

4. Matthew "names" Jesus:  
**Matthew 2:1-3; 27:11 & 37**
- Who is first, and who is the last, (in Matthew's Gospel) to hear and speak the name: "King of the Jews?"
  - What do you recall are their reactions to the "King of the Jews?"
5. What impact does the following have on your understanding of Jesus, and your faith?
- Matthew's use of five women, scandalously becoming part of Jesus' lineage
  - The strength and scope of their desire to be in God's family
  - Other things from this study?

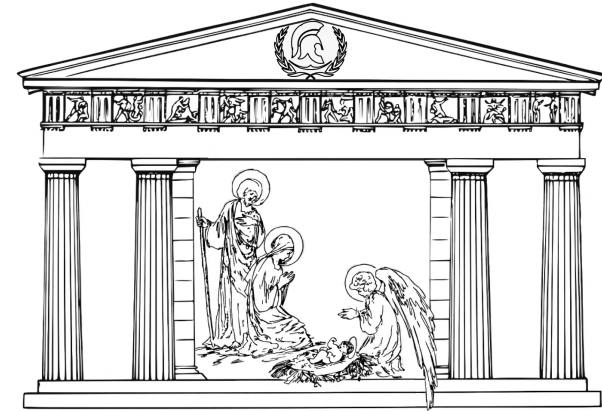
Next week:

MOSES, MYTH, & MIDRASH



- Babbi Shaya Karlinsky, Series: Maharal, Pirkei Avot, Perek 1, Chapter 1: Mishna 15: Part 2.
- Information based on "The First Christmas: What the Gospels Really Teach about Jesus' Birth" © 2007 by Marcus J. Borg and John Dominic Crossan. HarperCollins Publishers, NY.

# A CHRISTMAS CAROL



## OVERTURES FROM THE (HOLY) GHOSTS OF CHRISTMAS PAST, PRESENT, & FUTURE

### SESSION TWO "MATTHEW'S OVERTURE" PART I

MATTHEW 1 & 2

FOCUS SCRIPTURE:

MATTHEW 1:17

"So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; and from David to the deportation to Babylon, fourteen generations; and from the deportation to Babylon to the Messiah, fourteen generations."

READ ALSO:

EXODUS 1:7-2:10

## VOCABULARY TERMS:

**Torah:** the compilation of the first five books of the Hebrew Bible, namely the books of Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. In Greek, the Torah is referred to as the Pentateuch, or the Five Books of Moses.

## CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:

### Numeric Significance in Hebrew

The number five: The Hebrew letter "Heh," is the 5th Letter of the Hebrew Alphabet.

\*The letter "Heh" appears **twice** in the Hebrew name for God - YHWH.

\*It refers to the Five Books of Moses (Torah).

\*The Torah was given with five voices to have it extend and radiate in every direction, with a central voice unifying it.<sup>[1]</sup> The five voices being joy, gladness, bridegroom, bride, and thanksgiving.

\*The number five represents the four directions (of the compass) along with the central element of unification.

\*Of the Ten Commandments, five commandments were written on each of the two tablets as believed by Rabbi Hanina ben Gamaliel.

\*There are five sections of the book of Psalms

\*Five is the number of knots in the tzitzit (prayer shawl tassel)

The number fourteen: 14 symbolizes the "strong hand" or "yad hachzaka" (יָד חֲזָקָה) of Moshe (Moses), who was the recipient of the Torah.

### Numeric references in Matthew's Overture:

1. Divine dreams
2. Old Testament fulfillments
3. References to Bethlehem
4. References to Messiah
5. Women in the genealogy

Tell their stories

Tamar (Gen. 38) possibly Caananite  
Rahab (Josh. 2:9-13; 6:17-25) Caananite  
Ruth (Ruth) Moabite  
Bathsheba (2 Samuel 11-27) wife of Hittite

**Mining Scriptures:** Greek and Roman writers "mined" ancient writings in order to give credence to their own writings. Virgil mined Homer's Iliad and Odyssey for his Aeneid. He used Homer's "scriptures" to strengthen his comparison of Aeneas to Octavian (Caesar Augustus). Matthew mined the Hebrew scriptures to strengthen his comparison of Moses to Jesus and Jesus to Messiah. Matthew used Hebrew ancient writings to confirm Jesus in relationship to the scriptures of their Jewish tradition, to express the conviction that Jesus stood in continuity with the Jews, and that Jesus was the culmination of Old Testament writings<sup>[2]</sup>

### 1. Similarities between Jesus and Moses:

#### Read Exodus 1:7 thru 2:10; Matthew 2:1-23

- a. Who are the bad guys in each story?
- b. What are the bad guys trying to do in each story?
- c. What is so special about who is in danger in each story?
- d. How is the danger averted in each story?

### 2. The "new" Torah: **Scan the headings in the following chapters** (red letter). How would you label these FIVE discourses?

- a. Book 1 Matthew 5-7
- b. Book 2 Matthew 10-11
- c. Book 3 Matthew 13
- d. Book 4 Matthew 18-19
- e. Book 5 Matthew 24-25

### 3. Genealogies: **Matthew 1:1-17**

- a. Which direction is Matthew's genealogy, forward or backward?
- b. What does it prove, if anything, that Jesus is descended from Abraham? (hint: who else is descended from Abraham?)
- c. How does Matthew divide Jesus' genealogy? (v. 17)
- d. Count the generations from v. 12 to v. 16. Is it more important to Matthew to be mathematically correct, or to make a statement about Jesus and Moses?
- e. Women in the midst of Patriarchy
  - i. Which of the five women are thought to be foreigners, and who makes up the fifth?  
Recalling each woman's story,
  - ii. Who were women who acted boldly?
  - iii. Who were recorded as being scandalous?
  - iv. Which of the "unions" were stories of God's divine intervention through women?