

**“Introduction to Matthew”**

**Scripture Ref:** Gen 5:1; 1 Cor 15:45; 2 Sam 7:16; *Matt 4:17; Matt 4:23; Matt 10:7; Matt 16:18; Matt 18:17; Matt 10:6; Matt 15:24; Gen 17:4; Gen 22:18; Deut 4:5-8; Ps 67:2; Matt 28:19*

1. This Gospel was written by Matthew, otherwise known as Levi, sometime between 50-60 AD – before destruction of Jerusalem.
  - a. His name was changed from “Levi” to “Matthew:”, which means “the gift of God.”
  - b. Matthew was a publican, and publicans were those men who took the taxes from the people.
  - c. Not looked upon highly by the Jews – they were considered to have “sold out” to Rome.
    - i. Made living by keeping a percentage of what he collected.
    - ii. Was considered a “sinner” because of his close proximity and working with the Gentile Romans.
  - d. Tradition tells us that Matthew lived and taught in Palestine for 15 years after the crucifixion, and then he began to travel as a missionary, first to Ethiopia and then to Macedonia, Syria, and Persia.
  - e. Finally he died a natural death in either Ethiopia or Macedonia, but this is not certain
2. Outline...

1	The Presentation of the King’s credentials	Matt. 1 – 3
2	The Testing of the King	Matt. 3:1-11
3	The Declaration of the Kingdom Principles	Matt. 5-7
4	The Manifestation of the King	Matt. 8-10
5	The Opposition to the King	Matt. 11-13
6	The Response of the King	Matt. 14-20
7	The Rejection and Crucifixion of the King	Matt. 21-27
8	The Resurrection of the King	Matt. 28

3. The first of the four gospels – Matt, Mark, Luke, John - probably the earliest
4. These four Gospels give us four aspects of our Lord’s character and person.
  - a. They are not, strictly speaking, biographies.

- b. They are really sketches about the Person of Christ -- eyewitness accounts by those who knew him personally, or those immediately associated with them.
  - c. They do not perfectly match each other, but rather give us an account of them life and ministry of Christ, that are to be taken together.
5. Four Gospels, when taken together, create a full picture of Jesus:
- a. Matthew – Christ the King – the promised Jewish Messiah
  - b. Mark: Christ the Servant – to the Romans
  - c. Luke: Christ the Son of Man – to the Greeks
  - d. John: Christ the Son of God – universal to all men
6. The gospel's answer the theme of the OT – someone is coming!
- a. A theme that runs through the OT – the Redeemer is coming... but when? Who will He be? How will they know?
  - b. NT – He is HERE! Matthew introduces us to the promised Redeemer – Jesus Christ – in all His glory!
  - c. OT is book of promises – NT is book of fulfillment!
  - d. The gospels present to us that fulfillment – Jesus Christ

### **Three Things Introduced in Matthew**

#### **#1 Matthew Introduces a bridge**

7. Matthew bridges the OT prophetic promise of the coming Messiah to the reality of His arrival.
- a. If you read Malachi, then jump to any of the other NT books, you might be bewildered. Matthew's account is a beautiful connection.
8. The OT begins with Gen 5:1 *“the book of the generations of Adam”*, the history of the family of Adam – a depressing history!
- a. As the reader moved farther and farther through the annals of history, the depravity of man becomes quite clear.
  - b. The descendants of Adam are clearly sinners, just like their parents.
9. But Matthew starts “the book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ”
- a. Jesus is the “last Adam” (1 Cor 15:45) who came to redeem the sons of Adam!
  - b. And so Matthew presents to us the fulfillment of the promise of the OT redeemer, and he shows us that Jesus Christ is that promised redeemer.

#### **#2 Matthew Introduces a New King**

**10. Matthew immediately notes that Jesus is the “Son of David”, to whom God promised:**

*2 Sam 7:16 And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever.'"*

- a. This new King of the King of the Kingdom of God, which is a major theme throughout the book:**

***Matt 3:2-3 (John the Baptist)***

*"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" 3 For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying:*

*"The voice of one crying in the wilderness:*

*'Prepare the way of the LORD;*

*Make His paths straight.'"*

***Matt 4:17*** *"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."*

***Matt 4:23*** *And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom,*

***Matt 10:7*** *And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.'*

### **#3 Matthew Introduced a New People**

**11. Matthew is the only gospel to mention a new people – “The Church”**

***Matt 16:18*** *And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.*

***Matt 18:17*** *And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector.*

- a. The Greek word used here means “a called out assembly”**
- b. In the OT the assembly was the nation of Israel, beginning with Abraham who was called out of his land and family to receive the covenant with God.**
- c. In OT times, if you wanted a relationship with God, you had to come to God through conversion to Judaism, and participation in the temple worship and atonement rituals.**
- d. Yet in the NT we are introduced to a new covenant, a new work, and a new people of that work – THE CHURCH OF GOD.**

### **The Israel and the Church**

12. Worth taking a moment to understand the position of Israel and the church – as on one hand God called our Abraham, and the nation of Israel to Himself...

- a. **WHY?** Because in the account we will see that Jesus went first to *“the lost sheep of the house of Israel”*

*Matt 10:6* But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

*Matt 15:24* "I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."

13. And yet – we also see that God has not excluded those outside the house of Israel, and noted in His covenant with Abraham:

*Gen 17:4* "As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you, and you shall be a father of many nations.

*Gen 22:18* In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice."

- a. Indeed God's purpose was that Israel would be an example to all peoples of the earth...

***Deut 4:5-8***

5 "Surely I have taught you statutes and judgments, just as the LORD my God commanded me, that you should act according to them in the land which you go to possess. 6 Therefore be careful to observe them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes, and say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.' 7 "For what great nation is there that has God so near to it, as the LORD our God is to us, **for whatever reason we may call upon Him?**

- b. The Psalmist noted...

*Ps 67:2* That Your way may be known on earth, Your salvation among all nations.

- c. And as Jesus ascended to heaven, He declared...

*Matt 28:19* "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

14. POINT??? God's perfect will was for Israel to obey God and be an example of God's righteousness and blessing to all the earth

- a. They would be so blessed and wise, that the surrounding nations could not help but recognize and worship the one true God

- b. As well, God's perfect will for Israel was for Israel to recognize Jesus Christ as Messiah, which would surely have ushered in the Kingdom of God as promised.
15. BUT – that did not happen...
- a. Israel repeatedly disobeyed God, followed other nations into idolatry (follow us in Judges on Wed nights!) – and, finally they were scattered throughout the world (Assyrians in 733BC, Babylonians in 638 BC).
  - b. As well - Israel rejected Jesus as the Messiah, and pushed for his death at the hands of the Romans.
  - c. So did God fail? Absolutely not, God was not surprised one bit – He knew all of this would happen.
  - d. Matter of fact – He foretold it through the prophets and Jesus Himself.
16. God – being God – knows that man is a fallen creature – the curse of sin injected into the race through the sin of Adam – the DNA of the human race forever corrupted in this physical world
- a. He also knew that Israel would fall away – that they would not obey and worship only Him
  - b. He also knew that they would reject the promised Messiah, and crucify Him.
  - c. And yet through what would seem to be a colossal failure – is born the greatest victory in the history of this world, of the heavenly realm, of any and all dominions... The resurrection of the Son of Man – the Son of God – Jesus Christ

### The Victory of the Resurrection

17. It is through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, that God broke through into the realm of the human spirit.
- a. Up to that time, in effect, God had never been able to move into the spirit of man
  - b. But through the resurrection the way into the very center of man's being was opened wide.
  - c. So that a man or woman could call upon the name of the Lord, believe in Jesus Christ as Messiah, and God would come and dwell in the heart of that person.
  - d. Sealing them with the Holy Spirit, and finishing that work upon death of the physical body and the spirit going into the presence of the Lord.
  - e. A person who does not have the Spirit of God cannot understand – but a person who has experienced the presence of the Living God could not be convinced otherwise.

**The Key to Worship**

**18. As we come to know the Lord in our spirit, we discover that the worship of our hearts is given to him there.**

- a. **The spirit is the key to the mastery of the whole man.**
- b. **When you get a man's spirit, you have all that he is.**
- c. **By means of the cross and the resurrection, our Lord has made it possible to pass into the very holy of holies of man, and to dwell within him.**

**The Key to Kingship**

**19. So the great question to which Matthew demands an answer is, "Is Jesus Christ King of your life?"**

- a. **If you have only believed He is real - Then he is not yet King.**
- b. **The question that Matthew brings before us is, "Has he become King? Has he penetrated to the spirit? Has he mastered your heart?"**
- c. **Has he laid hold of your worship as an individual, so that he is the one single most important person in all the universe to you?"**
- d. **That is when he becomes King.**
- e. **That is the fulfillment of the first commandment. *"You shall have no other gods before me, for you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and all your strength, and all your mind."***

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