

Matthew 1:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Jacob begat Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ.

Analysis

The genealogy's structure breaks at this crucial point: Joseph is called 'the husband of Mary' rather than 'begat Jesus,' indicating the virgin birth. Jesus is born 'of' Mary, not Joseph, yet Joseph's lineage provides legal inheritance rights to David's throne. The title 'Christ' (Greek for 'Messiah') identifies Jesus as the Anointed One, God's promised King, Priest, and Prophet.

Historical Context

This verse brings us to approximately 4-6 BC (Herod died in 4 BC). The Roman Empire had united the Mediterranean world, Greek was the common language, and Jewish communities existed throughout the known world—God's sovereign timing for the Incarnation.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does the virgin birth preserve both Christ's humanity (born of Mary) and deity (conceived by the Holy Spirit)?
2. What does the title 'Christ' signify about Jesus' threefold office as Prophet, Priest, and King?

Interlinear Text

Ἰακώβ δὲ ἐγεννήθη ὁ Ἰωσήφ ὁ ἄνδρα Μαρίας
Jacob And begat who Joseph who the husband of Mary
G2384 G1161 G1080 G3588 G2501 G3588 G435 G3137

ἐξ ἧς ἐγεννήθη Ἰησοῦς ὁ λεγόμενος Χριστός
of whom begat Jesus who is called Christ
G1537 G3739 G1080 G2424 G3588 G3004 G5547

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 27:17 (References Jesus): Therefore when they were gathered together, Pilate said unto them, Whom will ye that I release unto you? Barabbas, or Jesus which is called Christ?

Matthew 27:22 (References Jesus): Pilate saith unto them, What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ? They all say unto him, Let him be crucified.

John 4:25 (References Christ): The woman saith unto him, I know that Messiah cometh, which is called Christ: when he is come, he will tell us all things.

Luke 3:23 (References Jesus): And Jesus himself began to be about thirty years of age, being (as was supposed) the son of Joseph, which was the son of Heli,