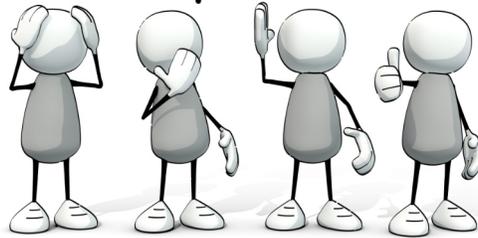


*How was it that a tax collector could recognize Jesus as Messiah while the religious elite were seemingly blind as to who he was?*



## **MATTHEW CONNECTS THE DOTS**

A firsthand account of how a tax collector “connected the dots” between Old Testament genealogies, centuries old prophecies and the birth of a baby boy in Bethlehem named Jesus and officially announced the arrival of Israel’s long awaited Messiah.



## MATTHEW CONNECTS THE DOTS

THE STORY OF JESUS CHRIST AS TOLD BY A SINNER ... A TAX COLLECTOR ...

---

How could this be that a tax collector could do what the Pharisees and their scribes could not (*or would not?*) do? How was it that a tax collector recognized and received his Messiah and those most qualified to know and receive him did not?

### I. MATTHEW THE TAX COLLECTOR (ALSO CALLED LEVI) FOLLOWED JESUS.

- (Luke 5:27–32 ESV) After this he went out and saw a tax collector named Levi, sitting at the tax booth. And he said to him, “Follow me.” 28 And leaving everything, he rose and followed him. 29 And Levi made him a great feast in his house, and there was a large company of tax collectors and others reclining at table with them. 30 And the Pharisees and their scribes grumbled at his disciples, saying, “Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?” 31 And Jesus answered them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. 32 I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.”

### II. THE JEWISH RELIGIOUS LEADERS REFUSED TO COME TO JESUS.

- (John 5:39–40 ESV) You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, 40 yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life.

### III. THE JEWISH RELIGIOUS LEADERS SEARCHED THE SCRIPTURES BUT REFUSED TO FOLLOW THE SCRIPTURES.

The Jewish religious leaders—the earthly representatives of the Father of Jesus—searched the Scriptures but did not allow the Scriptures to lead them to the truth about Jesus Messiah.

- (John 5:37–41 ESV) And the Father who sent me has himself borne witness about me. His voice you have never heard, his form you have never seen, 38 and you do not have his word abiding in you, for you do not believe the one whom he has sent. 39 You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness

about me, 40 yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life. 41 I do not receive glory from people.

### IV. MATTHEW THE TAX COLLECTOR TRUSTED GOD’S DATA.

Matthew the tax collector trusted the inspired, written, factual data of the genealogies in the Scriptures to lead him to Messiah Jesus.

- (Matthew 1:1–17 ESV) The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. 2 Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, 3 and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram, 4 and Ram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, 5 and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, 6 and Jesse the father of David the king. And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, 7 and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asaph, 8 and Asaph the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, 9 and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, 10 and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josiah, 11 and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon. 12 And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, 13 and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim,

and Eliakim the father of Azor, 14 and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, 15 and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, 16 and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ. 17 So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations.

## V. MATTHEW THE TAX COLLECTOR CONNECTED THE DOTS.

Matthew the tax collector “connected the dots” between the Old Testament prophecies and the appearance of Jesus Son of God which brought him to believe that “the set time had fully come.”

- (Galatians 4:4–5 NIV) **But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman,** born under the law, 5 to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship.

### Old Testament prophetic voices in Matthew ...

- (Matthew 1:22–23 ESV) **All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:** 23 “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us).
- (Matthew 2:5–6 ESV) They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, **for so it is written by the prophet:** 6 “ ‘And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.’ ”
- (Matthew 2:14–15 ESV) And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt 15 and remained there until the death of Herod. **This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet,** “Out of Egypt I called my son.”
- (Matthew 2:17–18 ESV) **Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah:** 18 “A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and loud

lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be comforted, because they are no more.”

- (Matthew 4:13–17 ESV) And leaving Nazareth he went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, 14 **so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:** 15 “The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles— 16 the people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them a light has dawned.” 17 From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”
- (Matthew 5:17 ESV) **Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets;** I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.
- (Matthew 7:12–14 ESV) So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, **for this is the Law and the Prophets.** 13 Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. 14 For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.
- (Matthew 13:16–17 ESV) But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear. 17 **For truly, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see,** and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.
- (Matthew 21:4–5 ESV) **This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying,** 5 “Say to the daughter of Zion, ‘Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.’ ”
- (Matthew 22:35–40 ESV) And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. 36 “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” 37 And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. 38 This is the great and first commandment. 39 And a second is like it: You shall love your



Smile

## Did you hear what God left out of the Bible? YOUR OPINION

neighbor as yourself. 40 **On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.**”

- (Matthew 23:29–31 ESV) Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you build the tombs of the prophets and decorate the monuments of the righteous, 30 saying, ‘If we had lived in the days of our fathers, we would not have taken part with them in shedding the blood of the prophets.’ 31 **Thus you witness against yourselves that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets.**
- (Matthew 23:37a ESV) O Jerusalem, **Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets** and stones those who are sent to it!
- (Matthew 26:55–56 ESV) At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, “Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs to capture me? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not seize me. 56 **But all this has taken place that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled.**” Then all the disciples left him and fled.
- (Matthew 27:9–10 ESV) **Then was fulfilled what had been spoken by the prophet Jeremiah,** saying, “And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of him on whom a price had been set by some of the sons of Israel, 10 and they gave them for the potter’s field, as the Lord directed me.”

### **VI. MATTHEW THE TAX COLLECTOR BELIEVED GOD FOR THE REALITY OF THIS EVENT.**

Matthew the tax collector believed God and accepted the Story of Jesus entering this world

as it happened in its space-time, historical setting.

- (Matthew 1:18–20 ESV) \ **Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way.** When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. 19 And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. 20 But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.

### **VII. MATTHEW THE TAX COLLECTOR BELIEVED GOD FOR THE PURPOSE OF THIS EVENT.**

Matthew the tax collector believed God for the purpose of this event—that this baby came to save his people from their sins.

- (Matthew 1:21–25 ESV) **She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.** 22 **All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:** 23 “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us). 24 When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, 25 but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.