

Encountering Jesus in Matthew

Matthew 1:1-17 (NRSV)

An account of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, **the son of Abraham.**

Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and **Zerah by Tamar**, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram,

and Aram the father of Aminadab, and Aminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and **Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab**, and **Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth**, and Obed the father of Jesse,

and Jesse the father of King David. And **David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah**,

and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asaph, and Asaph the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

father of Salathiel, and Salathiel the father of Zerubbabel,
and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father
of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor,
and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of
Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud,
and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of
Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob,
and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of
whom Jesus was born, who is called the Messiah.

So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen
generations; and from David to the deportation to Babylon,
fourteen generations; and from the deportation to Babylon to
the Messiah, fourteen generations.

The Covenant with Abraham

Genesis 12:1-2 (NRSV)

Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you.

³ I will bless those who bless you
and curse those who treat you with
contempt. All the families on earth
will be blessed through you.”

And the covenant with David

2 Chronicles 7:17-20 (NRSV)

As for you, if you walk before me, as your father David walked, doing according to all that I have commanded you and keeping my statutes and my ordinances,

then I will establish your royal throne, as I made covenant with your father David saying, 'You shall never lack a successor to rule over Israel.'

"But if you turn aside and forsake my statutes and my commandments that I have set before you, and go and serve other gods and worship them,

then I will pluck you up from the land that I have given you; and this house, which I have consecrated for my name, I will cast out of my sight, and will make it a proverb and a byword among all peoples.

Matthew 8:1-13 (NRSV)

When Jesus had come down from the mountain, great crowds followed him;

and there was a leper who came to him and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, if you choose, you can make me clean."

He stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, "I do choose. Be made clean!" Immediately his leprosy was cleansed.

Then Jesus said to him, "See that you say nothing to anyone; but go, show yourself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, as a testimony to them."

When he entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, appealing to him

and saying, "Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, in terrible distress."

And he said to him, "I will come and cure him."

The centurion answered, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; but only speak the word, and my servant will be healed.

For I also am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes, and to another, 'Come,' and he comes, and to my slave, 'Do this,' and the slave does it."

When Jesus heard him, he was amazed and said to those who followed him, "Truly I tell you, in no one in Israel have I found such faith.

I tell you, many will come from east and west and will eat with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, while the heirs of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

And to the centurion Jesus said, "Go; let it be done for you according to your faith." And the servant was healed in that hour.

Matthew 8:14-18 (NRSV)

When Jesus entered Peter's house, he saw his mother-in-law lying in bed with a fever;

he touched her hand, and the fever left her, and she got up and began to serve him.

That evening they brought to him many who were possessed with demons; and he cast out the spirits with a word, and cured all who were sick.

This was to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah, "He took our infirmities and bore our diseases."

Now when Jesus saw great crowds around him, he gave orders to go over to the other side.

Isaiah 53:4-5 (NRSV)

Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted.

But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed.

Matthew 12:9-21 (NRSV)

*He left that place and entered their
synagogue;*

*a man was there with a withered hand, and
they asked him, "Is it lawful to cure on the
sabbath?" so that they might accuse him.*

*He said to them, "Suppose one of you has
only one sheep and it falls into a pit on the
sabbath; will you not lay hold of it and lift it
out?"*

*How much more valuable is a human being
than a sheep! So it is lawful to do good on the
sabbath."*

Then he said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and it was restored, as sound as the other.

But the Pharisees went out and conspired against him, how to destroy him.

When Jesus became aware of this, he departed. Many crowds followed him, and he cured all of them, and he ordered them not to make him known.

This was to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah:

*'Here is my servant, whom I have chosen,
my beloved, with whom my soul is well
pleased. I will put my Spirit upon him, and he
will proclaim justice to the Gentiles.*

*He will not wrangle or cry aloud, nor will
anyone hear his voice in the streets.*

*He will not break a bruised reed or quench
a smoldering wick until he brings justice to
victory.*

And in his name the Gentiles will hope.'
(Isaiah 42:1-3)

Matthew 8:23-27 (NRSV)

And when he got into the boat, his disciples followed him.

A windstorm arose on the sea, so great that the boat was being swamped by the waves; but he was asleep.

And they went and woke him up, saying, "Lord, save us! We are perishing!"

And he said to them, "Why are you afraid, you of little faith?" Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a dead calm.

They were amazed, saying, "What sort of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him?"

Psalm 107:23-25 (NRSV)

*Some went down to the sea in
ships, doing business on the
mighty waters;*

*they saw the deeds of the LORD,
his wondrous works in the deep.*

*For he commanded and raised
the stormy wind, which lifted up
the waves of the sea.*

Matthew 8:28-34 (NRSV)

When he came to the other side, to the country of the Gadarenes, two demoniacs coming out of the tombs met him. They were so fierce that no one could pass that way.

Suddenly they shouted, "What have you to do with us, Son of God? Have you come here to torment us before the time?"

Now a large herd of swine was feeding at some distance from them.

The demons begged him, "If you cast us out, send us into the herd of swine."

And he said to them, "Go!" So they came out and entered the swine; and suddenly, the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea and perished in the water.

The swineherds ran off, and on going into the town, they told the whole story about what had happened to the demoniacs.

Then the whole town came out to meet Jesus; and when they saw him, they begged him to leave their neighborhood.

Matthew 9:1-8 (NRSV)

And after getting into a boat he crossed the sea and came to his own town.

And just then some people were carrying a paralyzed man lying on a bed. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven."

Then some of the scribes said to themselves, "This man is blaspheming."

But Jesus, perceiving their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts?"

For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Stand up and walk'?

But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—he then said to the paralytic—"Stand up, take your bed and go to your home."

And he stood up and went to his home.

When the crowds saw it, they were filled with awe, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to human beings

Matthew 9:18-38 (NRSV)

While he was saying these things to them, suddenly a leader of the synagogue came in and knelt before him, saying, "My daughter has just died; but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live."

And Jesus got up and followed him, with his disciples.

Then suddenly a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his cloak,

for she said to herself, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be made well."

Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, "Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well." And instantly the woman was made well.

When Jesus came to the leader's house and saw the flute players and the crowd making a commotion, he said, "Go away; for the girl is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him.

But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl got up.

And the report of this spread throughout that district.

As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed him, crying loudly, "Have mercy on us, Son of David!"

When he entered the house, the blind men came to him; and Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to him, "Yes, Lord."

Then he touched their eyes and said, "According to your faith let it be done to you."

And their eyes were opened. Then Jesus sternly ordered them, "See that no one knows of this."

But they went away and spread the news about him throughout that district.

After they had gone away, a demoniac who was mute was brought to him.

And when the demon had been cast out, the one who had been mute spoke; and the crowds were amazed and said, "Never has anything like this been seen in Israel."

But the Pharisees said, "By the ruler of the demons he casts out the demons."

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness.

When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few;

therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

Exodus 4:11 (NRSV)

Then the LORD said to him, "Who gives speech to mortals? Who makes them mute or deaf, seeing or blind? Is it not I, the LORD

Ezekiel 34:15-16 (NRSV)

I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God.

I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak,

Ezekiel 34:23 (NRSV)

I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd.

Matthew sees Jesus as

- 1) Bringing to completion the great OT covenants with Abraham and David, setting right the failure of Israel in those covenants.
- 2) Fulfilling the law, not only being obedient to the law, but bringing the righteousness and healing the law anticipates
- 3) Bringing the blessing of Abraham and healing to the nations that Abraham promised
- 4) Bringing the healing and forgiveness of sin promised in the Servant of Isaiah
- 5) Exercising the authority of God over the sea and wind
- 6) He has power over the demonic and evil as God does
- 7) He forgives sin as God does
- 8) He shows the mercy and compassion God promised when the institutions of Israel failed
- 9) He the shepherd bringing the healing of God to Israel