

Lesson 2: Overview of Matthew: Matthew presents Jesus as King

Matthew builds the case for Jesus as king. The entire gospel builds to a rousing crescendo as Matthew links the prophecies/ promises of the OT with the reality found in Jesus Himself, culminating in Matthew 28:18 with Jesus proclaiming, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me."

Matthew's use of the OT would have been a powerful tool in bearing witness to His Jewish readers. Key OT texts are brought to the forefront in Matthew, which seal the verdict that Jesus is the King/ Messiah expected. For example:

- Matthew 2:6 references Micah 5:2, which speaks of a unique "ruler" over Israel.
- Matthew 3:3 ref. Isaiah 40:3, which speaks of the "preparations" for a coming king.
- Matthew 12:18-21 ref. Isaiah 42:1-4, which speaks of a triumphant king.
- Matthew 22:44 ref. Psalm 110:1, wherein God establishes the rule of the Messiah/ king.

In our study we will also take into account the many direct references to David being a "type" of Christ; Jesus of course being the "antitype", or the fulfillment of the "type".

That Jesus is presented as king in Matthew's gospel is no small thing. The fact that the word, "kingdom" is used 53 times-- 51 times as it relates to Jesus' kingdom and two times referring to the kingdom of darkness-- heightens our awareness of the importance of Jesus' coming. Practically and personally for us who have faith in Jesus, the knowledge that Jesus is king over all and also our good king, emboldens us to live joyful and obedient lives before Him.

Matthew makes certain that His Jewish readers know with certainty that Jesus' kingdom is eternal and not temporal. Jesus never led anyone to think that His purpose was to throw off Roman occupation from Israel's back. No, it is evident that King Jesus rules over His kingdom, which is currently unseen but will one day be seen by all.

Matthew also makes clear that the kingdom of God in Christ was a triumphant kingdom but not by birthright alone, but through war. Jesus came to earth as Son of God, conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of a virgin. Jesus grew up in a home wherein He was submissive to His parents. But when the time came He entered into His public ministry and announced the presence of the kingdom of God. Through miracles and signs and wonders the kingdom of darkness was put on notice that the long expected Redeemer-King had come as promised in the Scriptures. But miracles and signs and wonders did not destroy the devil and his kingdom and establish the Kingdom of God. No, the kingdom of God was established and the kingdom of darkness vanquished by Christ's death on the cross (**see Matthew 27; Mark 13; Luke 23; John 19; also take a good look at Colossians 1:13-14 and 2:15!**) To reiterate: Miracles put the enemy on notice, the cross of Christ (the death of Christ) and the resurrection of Christ (proof of His triumph) broke the back of our enemy.

We must note that Matthew omits a very important event. We call it the "ascension" of Christ. Luke 24:50-53 and Acts 1:9 detail Christ's ascension. Notice that Jesus ascends 40 days after His bodily resurrection. When He ascended He ascended to Heaven in bodily form. We will discuss this in detail later in Matthew. But keep in mind the significance of Christ's bodily resurrection and ascension: It was Adam (the first Adam of Genesis 1-3) who sinned, bringing spiritual and physical death upon all men. But it was Jesus (the second Adam) the Redeemer-King who lived perfectly and without sin, yet died in His body and rose from death bodily giving hope to us that one day we will be raised from death in bodily form!

Finally, you might ask the question what was His ascension like? What happened when He entered Heaven? Take a moment to read Psalm 27, commonly referred to as the ascension psalm. The "king of glory" in Psalm 27 is none other than the triumphant King Jesus ascended to heaven as the perfect God-man!

In conclusion, do you own Jesus as your king? Does your life reflect honor to your king, Jesus? If not, why not? Perhaps you have never received forgiveness of your sins that comes through faith in Jesus' death on the cross? If you do not have assurance of your salvation, would you make gaining assurance a priority as you study God's Word. Would you pray to know Him better as you study through Matthew's Gospel?

Questions for Matthew 1-2: The Birth of Christ Fulfilled as Predicted, and Trouble Begins

1. From the notes on page 1, **A)** what impressed and/or helped you regarding Matthew's presentation of Jesus as king? **B)** How has this affected your view of your life in relationship with God?

2. Read Matthew 1:1-17 with Genesis 12:1-3; 2 Samuel 7: (especially 11b-16; 25-29); Luke 1:32-33. **A)** Identify the promise(s) made to Abraham and David. **B)** Compare the promises to David in 2 Samuel 7 with the words spoken by the angel to Mary. What significance do you see through this comparison? **C)** In light of the promises made to Abraham (an heir) and David (everlasting kingdom), why do you think recording Jesus' genealogy is important, especially to the Jewish reader?

3. Read Matthew 1:18-25. **A)** What two names are given in this passage which refers to Mary's Son? And what do they mean? **B)** What can or what do these names mean for you on a personal level? **C)** "Save" and "Saved" are words with significant meaning in the NT. What does "save" or "saved" mean? Use the following verses to discover who "saves"; what are we "saved" from; why must we be "saved;" how are we "saved": John 3:16-17; John 8:24; Acts 4:12; Romans 10:9-10; Ephesians 2:5,8.

4. Read Luke 1:26-38. **A)** What comforting words does the angel speak to Mary? Why are they comforting to you? **B)** In Lk. 1:31-33, how many different ways did the angel define/ describe the person she is going to give birth too? **C)** Of whom do Matthew and Luke say Jesus was conceived? (see Mt. 1:18 and Lk. 1:35) **D)** From the Luke passage write down all the words of Mary that signals her faith and trust in God. How do these words help you?

5. Read Matthew 2. **A)** What did the Magi (from the east) know about the "times" that apparently King Herod and the religious leaders in Jerusalem did not know? **B)** Cite the exact Scripture referenced by the Chief Priests and Teachers of the Law that identifies the place of Christ's birth and the nature of His rule.

6. In Matthew 2, **A)** Which verse reveals Herod's true motive for wanting to find "the child"? **B)** Which verses speak of God's care for His Son and Mary and Joseph? **C)** What comfort do you receive from these verses? **D)** If you have time, meditate on Psalm 91. What do you learn about God's care for people who trust in Him?