

## **A Colorful Ancestry**

Matthew 1

by Don Falkos

copyright 2017 Donald Falkos Storytelling LLC

Jesus, the Messiah, the Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham, had a colorful ancestry.

God promised Abraham that through his family all the people of the earth would be blessed. That promise was passed down through Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. One of Jacob's sons, Judah, had relations with his own daughter-in-law, Tamar, thinking she was a prostitute. Her son Perez continued the line toward Jesus. Rahab, an actual prostitute, who had sheltered the two Israelite spies as God's people prepared to enter the Promised Land, became the mother of Boaz. Boaz married Ruth and their son was an ancestor of King David. David committed adultery with Bathsheba. Their son was Solomon. And so the line continued for generation after generation until it arrived at Joseph, the husband of Mary, the mother of Jesus.

Mary and Joseph were betrothed but not yet married when she became pregnant. Joseph didn't want to disgrace her publicly, so he decided to break off the relationship quietly.

But an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. "Joseph, son of David, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife. The child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son. You are to name him Jesus. He will save his people from their sins."

And so the words of the prophet Isaiah were fulfilled: "A young woman will conceive and give birth to a son. His name will be Immanuel, which means 'God is with us.' "

Joseph took Mary as his wife. But he did not have sexual relations with her until after her son was born.