

# The Gospel According to Matthew


Lesson 1: Chapters 1 and 2

**For the Jews genealogical trees were of great importance because a person's identity was especially linked to family and tribe**

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**In Christ's time each family still kept a careful record of its genealogical tree, since because of it people acquired rights and duties.**

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Jewish genealogies followed the male line. Joseph, being Mary's husband, was the legal father of Jesus. The legal father is on a par with the real father as regards rights and duties.



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**St Joseph is Patron of the whole Church, since he was chosen to play a very special role in God's plan for our salvation; with St Joseph as his legal father, Jesus the Messiah has David as his ancestor.**

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## Mt 1:18 – 25

- **497 The gospel accounts understand the virginal conception of Jesus as a divine work that surpasses all human understanding and possibility: “That which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit,” said the angel to Joseph about Mary his fiancée.**

– Catechism of the Catholic Church

# Mt 1:21

430 Jesus means in Hebrew: “God saves”

1507 These signs demonstrate in a special way that Jesus is truly “God who saves.”

-Catechism of the Catholic Church

## Mt 1:21

2812 Finally, in Jesus the name of the Holy God is revealed and given to us, in the flesh, as Savior, revealed by what he is, by his word, and by his sacrifice

-Catechism of the Catholic Church



**He [Joseph] had no relations  
with her until she bore a son,  
and he named him Jesus.**

**MATTHEW 1:25**

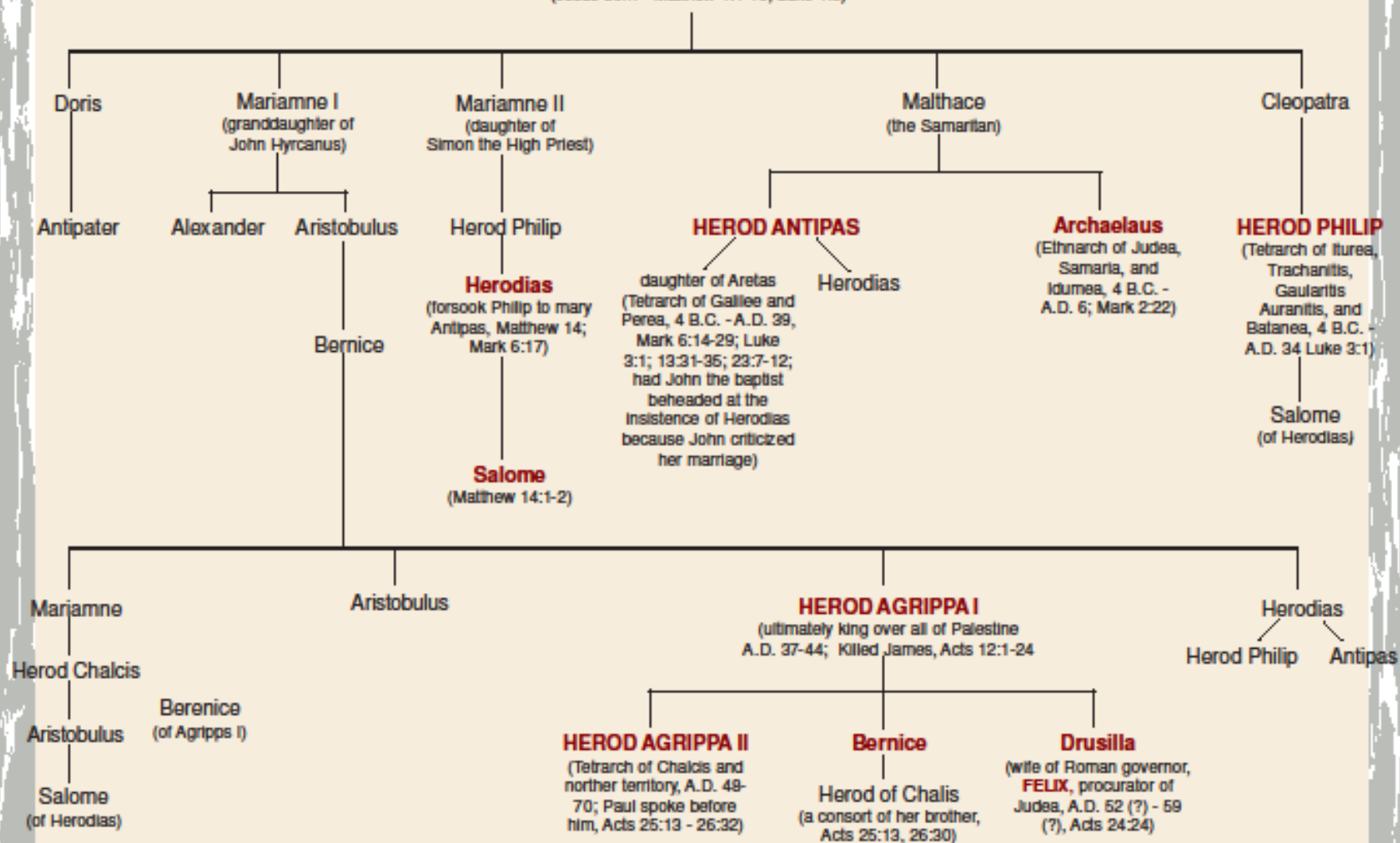
UNTIL

“Be happy until I see you again”

# The Herodian Family

## HEROD THE GREAT

King over Palestine  
37-4 B.C.  
(Jesus born—Matthew 1:1-19; Luke 1:5)



NOTE: { • Names in UPPER CASE letters denote reigning kings in the New Testament  
• This is only a partial genealogy of the total Herodian dynasty



# The Messiah

**439** Many Jews and even certain Gentiles who shared their hope recognized in Jesus the fundamental attributes of the messianic “Son of David,” promised by God to Israel. Jesus accepted his rightful title of Messiah, though with some reserve because it was understood by some of his contemporaries in too human a sense, as essentially political.

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