

The Gospels Period

Christ As King Of Israel...*Matthew 1:1-28:20*

Matthew is the first of four Bible books we know as the gospels. Gospel means, "good news." The good news presented is that the Messiah that was promised as early as Adam has come.

We will look at each gospel separate in this study. In order for us to study them chronological would require that we study them with a harmony of the gospels. This would be difficult and maintain the book concept of this study.

The four gospels together give us a picture of the life of Jesus on the earth. I refer you to a harmony of the gospels that can be found in many bibles, commentaries, etc. for a true chronological study of the life of Christ. Our purpose here will be to only familiarize us with the content of each of these books.

Each of the four gospels presents the Messiah in a different light or view. Matthew presents Him as King of Israel, Mark as a servant, Luke as a man, and John as Divine God. The traditional symbol of Matthew's gospel is the Lion.

It should not surprise us that Matthew presents Him as King of Israel when we realize that Matthew was a Jewish tax collector before he was an apostle. It is only natural that he would write to the Hebrew mind and way of thinking.

He also has strong emphasis on the Old Testament. He writes in the style of a teacher as he emphasizes the sermons of Christ.

Matthew includes a genealogy of Christ through Solomon. This is the line of Joseph, Christ step father. (See **EXTRA STEPS A**)

Matthew takes us only back to the lineage that is required for Christ to sit on the throne of David. He presented Him as King of Israel please remember. He did not need to go back any farther to show Christ has a right to the throne. The genealogy of a Jew was and is very important. The Kings of Israel, and later after there were two kingdoms Judah, were to come from the tribe of Judah and the priest from the tribe of Levi. In order to lay claim to the right to rule or serve as a priest you must prove you ancestry.

To allow us to study the book in somewhat of a chronological order we will study important chapters and events recorded by Matthew. We will therefore look at key passages in Matthew.

I- Birth of Jesus. 1:18-25

Matthew records the birth of Jesus and the events surrounding it. The emphasis is on the revelation to Joseph that Mary was carrying the Christ Child. The visit of the wise men is found in **Matthew 2** as well as the dream of Joseph that causes him to take Jesus into Egypt.

II- Baptism of Jesus. 3:13-17

John was baptizing in the River Jordan when Jesus came to him to be baptized. The Trinity is clearly presented here. The Father spoke, the Spirit descended and the Son was baptized.

III- Temptation of Jesus. 4:1-16

Jesus was led into the wilderness to be tempted after His baptism. He used scripture to answer each temptation.

IV- Sermon on the Mount. 5:3-20 The Sermon on the Mount is one of the most famous sermons in the scripture. The beatitudes are found in **5:3-20**.

V- Lord's Prayer. 6:9-15 Jesus gave the disciples a model prayer. This is a well-known portion of scripture.

VI- Worldly Care. 6:26-34 Our Lord during His sermon also teaches us right relationship with the material things of the world. He said to look to God and He will take care of our needs. This certainly does not relieve us of our responsibility of working and planning for the future. It simply teaches us to trust in God for the results.

VII- Parables of the Master 13:1-58 Jesus emphasis is on the sermons of Jesus but part of these sermons was parabolic teaching. This chapter records various parables. Most notable is the parable of the seed sower also know as the parable of the seed, and parable of the soils. Jesus told them why He taught in this style in 13:10-14.

Matthew also records the parable of the mustard seed, leaven, hidden treasure, goodly pearls and of the net. These are also known as the "kingdom" parables.

VIII- The Promise of the Church. 16:13-19. Christ in His dialogue with Peter makes the statement that, "...I will build my church..."

IX- Transfiguration of Jesus. 17:1-8 Jesus we must remember is not only man but He is also God. On the mount of transfiguration His glory broke

through for one shining moment. One purpose of this was to show His superiority to Moses, Elijah. Moses represents the Law and Elijah the prophets.

X- Rejection of Messiah by Israel. 21:1ff There is a lot of the gospel accounts given to the last days of Christ life. Matthew records what is called the Triumphal Entry (**21:1-11**), and the cleansing of the temple (**21:12-14**). The cursing of the fig tree is a very significant act. (**21:18-20**) The fig tree represents Israel and their turning away from God.

XI- Crucifixion. 27:27-38 Our Lord was taken and crucified on the cross even though He was without sin. He was stripped, beaten, spat upon and mocked for you and I.

XII- Resurrection. 28:1-10 On the third day as Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to the tomb. The angel tells them He is risen and has gone before them into Galilee.

XIII- Great Commission. 28:18-20 Jesus gives us what is known as the Great Commission. These verses have been called the marching orders for the church.

