

## Backstory

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### Matthew's Good News Chapter 1, verse 1

#### Was Jesus a new character, or a very old character?

If God were to come to us in the flesh--if the Main Character of the story were to walk into our lives--we should recognize him from what he had revealed already. Matthew wrote his Gospel to a people group who had been experiencing the One True God for two thousand years. They knew the 39 books in which God had made himself known to them. We call those books the Old Testament.

Matthew begins, "The book of the genesis of Jesus the Anointed, Son of David, Son of Abraham." Matthew introduces Jesus by four important Old Testament terms: genesis, Christ, Son of David, Son of Abraham.

The term "**Genesis**" means the beginning of a line of generations. This term reminds us of the first book of the Bible, the first word of the Bible: Genesis, Beginning, First. The story began with God creating a world for his people and a people to live in close relation to him. But the people turned from God and brought brokenness and death into the world. Yet God did not reject them. He called them back into a trust relationship with himself.

God began a new community by calling one childless man, named Abraham. He promised Abraham a family through whom the One God would bless all nations. The story and the promise was passed down through the generations recorded in this book. Matthew is introducing Jesus as the new beginning of God's eternal family.

David was a lowly shepherd. But God anointed him to become the greatest king in his people's history. Yet David was not the ultimate Messiah. God promised that one from the family of David would come as the eternal Savior King. So the "**Son of David**" became a term for the Savior everyone was waiting for. Matthew is introducing Jesus as the Savior.

"**Anointed**" is an important Old Testament term for God's chosen leader. God's people were waiting for God to reveal the ultimate King. This Savior King would come to defeat evil and death. From the Hebrew language, God's anointed King is called "Messiah." From the Greek language, God's anointed King is called "Christ." Matthew is introducing Jesus as the ultimate King.

Each of these titles tells us that Jesus is the fulfillment of all the Old Testament story. Matthew's Gospel will fill in more of that story.