

# how the early life of jesus retells the story of israel

**“THE BOOK OF THE GENEALOGY OF JESUS CHRIST, THE SON OF DAVID, THE SON OF ABRAHAM.”  
MATTHEW 1:1**

The very first line of Matthew’s Gospel makes it clear who Jesus is. He’s the long-awaited Messiah the Patriarchs, Priests, and Prophets hoped for. The Jewish people would have heard Matthew’s announcement of “Christ” and “son of David,” and known—this is the One. But Matthew doesn’t stop there. He crafts this story to intentionally illustrate how Jesus’ life is an echo of Israel itself. Notice these parallels:



<i>moses &amp; israelites</i>	<i>jesus</i>
Moses’ birth came during a period when Israelites were ruled by gentiles ( <i>Egyptians</i> ).	Jesus’ birth came during a period when Israelites were ruled by gentiles ( <i>Romans</i> ).
Moses’ birth marked by a slaughter of the innocent by Pharaoh ( <i>Exod. 1:15-22</i> ).	Jesus’ birth marked by a slaughter of the innocent by Herod ( <i>Matt. 2:16</i> ).
Moses was hidden in Egypt in order to survive ( <i>Exod. 2:1-10</i> ).	Jesus is hidden in Egypt in order to survive ( <i>Matt. 2:13-15</i> ).
The Israelites pass through the waters while fleeing Egypt on route to Mt. Sinai ( <i>Exod. 14</i> ).	Jesus passes through the waters of baptism before beginning his ministry ( <i>Matt 3:13-17</i> ).
The Israelites faced temptation in the wilderness for 40 years ( <i>Exod. 16-18</i> ).	Jesus faces temptation in the wilderness for 40 days ( <i>Matt. 4:1-11</i> ).
Moses shares what it means to live as the people of God from the mountaintop ( <i>Exod. 19-40</i> ).	Jesus gives a new teaching on what it means to live in God’s kingdom from the mountaintop ( <i>Matt. 5-7</i> ).
Moses’ face shone with the Glory of God after he encountered God on the mountain ( <i>Exod. 34:29-35</i> ).	Jesus’ face shone like the sun on the mountaintop during the Transfiguration ( <i>Matt. 17:2</i> ).

## what is the point?

The author is revealing Jesus as the one who carries forward Israel’s story. Jesus is the ultimate Israelite who is faithful to God when no others can be. Jesus is a new and greater Moses-like teacher and prophet, come to set God’s people free and show them what it means to live in God’s kingdom.