and nations. Sadly, it is also the beginning of sin.

The first eleven chapters tell the story of creation and how sin came into the world. Adam and Eve were created by God in His own image. But they chose to disobey God, bringing sin, suffering, and even death into the world.

The rest of Genesis is often called the “patriarchal history.” It tells of how God chose Abraham and his descendants to be His people. Genesis also contains all the exciting stories of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph. The book ends as the Israelites come to live in Egypt.

## Who?

Genesis was written by Moses. Of course, Moses was not alive when the earth was created—his writing was inspired by God. That means God told Moses what to write.

## When?

Moses, the writer of Genesis, lived during the 1400s BC. The events of Genesis begin with creation—the beginning of time itself—and end with the death of Joseph in 1805 BC.

## Why?

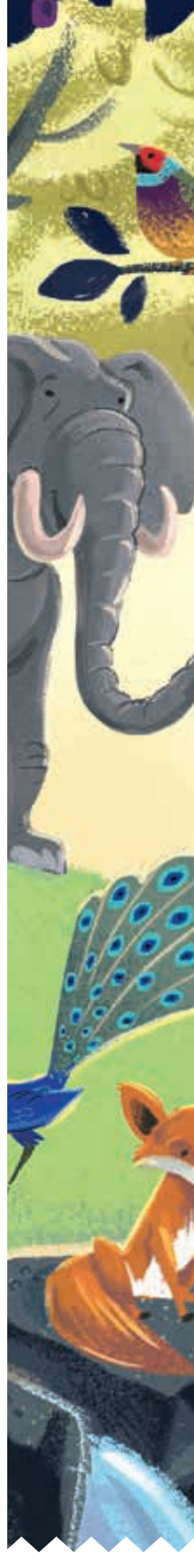
Genesis shows that God is the Lord and Creator of all things. He has perfect control over all of His creation. God can use even terrible things to bring about great good—just as He did when Joseph was sold into slavery.

## The Big Picture

Genesis tells us where we came from (God) and how sin came into the world (disobeying God). It also shows us the beginnings of God’s grace. Even before creation, God had a plan to save His people—first, through His promise to Abraham, and finally through Jesus, His Son.

## Stories from Genesis

- » The Creation *Genesis 1:1–2:3*
- » The Temptation and the Fall *Genesis 3:1-7*
- » God Warns Noah *Genesis 6:9-22*
- » The Tower of Babylon *Genesis 11:1-9*
- » Joseph’s Dreams *Genesis 37:1-11*





## VERSE TO REMEMBER

### Genesis 1:1

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

### The Creation

**1** In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

<sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. <sup>4</sup> God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup> God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." There was an evening, and there was a morning: one day.

## BIG QUESTIONS?

### Genesis 1–2

**Q:** Who created everything?

**A:** God created everything. He created the world and people to bring Him glory.

<sup>6</sup> Then God said, "Let there be an expanse between the waters, separating water from water." <sup>7</sup> So God made the expanse and separated the water under the expanse from the water above the expanse. And it was so. <sup>8</sup> God called the expanse "sky." Evening came and then morning: the second day.

<sup>9</sup> Then God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. <sup>10</sup> God called the dry land "earth," and the gathering of the water he called "seas." And God saw that it was good. <sup>11</sup> 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. <sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> Evening came and then morning: the third day.

<sup>14</sup> 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 and for days and years. <sup>15</sup> They will be lights in the expanse of the sky to provide light on the earth." And it was so. <sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> God placed them in the expanse of the sky to provide light on the earth, <sup>18</sup> to rule the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good. <sup>19</sup> Evening came and then morning: the fourth day.

<sup>20</sup> Then God said, "Let the water swarm with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the sky." <sup>21</sup> So God created the large sea-creatures 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. <sup>22</sup> God blessed them: "Be fruitful, multiply, and fill the waters of the seas, and let the birds multiply on the earth." <sup>23</sup> Evening came and then morning: the fifth day.

<sup>24</sup> Then God said, "Let the earth produce living creatures according to their kinds: live-stock, creatures that crawl, and the wildlife of the earth according to their kinds." And it was so. <sup>25</sup> 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.

<sup>26</sup> Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness. They will rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the livestock, the whole earth, and the creatures that crawl on the earth."

## VERSE TO REMEMBER

### Genesis 1:27

So God created man in his own image; he created him in the image of God; he created them male and female.

<sup>27</sup> So God created man in his own image; he created him in the image of God; he created them male and female.



## CHRIST CONNECTION

### God Created the World

**Genesis 1:1-25** The Bible says that Jesus is Lord over all of creation. Everything was created by Him and for Him. The Son has always existed, and He holds everything together.

<sup>28</sup> 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 on the earth.”

<sup>29</sup> 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, <sup>30</sup> 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 every green plant for food.”

## VERSE TO REMEMBER

### Genesis 1:31

God saw all that he had made, and it was very good indeed. Evening came and then morning: the sixth day.

And it was so. <sup>31</sup> God saw all that he had made, and it was very good indeed. Evening came and then morning: the sixth day.

**2** So the heavens and the earth and everything in them were completed. <sup>2</sup> On the seventh day God had completed his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. <sup>3</sup> God blessed the seventh day and declared it holy, for on it he rested from all his work of creation.

### Man and Woman in the Garden

<sup>4</sup> These are the records of the heavens and the earth, concerning their creation. At the time that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens, <sup>5</sup> no shrub of the field had yet grown on the land, and no plant of the field had yet sprouted, for the LORD God had not made it rain on

## Seeing THE BIG PICTURE

### God Created the World

**Genesis 1:1-25** In the beginning, there was only God. Then God created the heavens and the earth and everything that fills them. With just a word, He built up mountains and carved out seas. He placed the sun, the moon, and each star in the heavens. At His command, fish filled the seas, birds flew into the air, and animals sprang up to roam the earth.

the land, and there was no man to work the ground. <sup>6</sup> But mist would come up from the earth and water all the ground. <sup>7</sup> 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.

<sup>8</sup> The LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he placed the man he had formed. <sup>9</sup> The LORD God caused to grow out of the ground every tree pleasing in appearance

## BIG WORDS



### Eden (EE duhn)

Region in which God planted the first garden. The exact location is not known. Four rivers ran through the garden. Two of them, the Tigris and Euphrates, are in present-day Iraq. Genesis 2:8-14.



## Seeing THE BIG PICTURE

### God Created People

**Genesis 2** On the sixth day of creation, God made Adam and Eve, the first man and woman. Unlike all the other things He created, Adam and Eve were made in God's own image. Then, God looked at everything He had made and said it was good.

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.

<sup>10</sup> A river went out from Eden to water the garden. From there it divided and became the source of four rivers. <sup>11</sup> The name of the first is Pishon, which flows through the entire land of Havilah, where there is gold. <sup>12</sup> Gold from that land is pure; bdellium and onyx are also there. <sup>13</sup> The name of the second river is Gihon, which flows through the entire land of Cush. <sup>14</sup> The name of the third river is Tigris, which runs east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

<sup>15</sup> The LORD God took the man and placed him in the garden of Eden to work it and watch over it. <sup>16</sup> And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree of the garden, <sup>17</sup> 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." <sup>18</sup> Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper corresponding to him." <sup>19</sup> The LORD God

## CHRIST CONNECTION

### God Created People

**Genesis 2** God created people in His own image. Adam was like God in some ways, but he was not a perfect representation of God. God sent His Son, Jesus, to show us exactly what God is like (Colossians 1:15). Jesus is the perfect representation of God because He is God (Hebrews 1:3).

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. <sup>20</sup> The man gave names to all the livestock, to the birds of the sky, and to every wild animal; but for the man no helper was found corresponding to him. <sup>21</sup> 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. <sup>22</sup> Then the LORD God made the rib he had taken from the man into a woman and brought her to the man. <sup>23</sup> And the man said:

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.

<sup>24</sup> This is why a man leaves his father and mother and bonds with his wife, and they become one flesh. <sup>25</sup> Both the man and his wife were naked, yet felt no shame.

### 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?'"

<sup>2</sup> The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit from the trees in the garden. <sup>3</sup> 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.'"

## CHRIST CONNECTION

### Sin Entered the World

**Genesis 3:1-24** Since Adam and Eve, everyone has sinned against God. Our sin separates us from God. God promised that one of Eve's descendants would put an end to sin and death. God sent His Son, Jesus, to live as Adam didn't—perfectly sinless. God the Son came into the world to rescue people from sin and bring them back to God.

<sup>4</sup> "No! You will not die," the serpent said to the woman. <sup>5</sup> "In fact, God knows that when you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." <sup>6</sup> The woman saw that the tree was good for food and delightful to look at, and that it was desirable



# MATTHEW

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**M**atthew was once a hated tax collector, but then he met the Son of God. And when Jesus said, “Follow me” (9:9), Matthew did—changing his life forever.

Matthew became one of Jesus’s twelve closest disciples and friends. Traveling with Jesus and the other disciples, Matthew saw many of His miracles with his own eyes. His writings gave an eyewitness account of Jesus’s life and teachings.

Matthew himself wrote the book of Matthew, and it is the first book of the New Testament. It had been four hundred years since God spoke through the prophet Malachi of the Old Testament. Matthew broke that silence to tell the story of how God’s greatest promise had come true—how Jesus, the Son of God, really did come to save His people.

## Who?

Matthew, one of the twelve disciples of Jesus, wrote this book. His name means “gift of God,” and he is also called *Levi* in some instances.

## When?

The book of Matthew was written sometime between the mid-50s to early 60s AD. This would have been only about twenty years or so after Jesus died and then rose to life again.

## Why?

The book of Matthew was written to tell the Jewish people about Jesus—from His birth and ministry all the way to His death and resurrection.

## The Big Picture

Matthew quotes some sixty prophecies of the Old Testament and shows how Jesus fits each of them exactly, proving that Jesus really is the promised Messiah and Savior.

## Stories from Matthew

- |                                 |                         |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| » The Genealogy of Jesus Christ | <i>Matthew 1:1-17</i>   |
| » The Nativity of the Christ    | <i>Matthew 1:18-25</i>  |
| » Wise Men Visit the King       | <i>Matthew 2:1-12</i>   |
| » The Baptism of Jesus          | <i>Matthew 3:13-17</i>  |
| » The Temptation of Jesus       | <i>Matthew 4:1-11</i>   |
| » The Sermon on the Mount       | <i>Matthew 5-7</i>      |
| » The Model Prayer              | <i>Matthew 6:9-15</i>   |
| » The Transfiguration           | <i>Matthew 17:1-13</i>  |
| » The Triumphal Entry           | <i>Matthew 21:1-10</i>  |
| » The Parable of the Talents    | <i>Matthew 25:14-30</i> |
| » The Death of Jesus            | <i>Matthew 27:45-56</i> |
| » The Great Commission          | <i>Matthew 28:16-20</i> |



## The Genealogy of Jesus Christ

**1** An account of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham:

### From Abraham to David

- 2 Abraham fathered Isaac,  
Isaac fathered Jacob,  
Jacob fathered Judah  
and his brothers,
- 3 Judah fathered Perez and Zerah  
by Tamar,  
Perez fathered Hezron,  
Hezron fathered Aram,
- 4 Aram fathered Amminadab,  
Amminadab fathered Nahshon,  
Nahshon fathered Salmon,
- 5 Salmon fathered Boaz by Rahab,  
Boaz fathered Obed by Ruth,  
Obed fathered Jesse,
- 6 and Jesse fathered King David.

### From David to the Babylonian Exile

- David fathered Solomon  
by Uriah's wife,
- 7 Solomon fathered Rehoboam,  
Rehoboam fathered Abijah,  
Abijah fathered Asa,
  - 8 Asa fathered Jehoshaphat,  
Jehoshaphat fathered Joram,  
Joram fathered Uzziah,
  - 9 Uzziah fathered Jotham,  
Jotham fathered Ahaz,  
Ahaz fathered Hezekiah,
  - 10 Hezekiah fathered Manasseh,  
Manasseh fathered Amon,  
Amon fathered Josiah,
  - 11 and Josiah fathered Jeconiah  
and his brothers  
at the time of the exile  
to Babylon.

### 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,
- 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.

<sup>17</sup> 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.

## CHRIST CONNECTION

### From Abraham to Jesus

**Matthew 1:1-17; Luke 3:23-38**

Jesus came to earth as a baby in Bethlehem. Jesus had earthly parents, Mary and Joseph, but His true Father is God. Through Jesus, God kept His promises to Abraham and David. Jesus saves people from their sin and brings them into God's family.

### The Nativity of the Christ

<sup>18</sup> The birth of Jesus Christ came about this way: After his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, it was discovered before they came together that she was pregnant from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> So her husband Joseph, being a righteous man, and not wanting to disgrace her publicly, decided to divorce her secretly.

<sup>20</sup> 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.

## VERSE TO REMEMBER

**Matthew 1:21**

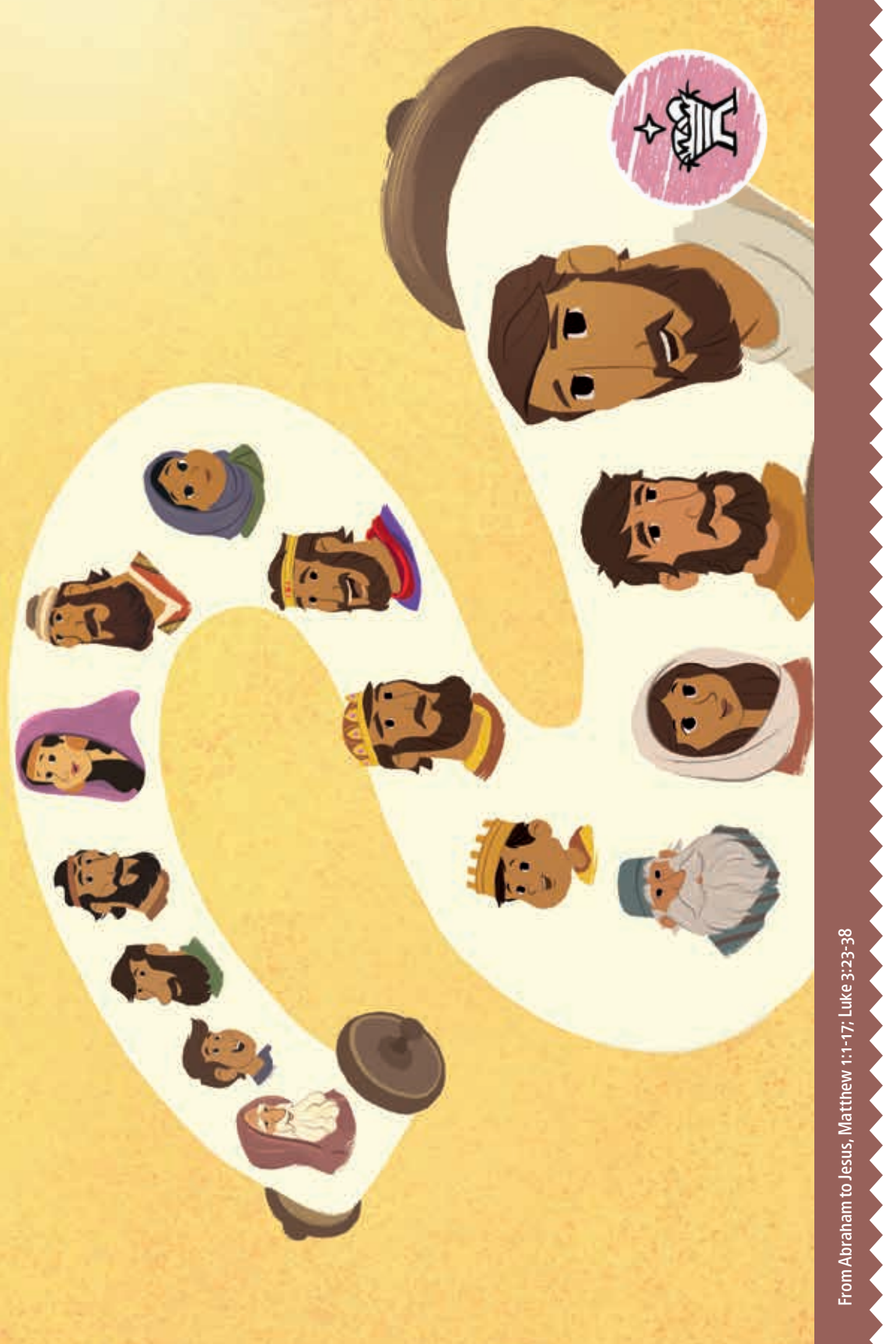
"She will give birth to a son, and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

<sup>21</sup> She will give birth to a son, and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

<sup>22</sup> Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

<sup>23</sup> **See, the virgin will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they will name him Immanuel,** which is translated "God is with us."





## Seeing THE BIG PICTURE

### From Abraham to Jesus

**Matthew 1:1-17; Luke 3:23-38** Jesus is the Son of God, which means that He is fully God. But Jesus's mother, Mary, was human. That means Jesus was also fully man. Jesus was *both* fully God and fully human, making Him different from any other man.

Like all people, Jesus's family had a history—a family tree. It began in the garden with Adam and Eve. Then came Seth, Enos, and Enoch, who walked with God. Noah was part of Jesus's family, along with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Years later, Salmon was born into Jesus's family tree. He married Rahab, who saved the spies at Jericho. Then came Boaz, who married Ruth. Next came Obed and Jesse, the father of King David. After David came more fathers and more sons, all the way down to a man named Joseph. And it was this Joseph who became the husband of Mary, the mother of Jesus.

<sup>24</sup> When Joseph woke up, he did as the Lord's angel had commanded him. He married her <sup>25</sup> but did not have sexual relations with her until she gave birth to a son. And he named him Jesus.

### 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, <sup>2</sup> saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the

## BIG WORDS

### Frankincense

Ingredient used in making the perfume for the most holy place in the tabernacle. It comes from trees in the balsam family. Was one of the gifts presented to the child Jesus by the wise men. **Matthew 2:11.**

## BIG QUESTIONS?

### The Genealogy of Christ

**Q:** How is Jesus different from any other man?

**A:** Jesus is fully God and fully man.

Jews? For we saw his star at its rising and have come to worship him."

<sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this, he was deeply disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. <sup>4</sup> So he assembled all the chief priests and scribes of the people and asked them where the Christ would be born.

<sup>5</sup> "In Bethlehem of Judea," they told him, "because this is what was written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup> **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."**

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod secretly summoned the wise men and asked them the exact time the star appeared. <sup>8</sup> 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."

<sup>9</sup> 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.

<sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup> Entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and falling to their knees, they worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

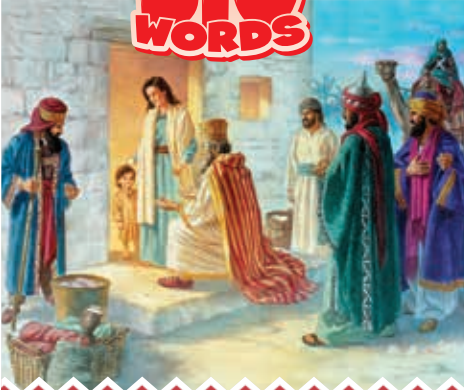
<sup>12</sup> And being warned in a dream not to go back

## CHRIST CONNECTION

### The Wise Men Visited Jesus

**Matthew 2:1-21** The wise men came to worship Jesus as King. Jesus is the King who will rule forever, as God promised to King David in 2 Samuel 7. Jesus is the true King who is worthy of all our worship.

# BIG WORDS



## Magi (MAY jigh)

Wise men, priests, and astrologers. Their study of the stars led them to Palestine to find and worship Jesus, the newborn King. They may have been from Babylon, Persia, or the Arabian Desert. The Bible does not say how many magi worshiped Jesus, although they brought Him three gifts—gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Jesus may have been about two years old when the magi found Him. Matthew 2:1-21.

to Herod, they returned to their own country by another route.

## The Flight into Egypt

<sup>13</sup> After they were gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, “Get up! Take 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.”<sup>14</sup> So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night, and escaped to Egypt.<sup>15</sup> 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.**

# BIG QUESTIONS?

## Wise Men Visit Jesus

**Q:** Why did the wise men visit Jesus?

**A:** The wise men came to worship Jesus as King.

## The Massacre of the Innocents

<sup>16</sup> 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.<sup>17</sup> Then what was spoken through Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled:

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

## The Return to Nazareth

<sup>19</sup> After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt,<sup>20</sup> 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.”<sup>21</sup> So he got up, took the child and his mother, and entered the land of Israel.<sup>22</sup> 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.<sup>23</sup> Then he went and settled

# Seeing THE BIG PICTURE

## The Wise Men Visited Jesus

**Matthew 2:1-21** At the birth of Jesus, a star appeared, and wise men followed it to Jerusalem. They wanted to worship the new King of the Jews. When King Herod heard this, he was furious! He was the only king!

Long ago, the prophet Micah had said the new King would be born in Bethlehem, so Herod sent the wise men there. Secretly he hoped to find the new King himself—and kill Him!

The wise men did find Jesus, and they worshiped Him. But God warned them not to go back to Herod. When Herod discovered the wise men had left without telling him where the new King was, he ordered every boy in Bethlehem who was two years old and younger be killed! Herod didn’t know that Jesus had already escaped. God had said that His Messiah would rule forever—and Herod was not going to mess up God’s plan!





The Wise Men Visited Jesus, Matthew 2:1-21