



Matthew: Jesus as King

Memory Verse: Matthew 28:19-20 "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Background

The Gospel of Matthew is the 40th book in the Bible and the very first book in the New Testament. The author Matthew, also known as Levi (Mark 2:14), was a Jewish tax collector for the Roman government, which probably made Matthew unpopular with his Jewish countrymen. However, as a tax collector, Matthew would have been well-educated, skilled in the task of record keeping, and most likely bilingual, speaking both Aramaic and Greek, making him an ideal person to record the teachings of Jesus. In Capernaum, Jesus called Matthew to "follow him" and he immediately got up and followed Jesus (Matthew 9:9), becoming one of the twelve disciples.

Matthew wrote this Gospel around 60-65 AD. More than any other Gospel, Matthew was written primarily to a Jewish audience. Using many Old Testament prophecies that the Jewish people would have recognized, Matthew shared how these prophecies were fulfilled in Jesus, their Messiah and King. Many times in Matthew, we see the phrase "to fulfill what was spoken through the prophets." Placed as the first book of the New Testament, the Gospel of Matthew forms a natural connection between the Old and New Testaments.

The Short Story

Jesus, fulfilling the Old Testament prophecies, is Israel's long-awaited Messiah and King.

What's the Big Idea?

The four Gospels all paint a portrait of the person and work of Jesus Christ. Matthew's focus presents Christ as King. From the very beginning, Matthew points out Jesus' true identity, "This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham:" (1:1). Using more than 130 references from the Old Testament, at least fifty of which were direct citations, Matthew repeatedly points his readers back to the prophecies regarding the Messiah. Following the genealogy of Christ, Matthew describes the circumstances of His birth in Bethlehem, the escape to Egypt, Herod's slaughter of the baby boys, and the beginning of Jesus' ministry, all of which fulfilled "what was spoken of through the prophets." Matthew also emphasizes the teachings of Jesus, covering the Sermon on the Mount, including the Beatitudes and the Lord's Prayer. Matthew intersperses Jesus' teachings with narratives about His many miracles. In the second half of the book, the focus shifts from Jesus' popularity and teaching of the masses to increased hostility towards Him and a more concentrated effort on the teaching of the twelve disciples as Jesus begins to predict His death. Matthew describes the crucifixion of Christ, including the details of the tearing of the temple curtain, the earthquake, and the breaking open of tombs (27:50-54). Finally, the Gospel of Matthew ends triumphantly with the resurrection of Jesus Christ as He gives His disciples the Great Commission and the wonderful promise of His everlasting Presence.

So What? Why is this book so important? What was God's purpose for the book?

After 400 years of prophetic silence and many false messiahs, Jesus Christ, Israel's true and long-awaited Messiah and King had arrived. From the very beginning of Jesus' life on earth to His final words on the cross, Matthew shows that Jesus Christ alone fulfilled the prophecies and promises given in the Old Testament. Jesus Christ is King and there is no one like Him. "All authority in heaven and on earth" has been given to Him and He calls us to share the good news and work of His kingdom, just as He called the original disciples. "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (28:18-20).

**Material taken from various sources.*

Teaching Text

Memory Verse: Matthew 28:19-20 “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Sermon-Based Discussion Questions

- Matthew says, “**Jesus came to them**” What does it imply about our he Lord? Will He come to you?
- What does authority mean in the context of this passage? Can you refuse to yield to His authority?
- What is the ultimate goal of going into the world? What does Jesus expect us to do as we go?
- Why is baptizing new converts such an important act in their lives? What are the implications of baptism?
- How are we to teach the commands of Christ to those we come into contact with in life?

Practical Application

- When has Jesus “come to you” ? What was the result? When have you sensed his intervention?
- How do we apply or operate in the authority of Jesus as we go into the world?
- Where is Jesus asking you to intentionally make an intervention in someone’s life with His truth?
- What command is seemingly being place on your spiritual radar by the Holy Spirit right now?
- Where do you need to hear Jesus say, “surely I am with you always.....?”

Hitting the Highpoints

- 1:21 “you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”
- 5:13-14 “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden .”
- 5:44 “ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you...”
- 7:1 ““Do not judge, or you too will be judged. “
- 7:7 ““Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find;....”

Bonus Feature: The Commands of Christ

There are forty nine commands of Christ in the Gospels with most being found in the book of Matthew. Here are a few: “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” (Matt 4:19) “In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” (Matt 5:16) “So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.” (Matt 7:12) “Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.” (Matt 10:28) “If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over.” (Matt 18:15)

Personal Takeaways and Notes