

Sunday, December 12, 2021
"Jesus Christ, Our Hope"
Summary of Perfect Aim
Matthew 1:1-17
Wayne Shelton

The biblical accounts of the birth of Christ answer all the questions people like to ask. *How?* By the direct, miraculous intervention of the Holy Spirit, a virgin conceived. *Why?* To usher in the climactic stage of God's plan of redemption. *When and where?* In Bethlehem of Judea, during the reign of Herod the Great, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. Yet there is no doubt that the Gospels take greatest interest in the question "*Who?*" Who is this who is born after such preparation, and amid great signs and portents? We know intuitively that Matthew's interest in the identity of Jesus is right. We know that all hope of making sense of the events rests on a knowledge of the character. This is true of the birth of Jesus as it is true for any striking event. Matthew launches the New Testament with something of a map. It is a set of three highlights to help us know where we are now in the New Testament, and where we've been in the Old Testament. Matthew provides three landmarks that guide his genealogy.

