

Matthew Volume 1 - The Visual Bible (*Matthew 1:1-9:1*)

"Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash." Matthew 7:24-27 NIV

"Do not judge, or you too will be judged. In the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." Matthew 7:1-2 NIV

The book of Matthew begins with the genealogy of Jesus which shows that there were fourteen generations from Abraham to David, fourteen from David to the exile in Babylon, and fourteen from the exile to the Christ. Although the long list of names that we can hardly pronounce might not seem interesting to some people, the list shows us the "family tree" of Jesus. It is a good historical verification of the accuracy of the scripture since many of these names appear in other historic writings as well.

The first chapters of Matthew tell of the birth of Christ. *"This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly." Matthew 1:18-19 NIV* In that time Joseph would have had the right to have her publicly humiliated and even stoned for being pregnant with someone else's child. What do you think might have happened to Mary and Joseph and the baby today?

But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give Him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins." Matthew 1:20-21 NIV When the angel told Joseph that the baby was the promised Messiah, sent by God, Joseph devoted his life to Mary and the baby, Jesus, who not yet born. Joseph believed the angel and his life was changed. *"And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon Him." Luke 2:40 NIV*

"As soon as Jesus was baptized, He went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on Him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is My Son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased." Matthew 3:16-17 Jesus was thirty years old when He was baptized by John. At the baptism the Trinity was present, The Father's voice from heaven, The Son who was Jesus and the Holy Spirit descending like a dove. Have you been baptized?

"Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in the synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people. News about Him spread all over Syria, and people brought to Him all who were ill with various diseases, those suffering severe pain, the demon-possessed, those having seizures, and the paralyzed, and He healed them. Large crowds followed Him. Matthew 4:23-25 NIV" Do you think that Jesus is still healing people today?

The Lord's Prayer is the example that Jesus gave to His disciples when they asked how they should pray. *"This, then, is how you should pray: 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.' Matthew 6:9-13 NIV* Read through the verses again and think about what Jesus meant when He gave this prayer.

Dear Lord, may Your name be holy among us. We pray that Your kingdom will come and that Your will be done here on earth as it is in heaven. We trust You to take care of our physical needs. Forgive us our sins and teach us how to forgive others. Shield us from the temptations of the world. Keep us safe from the devil and the evil that surrounds us. You are the mighty one; to You belong the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. To You alone belongs all majesty both now and forever more. In the name of the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit, Amen.