

THE BOOK OF MATTHEW

In our last study we did an overview of the four Gospels and found that they each gave a unique presentation of the Lord Jesus. We also need to point out that the first three Gospels are also called **SYNOPTIC GOSPELS** (meaning a same collective view). The Book of John is separated both in time and in character. The three present the "outer, human and public" aspects of our Lord's life. John reveals the "inner, Divine and private" aspects of His life.

Matthew is the author of the Book. He was a "publican" (10:3); a Jew who had become a tax collector for the Romans. He is thus classified with "publicans and sinners" which indicated a low moral level. He is also known as Levi in Luke 5:27 and Mark 2:14. He became a disciple of Jesus (9:9) and then an apostle (one sent forth) in Chapter 10:2-3.

The Central Message: "That it might be fulfilled". Matthew speaks to the Old Testament in presenting the promised Messiah twelve times.

The Structure of the Book

INTRODUCTION - CHAPTER 1 - 4:11

Genealogy - Birth of Christ, Baptism, and Temptation.

HIS MINISTRY IN GALILEE - 4:12 - Chapter 18

His Teachings - Chapter 5 - 7

His Works - Chapters 8 - 10

The Reaction of the People - Chapters 11 - 18

HIS MINISTRY IN JUDEA - CHAPTERS 19 - 28

Presentation as Messiah King - Chapters 19 - 25

The events of the Crucifixion - Chapters 26 - 27

The Glorious RESurrection - Chapter 28

The Introduction - Chapters 1 - 4:11

1. Why the genealogy first? Matthew was writing primarily for a Jewish audience, who according to their Scripture (Old Testament), believed their Messiah would come through a certain family. There are 42 generations (male line) from Abraham to Christ.

2. The birth of Christ and events surrounding His coming.

PROPHECY

Isaiah 7:14

Isaiah 11:1

Jeremiah 31:15

Hosea 11:1

Micah 5:2

FULFILLMENT

Matthew 1:22-23

Matthew 2:23

Matthew 2:17-18

Matthew 2:15

Matthew 2:5-6

3. Immediately after His baptism (Matthew 3), He was tempted (Matthew 4). We must realize that He was tempted as a MAN in all ways: Body - "command these stones to be made bread"; Soul - "cast thyself down"; Spirit - "fall down and worship me". Satan's attack was Physical, Mental, and Spiritual.

His Ministry in Galilee - 4:12 - 18

In Chapter 4:12 we read, "Now when Jesus heard that John was cast into prison, He departed to Galilee".

1. HIS TEACHINGS - In Chapters 5-7 we have our Lord's teachings, commonly called the Sermon on the Mount. These teachings concern:

VIRTUES, MORALS, MOTIVES - CHAPTERS 5 - 6:18

MATERIAL, TEMPORAL, SOCIAL - 6:19 - 7:6

ENCOURAGEMENT, SUMMARY, EXHORTATION - 7:7 - 7:27

The Sermon on the Mount is the law of Kingdom of our Lord. Fourteen times Jesus says, "I say unto you" as He deals with the Law of Moses. This teaching is very relevant to us today. Please note:

- * the two Ways - 7:13
- * the two Gates - 7:14
- * the two Destinations - 7:21-23
- * the two Foundations - 7:24-27

2. HIS WORKS - CHAPTERS 8-10

In these Chapters we find TEN Miracles recorded. Name each miracle after each Scripture listed.

1. 8:14 -
2. 8:5-13 -
3. 8:14-15 -
4. 8:23-27 -
5. 8:28-34 -
6. 9:1-8 -
7. 9:18-22 -
8. 9:23-26 -
9. 9:27-31 -
10. 9:32-34 -

Only these ten are mentioned in detail even though 9:35 tells us that He went about "healing every sickness and disease". As you read about these miracles it is also interesting to see some of the responses of the people.

In Chapter 10, Jesus chose the twelve to be His witnesses after He returned to the Father. They, in turn, must train others. Matthew records more of His instructions to the twelve than do the others Gospels. The Jews were to hear the Gospel first (10:5), and then the Gentiles (28:19).

3. THE REACTIONS OF THE PEOPLE - CHAPTERS 11-18

The KINGDOM, a word used 55 times in this Book, sets forth the Gospel of the King. The Jews understood this term, for at Mt. Sinai, God said to Israel, "Ye shall be a kingdom of priests and an holy nation" (Exodus 19:6). The prophets referred to it over and over again.

After His teachings in reference to the Kingdom, the results of His Galilean ministry are evident:

- a. Questioning by John the Baptist - 11:2-15
- b. Unrepenting Cities - 11:20-30
- c. Unreasonable Pharisees - 12:10, 14, 24
- d. Unbelieving Multitudes - 13:13-15
- e. Traditional Scribes - 15:1-2
- f. "Proof" desired by Pharisees and Sadducees - 16:1

Chapter 13 gives the "Parables of the Kingdom of Heaven" (13:11). This section will be covered in a future study.

When the Kingdom was rejected, Jesus and His disciples went to Caesarea Philippi and there He disclosed the great truth of the "church" (16:17-18). Jesus was setting the stage to build a new "called out" body of both Jew and Gentile.

His Ministry in Judea - Chapters 19-28

Chapter 19 begins with Jesus departing Galilee and headed to Judea. From this point His ministry is in Jerusalem and Judea.

1. HIS PRESENTATION AS KING - CHAPTERS 19-25

By this we mean His presentation of Himself at Jerusalem as Israel's Messiah-King. In 21:1-7 we see that He did offer Himself as Israel's Messiah King and thereby fulfilled Zechariah 9:9.

In Chapter 21:18 through Chapter 23 we find conflict noted: they rejected Him and He rejected them (the scoffers and sects). In Galilee he had pronounced eight "Blesseds". Now in Jerusalem He pronounced eight "Woes".

The Olivet Discourse of things to come is found in Chapters 24 and 25. It was given outside the city.

2. THE EVENTS OF THE CRUCIFIXION - CHAPTERS 26-27

1. He gathers with the twelve - 26:1-56, and foresees all that will happen. He reveals the betrayal of Judas (26:25). He speaks of a "new covenant" in His blood (26:28).

2. In Chapter 26:57 - 75 Jesus is before the Sanhedrin where He was condemned for claiming to be Israel's Messiah. He is charged with blasphemy and sentenced to die (26:66).

3. He is brought before the Roman governor (27:1-26).

4. Matthew describes the CRUCIFIXION more vividly than do the other Gospel writers (27:27-66).

3. THE GLORIOUS RESURRECTION - CHAPTER 28

One short Chapter (20 verses) gives the climax to all that is victorious to our faith. Matthew is not concerned with the theological argument of the fact, but only the fact itself.

1. The angel announced the resurrection (28:1-7).

2. The Lord Jesus is seen (28:8-10).

3. The Jewish authorities lie about it (28:11-15).

4. The commission to the eleven and to us (28:16-20).

THE SEVEN LAST WORDS OF JESUS ON THE CROSS

Many people think they are all in one Gospel and in order. They are not. Here are the Seven Last Words.

Luke 23:34

Luke 23:43

John 19:26

Matthew 27:46

John 19:28

John 19:30

Luke 23:46

FOR NEXT WEEK
READ THE BOOK OF MARK