

Introduction

“The Jewish flavor of Matthew’s Gospel is remarkable. This is evident in the opening genealogy which Matthew traces back only as far as Abraham. In contrast, Luke, aiming to show Christ as the Redeemer of humanity, goes all the way back to Adam. Matthew’s purpose is somewhat narrower: to demonstrate that Christ is the King and Messiah of Israel. This gospel quotes more than 60 times from OT prophetic passages, emphasizing how Christ is the fulfillment of all those promises...

Matthew constantly refers to Christ as “the Son of David.” Matthew even guards Jewish sensibilities regarding the name of God, referring to ‘the kingdom of heaven’ where the other evangelists speak of ‘the kingdom of God.’ All the book’s major themes are rooted in the OT and set in light of Israel’s messianic expectations.

Matthew’s purpose is clear: to demonstrate that Jesus is the Jewish nation’s long awaited Messiah. His voluminous quoting of the OT is specifically designed to show the tie between the Messiah of promise and the Christ of history.

Since Matthew is concerned with setting forth Jesus as Messiah, the King of the Jews, an interest in the OT kingdom promises runs through this Gospel. Matthew’s signature phrase “the kingdom of heaven” occurs 32 times in this book.”

John MacArthur
The MacArthur Study Bible, p. 1357

This year we are memorizing Ephesians 2. This week’s verse is Ephesians 2:1:
“And you were dead in your trespasses and sins...”

Day One

*Read Matthew 1:1–18; **The Lineage of the King***

NOTE: As you read through these New Testament texts, try to imagine the understanding of the Old Testament teachings that Israel would have had during this time of Christ’s earthly ministry.

1. From last week’s lecture and your own knowledge of Scripture, list several reasons why studying the Old Testament is foundational for understanding the New Testament.
 - a. What are some of the major themes in the Old Testament? How might this understanding of the Old Testament have influenced the expectation of the Jews about a messiah or king?
2. There was a 400-year gap between the writing of the last book of the Old Testament and the time of the Gospels. How do you think this might have affected the Israelites living at the time of Jesus’ birth?
3. Read Matthew’s genealogy of Jesus in 1:1–17. Why do you think Matthew began his Gospel this way?

Day Two

*Read Matthew 1:18–2:23 and Selected Scripture; **The Birth of the King***

1. From Matthew 1:18–2:23, note some of the miraculous details surrounding the birth of Jesus.

- a. Read Isaiah 7:14. What should this miraculous birth have made clear to the Israelites at this time?
 - b. Read Isaiah 9:1–7, 11:1, and 53:1–12 and Micah 5:1–5. What additional details about the Davidic King do we learn from these prophecies?
2. From Matthew 1:21–24, what name was Joseph instructed to give his son, and what is significant about its meaning? What would it have meant to Israel?
- a. Take a moment to consider and write down what it means that God is with you. How can you have assurance that this is true for you today?
3. From Matthew 2:1–18, why did Herod kill the children in Bethlehem, and how did God protect Jesus?
- a. **Dig Deeper:** Read Jeremiah 31:15–34, a portion of which Matthew quoted in chapter 2. According to Jeremiah 31:31–34, what is the hope for God’s people?
4. According to Matthew 2:1–2 and 10–11, who were the Magi seeking, and why? In verse 11, what did they do?
- a. How do *you* worship and honor the King? Write out practical steps to grow in this area this week.

Day Three

Read Matthew 3; The Preaching of John the Baptist

1. According to Isaiah 40:3–5 and Malachi 3:1–5, what prophecy was fulfilled in John the Baptist?
2. From Matthew 3:1–6 and the texts in Isaiah and Malachi, why was John preaching repentance?
3. In Matthew 3:7–12, John the Baptist rebuked the Pharisees and Sadducees because they trusted in their work and lineage to save them and didn’t demonstrate true repentance. What does true repentance look like? Cite specific Scripture to support your answer.
 - a. Examining your own life, are you relying on Christ’s atoning work for your salvation, or are you relying on your works?

4. According to Matthew 3:13–17, what happened immediately after Jesus was baptized? How do Psalm 2:7 and Isaiah 42:1 deepen your understanding of this event?

Day Four

Read Matthew 4:1–25; **The King Is Tempted**

1. From Matthew 4:1–11, how did Satan seek to tempt Jesus, and how did Jesus respond? (See also Hebrews 4:15 and 1 John 2:16.)
 - a. List ways that Christ is a role model for resisting temptation. What lessons can believers learn from Him?
 - b. Think about how you are tempted to sin. (*You do not have to share this with your group but it helps to be specific to identify and then fight sin in your life.*) Write out steps to help you fight temptation and sin, and identify one or two Bible verses that strengthen and encourage you in these areas and share that with your group.
2. According to Matthew 4:17, what message did Jesus preach as He began His earthly ministry?
 - a. According to verse 17 and Luke 5:32 and 24:44–47, this message was a constant theme in Christ’s ministry and a closing charge to His disciples. Using a dictionary or other Bible resource, what does it mean to repent?
 - b. What was the motive for the repentance Christ preached? How should that influence your evangelism?

Day Five

Read Matthew 4:12–25; **The Kingdom Announced**

1. According to Matthew 4:18–22, what did Jesus say when He called to Simon, Andrew, James, and John? How did they respond?
 - a. What does following Christ look like for believers today? What does that look like practically in your life?
2. From Matthew 4:23, list aspects of Jesus earthly ministry.
3. Take time to reflect on Jesus as King and His fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy. Just as the Magi came to worship the King, take time to pray now and do the same.



Women of Grace

• Lesson 1 • The Arrival of the King •

For additional study:

Using the “Overview of the Biblical Covenants” resource, briefly summarize the covenants and their significance.

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