
THE MESSAGE OF MATTHEW'S GOSPEL

Jesus Fulfills Old Testament Prophecy

- Matthew quotes the OT 61 times (Mark-31X; Luke-26X; John-16X).
- He uses the fulfillment theme 13 times.
- The first is 1:22-23.
- The last is 27:9-10.
- Jesus' birth and death, and even the events in between, all fulfill God the Father's plan for Jesus.

Jesus is the Messiah and King

- 16:15-“Who do you say that I am?”
- 1:1-“the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah”
- Matthew refers to Jesus as the Christ (Messiah) 16 times (Mark-7X; Luke-12X; John-19X).
- Son of David, clearly a Messianic title (see 12:23), is used 9 times in the Gospel, 8 of which are unique to Matthew.
- Peter's declaration of “You are the Christ” (16:16) casts its shadow over the whole Gospel.
- The King (8X)
- The Son of Man (28X)-Jesus' favorite self-designation, perhaps because Dan. 7:13-14 highlights the Son of Man's kingdom.
- Jesus asks, “Who is the Son of Man?” Matthew's Gospel supplies the answer.

Jesus the King Deserves Worship

- Matthew uses proskuneo (“worship”) more than any other Gospel writer (13X).
- Jesus receives worship from the magi after His birth (2:11).
- Jesus receives worship from the disciples after His resurrection (28:9, 17).
- Worship of King Jesus bookends the Gospel.

Jesus the King Brings the Kingdom

- The sign of the arrival of the kingdom, according to 12:28, was Jesus' exorcism of demons by the power of the Spirit. Jesus' miracles heralded the arrival of God's kingdom. The King was present!
- The message of the kingdom is the gospel (4:23; 9:35; 24:14).

Jesus the King Has the Prerogative to Teach

- The Sermon on the Mount stipulates the conditions for entrance into Jesus' kingdom as well as the obligations of kingdom citizens.
- The correlation between Jesus' authority and His expectations for kingdom citizens is seen in 28:19-20-“All authority has been

given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples....” His authority is clear. His expectations are clear.

- The King can tell His subjects what they must do.
- Jesus requires that the concerns of His kingdom remain the priority of each citizen (6:33-“seek first the kingdom of God”).
- As King, teaching the laws of the land is His prerogative. So, not surprisingly, Matthew's Gospel includes more of Jesus' teaching than any other Gospel.
- Matthew alternates between narratives and teaching. Notice how the Gospel is structured:

| NARRATIVES | TEACHING |
|---|---|
| Chs. 1-4 (birth and ministry) | Chs. 5-7 (Sermon on the Mount) |
| Chs. 8-9 (miracles) | Ch. 10 (teaching for the disciples) |
| 11:1-6 (record of preaching ministry) | 11:7-19 (teaching about John the Baptist) |
| 11:20-12:50 (invitation and interaction with Pharisees) | Ch. 13 (parables of the kingdom) |
| Chs. 14-17 (miracles) | Ch. 18 (teaching on the church) |
| Chs. 19-22 (miracles and record of preaching ministry) | Chs. 23-25 (teaching for Pharisees as well as the Olivet Discourse) |
| Chs. 26-28 (death and resurrection) | |

Jesus is Rejected as King

- Jesus faces increasing hostility from those who refuse to accept Him as their King, namely, Herod and then the Pharisees.