

*“The Origin Story”*  
DISCOVERING KING JESUS, Pt. #2  
Matthew 1:18-25

READ TEXT: Open your Bible’s please to Matthew 1 (first book in the New Testament). Our Scripture reading this morning comes from Matthew 1:18-25, and so you can be following along with me as I read from there now. Matthew 1:18-25.....*This is the Word of God.*

PRAY

ILLUSTRATION

INTRO/REVIEW

Over 20 years ago now, during the Summer of 1999, I rode my bicycle with a group of Simpson College friends from Portland, OR to Portland, MN. And one thing that I learned from that trip was that you can miss a lot when you’re speeding down a road at 65 mph. Like what?

Well, there were two things that caught my attention at a slower pace. The first, I’ll put to you this way; about two states in, I had the idea to produce a coffee table book entitled “Roadkill of America.” Because I never knew there were so many bodies on the side of the road. And so this book would feature the many unique animals that met their demise on America’s roadways from sea to shining sea.

The other thing that caught my attention was lost license plates. I was always seeing them everywhere. And so my goal was to find one on the side of the road from every state we rode through. And believe it or not, I did. But I never would have seen them going top speed. The point is this— when you’re riding 15mph on a bike, you notice way more details than when you’re driving 65mph in a car.

Which is what Matthew has just done with that genealogy— he’s just taken us all at top speed through the whole history of Israel. Now, to *you* it may have seemed like an eternity, but the truth is, Matthew has just flashed through roughly 2,000 years of history in just 17 verses, crammed onto one half-page of our Bibles— *a page so thin you can see light through it!* That’s flying.

And so now, as he ends his genealogy that came sandwiched between dual claims of messianic identity, that Jesus was the long-awaited “Christ,” the anointed One, the King they’ve all been waiting for, now, after laying out this royal lineage that culminated in the clearly unique birth of a child named Jesus, Matthew suddenly hits the brakes so we won’t miss certain details on the side of the road.

And so he picks up in our text today right where he left off, with a closer look at what some have called the ‘*origin* narrative,’ rather than ‘the birth narrative.’

“These verses do not [simply] relate the birth of Jesus,” says R.T. France, “but explain his *origin*.” It’s an origin story.

#### ILLUSTRATION

Now, if you’re a comic book fan, you know that every hero has an origin story. Superman escaped from the doomed planet Krypton when his parents jettisoned him to earth in a space-pod as their last living act. Spiderman was bit by a radioactive spider and turned into a vigilante after a criminal he could have stopped ends up killing his beloved uncle. Batman loses both parents in a tragic mugging gone wrong as a child and finds strength and courage to fight crime after facing his fears in a bat cave.

What about Jesus?

Well, of course He’s no superhero, because those are made up and none of them claim to be G

And so this origin story of Jesus, told from the perspective of Joseph, we’re going to look at as though it were broken up into four scenes.