

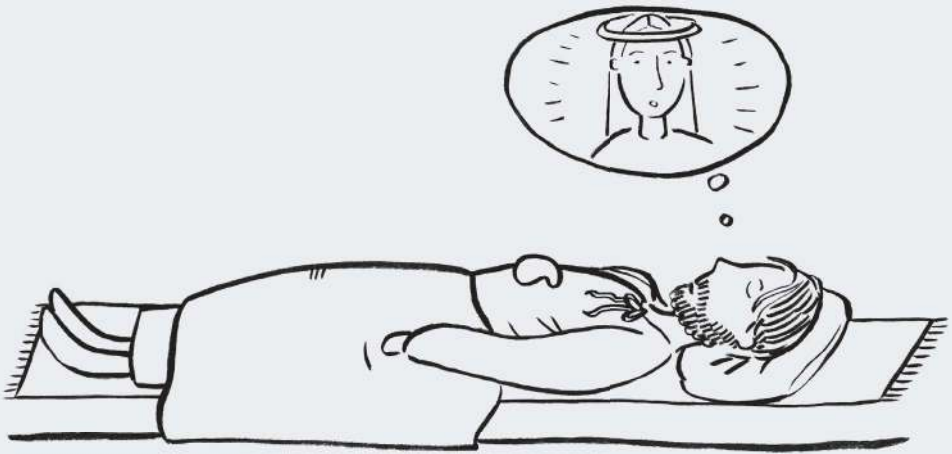
of Jeconiah and his brothers. At that time, the Jewish people were forced to go away to Babylon.

12 After this, the family line continued. Jeconiah was the father of Shealtiel. Shealtiel was the father of
13 Zerubbabel. Zerubbabel was the father of Abihud. Abihud was the father of Eliakim. Eliakim was
14 the father of Azor. Azor was the father of Zadok. Zadok was the father of Akim. Akim was the father
15 of Elihud. Elihud was the father of Eleazar. Eleazar was the father of Matthan. Matthan was the
16 father of Jacob. Jacob was the father of Joseph. Joseph was the husband of Mary. And Mary was the mother of Jesus, who is called the Messiah.

17 So there were 14 generations from Abraham to David. There were 14 from David until the Jewish people were forced to go away to Babylon. And there were 14 from that time to the Messiah.

Joseph Accepts Jesus as His Son

18 This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about. His mother Mary and Joseph had promised to get married. But before they started to live together, it became clear that she was going to have a baby. She became pregnant by the
19 power of the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph was faithful to the law. But he did not want to put her to shame in public. So he planned to divorce her quietly.



- 20 But as Joseph was thinking about this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. The angel said, “Joseph, son of David, don’t be afraid to take Mary home as your wife. The baby inside
- 21 her is from the Holy Spirit. She is going to have a son. You must give him the name Jesus. That’s because he will save his people from their sins.”
- 22 All this took place to bring about what the Lord had said would happen. He had said through
- 23 the prophet, “The virgin is going to have a baby. She will give birth to a son. And he will be called Immanuel.” The name Immanuel means “God with us.”
- 24 Joseph woke up. He did what the angel of the Lord commanded him to do. He took Mary home as his
- 25 wife. But he did not sleep with her until she gave birth to a son. And Joseph gave him the name Jesus.

The Wise Men Visit Jesus

- 2 Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea. This happened while Herod was king of Judea. After Jesus' birth, Wise Men from the east came to
- 2 Jerusalem. They asked, "Where is the child who has been born to be king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose. Now we have come to worship him."
- 3 When King Herod heard about it, he was very
- 4 upset. Everyone in Jerusalem was troubled too. So Herod called together all the chief priests of the people. He also called the teachers of the law. He asked them where the Messiah was going to be
- 5 born. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied. "This is what the prophet has written. He said,
- 6 "‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are certainly not the least important among the towns of Judah. A ruler will come out of you. He will rule my people Israel like a shepherd.’"
- 7 Then Herod secretly called for the Wise Men. He found out from them exactly when the star had
- 8 appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem. He said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report it to me. Then I can go and worship him too."
- 9 After the Wise Men had listened to the king, they



went on their way. The star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them. It finally stopped over
10 the place where the child was. When they saw the
11 star, they were filled with joy. The Wise Men went to the house. There they saw the child with his mother Mary. They bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures. They
12 gave him gold, frankincense and myrrh. But God warned them in a dream not to go back to Herod. So they returned to their country on a different road.

Jesus' Family Escapes to Egypt

13 When the Wise Men had left, Joseph had a dream. In the dream an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph. "Get up!" the angel said. "Take the child