

The Gospel of Matthew, Chapter 1

The Foundational Truths

And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14

The Genealogical Record, Matt. 1:1-17, Luke 3:23-38.

- Differences between Matthew and Luke.
 - Matthew traces the legal lineage of Jesus through Joseph, starting with Abraham. _____
 - Luke traces the natural lineage through Mary, in reverse, back to Adam. _____
 - The uninformed controversy: the use of Joseph's name in the Luke passage. _____
 - Cultural context. _____

The Miraculous Conception

- Matthew's narrative, 1:18-25.
 - From the perspective of Joseph. _____
 - The first response of a righteous man.
 - Without anger. _____
 - Protective, not retributive. _____
 - Angelic intervention.
 - Conception by the Holy Spirit: God. _____
 - Prophetic fulfillment. _____
Isaiah 7:14, 9:6-7, 8:10. _____
 - The "virginal" fulfillment, as opposed to the Roman Catholic doctrine of the "Immaculate Conception." _____
- What the Gospel of Luke adds, Luke 1:1-80.
 - The prophesy of John the Baptist, the announcer of the coming of Jesus, 1:5-25. _____
 - The announcement to Mary, 1:26-38. _____
 - "Setting the stage." Zacharias prophecy. 1:67-80. _____
 - "Accomplished redemption." _____

- "Salvation" from enemies. _____
- "Mercy" to forbearers. _____
- The "Sunrise" from on high. _____

The necessity of "First things."

- The foundation of theological understanding.
 - To insure that our doctrines are not just from the imagination. _____
 - Reiteration of the historical context. _____
- Fulfillment of the "unfinished" from the Hebrew text.
 - The pinpoint focus of God's plan. _____
 - Giving structure and final detail to O.T. prophecy. _____
- The Foundational Miracle.
 - Without this we have nothing. _____

"To be quite frank, we do not at all like the idea of a "chosen people." Democrats by birth and education, we should prefer to think that all nations and individuals start level in the search for God, or even that all religions are equally true. It must be admitted at once that Christianity makes no concessions to this point of view. It does not tell of a human search for God at all, but of something done by God for, to, and about Man. And the way in which it is done is selective, undemocratic, to the highest degree. After the knowledge of God had been universally lost or obscured, one man from the whole earth (Abraham) is picked out. He is separated (miserably enough, we may suppose) from his natural surroundings, sent into a strange country, and made the ancestor of a nation who are to carry the knowledge of the true God. Within this nation there is further selection: some die in the desert, some remain behind in Babylon. There is further selection still. *The process grows narrower and narrower, sharpens at last into one small bright point like the head of a spear. It is a Jewish girl at her prayers. All humanity (so far as concerns its redemption) has narrowed to that.*"

C.S. Lewis, *Miracles*, Ch. 14