



STREAMS

Let the Word blow through your soul!

THE FOUR GOSPELS

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THE FOUR GOSPELS

God promised the world a Deliverer - someone who would reverse the curse of the Garden and once again open eternal life to the sons of Adam. He made it clear that this Messiah would be born from the seed of Abraham, a descendent of King David of the tribe of Judah.

Matthew is decidedly Jewish in nature. It is written for the person who is interested in the authenticity of the roots of Jesus' authority. It is filled with fulfilled prophecies from the Old Testament prophets. It is also probable that Matthew was one of the first post-resurrection books that was written.

Mark is Roman in perspective and focuses on the miracles and the power that substantiated Jesus' claims. Mark is more concerned with what Jesus DID than what He taught.

Luke is written for the Greek mind. It is well researched, backed by many eye-witness accounts, and the most consecutive of the four Gospels. Because Luke was a doctor, he wanted to "get it right."

John is written for the world - Jew, Greek, Roman - the entire human race. It is deeply personal and has some of the most transcendent passages in the bible. John is probably one of the last books written!

The following guides will help you get the most out of your study of each of the four Gospels. If you have never read the Gospels, you may wish to start with our Streamsbook at Fourthstream.com. It is a harmony of all four Gospels and has helpful notes that will get you going on the context and story of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection - and give you a format and plan for reading about Jesus with a friend.

THE BIG PICTURE ON THE NEW TESTAMENT!

The God -Story is all about Jesus. We have to decide how we feel about this Man. Here is how He spent His life. Note that His life did not end with His death. There was and is ample evidence showing that the Son has always lived - and is still alive today.

MATTHEW	MARK	LUKE	JOHN
KING COMES	SERVANT SACRIFICED	MAN SUFFERS	GOD REVEALED
Jews	Greeks	Romans	World

The Gospels!

THE SACRIFICIAL SERVING MINISTRY OF JESUS CHRIST

BIRTH

BAPTIST

TRAINING THE TWELVE

JERUSALEM TEACHING

JERUSALEM KILLING

Acts of the Holy Spirit!

THE MINISTRY OF THE RISEN CHRIST
ACTS 1:8

JERUSALEM

JUDEA & SAMARIA

ENDS OF THE EARTH

JOURNEY 1
JOURNEY 2
JOURNEY 3
ROME

- | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|---|---|--|--|
| WOMEN DISCIPLES
500 | JAMES HEBREWS | ROMANS 1 & 2
CORINTHIANS | GALATIANS
EPHESIANS
PHILIPPIANS
COLOSSIANS | THESSALONIANS
TIMOTHY
TITUS | PETER
JOHN
JUDE |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|---|---|--|--|

Yet to come!

THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF JESUS CHRIST

REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

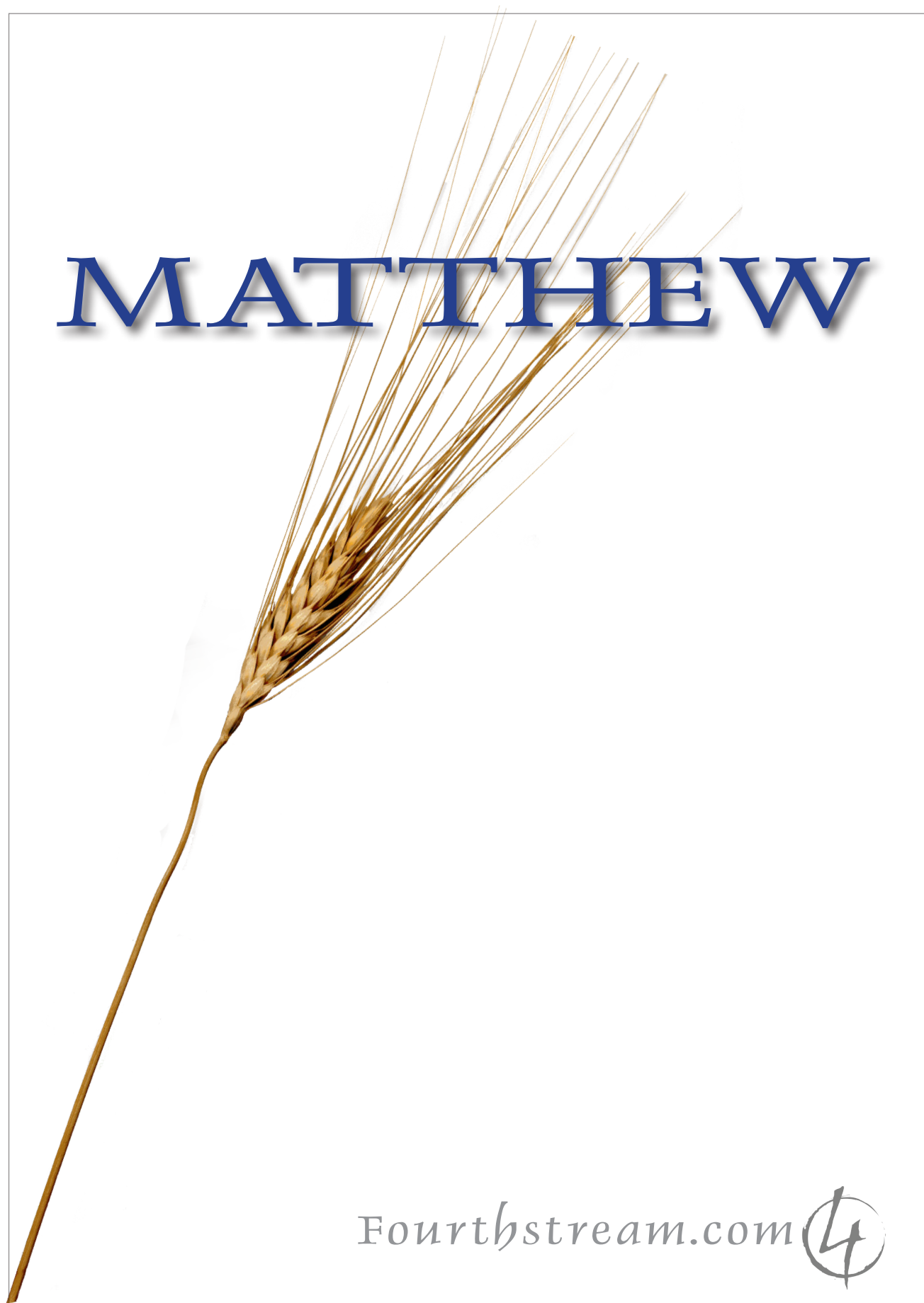
THE VISION - SEALS - TRUMPETS - BOWLS

RAPTURE - MILLENNIUM - JUDGMENT - ETERNAL LIFE

Daniel's Seventieth Week (Daniel 9:24-27)



MATTHEW



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Matthew!

MATTHEW

King Comes

The King and His Kingdom is...

PREACHED	PROVEN	PRESENTED
1:1,16,17; 7:28,29	11:1-6	17:3,5; 27:37; 28:11-15
1-7	8-16	16-28

Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand! 4:17

Welcome to the book of Matthew!

Meditate upon the book's content represented in the overview chart above. What do you learn about the King from these section titles? What do you observe about His Kingdom? In what specific ways do you see Christ as your King? What do you believe is your relationship to His Kingdom? Note Matthew 28:18. What word is repeated in 7:28,29? This is a key spiritual theme throughout the book!

Note the Scripture references listed in the overview chart above. Take this opportunity to consider each one, looking for the relationship between the section titles and key verses. What have you learned so far about the book of Matthew?

The book of Matthew addresses two basic needs. First, the fulfillment of the Messiah prophecies are recorded - reaching out to the Jewish mind and heart. Second, there was a prominent question in the Jewish mind - If Jesus was the Messiah (deliverer), where was His promised Kingdom?

The Writer and Setting

Matthew was a tax collector (Matthew 10:3). He was an official of Herod Antipas (the puppet Jewish governor) and was a servant of the Roman government as a first century I.R.S. agent. Tax collectors were among the most hated people in Jewish society. To begin with, they were traitors to their own nation because they 'sold themselves' to the Romans to work for the government. Each tax collector purchased from Rome the right to gather taxes, and the more he gathered, the more he could keep. They were considered thieves as well as traitors.

Matthew is a Gospel written by a Jew, to Jews, about a Jew. The book was written sometime in the 60's, close to 25 years after the death and resurrection of Jesus. Matthew the disciple was probably the final addition to the "twelve."

Why this book?

One of the key messages of Jesus in Matthew is 'repent for the kingdom of Heaven is at hand' (4:17). From the Lord's prayer (6:10) we discover we are to pray that His kingdom will come. The Kingdom of Heaven is where the King's will is done (6:10b). We are to be about the King's business and to have our goal to experience His will in our lives. The complete fulfillment of this vision awaits the Second Coming of the King and the establishing of His earthly kingdom. This book gives us ample encouragement as we go about our task and wait for His return.

Connecting the Old and New through the book of Matthew!

This first book of the new testament is strategically placed, for it connects the so called "old" testament with the "new." If a reader were to jump from Malachi into Mark, or Acts, or Romans, he or she would be bewildered. Matthew's Gospel is the bridge that leads us to a full understanding of what the Bible calls the "New Covenant." Matthew used at least 129 quotations or allusions to the Old Testament in this Gospel. He frequently makes the statement "it was done in order that what was spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled."

Matthew is a Gospel of *fulfillment*. 'Behold your King is coming to you' (Zechariah 9:9; Matthew 21:5). This should have been refreshing news to those in Israel who lived in Matthew's day, since the nation was presently under the yoke of a foreign ruler - Caesar, and had in the past endured a succession of evil kings of their own. However, the good news of the kingdom required a moral and spiritual response from the people, and not simply the acceptance of a political leader.

This Gospel focuses the fact that Jesus Christ was born a King (2:2), lived as a King (4:17; 21:5), died as a King (27:37), and ascended to the throne of heaven as King (28:17-20). Matthew deals primarily with Jesus Christ as the fulfillment of prophecies related to the coming King, what the kingdom of the King is to be characterized by, and why the prophecies related to the kingdom of Christ on earth are truly fulfilled at the second coming of Christ.

It has been said that the kings of Israel could rule others, but they couldn't rule themselves. In the Gospel of Matthew we have a King, Jesus Christ, who proves He is able to rule others by the way He ruled Himself. Because He was under authority - He was able to exercise authority. Do you allow Him to reign as King over your life, and do you submit to His authority?

Open your heart as you read!

Christ's Kingship over His creation asks Kingdom living from His people! Do you live in the light of an eternal Kingdom or in the shadow of a kingdom that is temporary and passing away? Are you busy with the business of the King's Kingdom?

As you read Matthew...

What amazes you?

What touches you?

What convicts you?

What rocks your life paradigm?"

In Focus

Matthew opens with a revelation that Jesus is a king with royal blood (1:1,16) and closes with our response to this fact (28:18-20). Matthew reveals the essence of all legitimate authority (7:28,29; 28:18).



Matthew Chapter Chart

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The King is Revealed!

Read Chapters 1-4

Chapter	Title	Key Verse
1		
2		
3		
4		

KEY QUESTIONS

Chapter 1

1. What ties this particular genealogy to the Jews? How does this one compare with the genealogy in Luke - and why do you think that they are different from one another?
2. Review this genealogy. How many names do you recognize and where would you place them in Bible history?
3. Why does Joseph receive special emphasis in this chapter?

Chapter 2

1. Why was Jesus born in Bethlehem? Why did He need to have a mother who was a virgin? (2:23) Why did it necessary for Him to live in Egypt?
2. What do you think drove Herod to his maniacal behavior? What happened to Herod the Great? Is he the same person mentioned in Acts 12:18-23?
3. Why was the appearance of the "Magi" important? Why did they call it "His Star"?

Chapter 3

1. In what ways do you correlate the words of John the Baptist with the prophets before him? What exactly was his summary view of his nation?
2. How did he view his relationship to Christ?

Chapter 4

1. Why are verses 14-16 so important? Why are they important to you?
2. If Jesus' words in 4:17 are indicative of His basic message, what did His hearers need to repent from - and how does this differ from the message of the prophets that preceded Him?
3. Why do you think that Jesus spent so much time in Galilee? Why could Jerusalem have been more desirable? Why didn't He work out of His hometown of Nazareth?
4. What do you learn from this chapter about Satan and his relationship to Christ?

The King is Teaching!

Read Chapters 5-7

Chapter	Title	Key Verse
5		
6		
7		

KEY QUESTIONS

Chapters 5,6,7

The Sermon on the Mount includes all three of these chapters.

1. How should we apply the progression of 5:1-12 to our lives?
2. Outline each subject of this section, paragraph by paragraph, and develop a list of questions you would like to have answered. What is the core of the teaching of this section?
3. Why was it necessary to state the contrasts mentioned in 5:21-48?
4. Why do you think hypocrisy was such an issue with Christ?
5. How does a person actually do what is mentioned in 7:24-27? In what ways are you seeking to accomplish it?
6. What made Jesus different from the other teachers of His day? What makes Him unique today? (7:28,29)

WHAT ABOUT TODAY?

1. In what ways do you feel that Satan chooses to tempt you and distract you from the will of the Father?
2. John the Baptist understood what he had been destined to offer his Messiah! What do you feel you have to offer Him?
3. From what you can see of John the Baptist's and Jesus' message to the Jews (and the world), how does it compare to the prophet's words who preceded them? How much harmony do you observe between the message of the so-called Old and New Testaments?
4. In what specific ways do you feel you can more fully please God by what you learned from these chapters?

My thoughts about the Kingdom:

The King is Proven!

Read Chapters 8-12

Chapter	Title	Key Verse
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		

The focus of the previous section appeared to center upon the teachings of Christ concerning His kingdom. In this group of chapters Jesus proves His kingship over the earth as He demonstrates His power and authority through specific signs and works.

KEY QUESTIONS

Chapter 8

1. Here are a series of miracles which demonstrate authority. What was each miracle in this chapter and what does each teach about the extent of Christ's authority?
2. Note verse 10. What did the Centurion understand that apparently many in Israel could not grasp?
3. Read verses 18-22. Why would Jesus make such a harsh statement?

Chapter 9

1. Why was the *forgiving of sins* so irritating to the sensibilities of the religious leaders?
2. Note Christ's quote in verse 3. Where else is it found and why do you think that He chose to use it to make His point here?
3. Why did Jesus tell many of those whom He healed to *tell no one*?
4. Why do you think there are "few" harvest workers?

Chapter 10

This chapter gives specific instructions to the disciples. Which of the individual instructions strike you? How would you say you have responded to Christ's selection of you?

Chapter 11

1. What meaning do you suppose the words of Jesus would have for John the Baptist (11:1-5). How would they have made him feel?
2. Who did Jesus declare John the Baptist to be?
3. In context, what is Christ's *yoke and load*? (vs 30)

Chapter 12

Jesus' conflict with the religious leaders escalates.

1. What would have been inflammatory about His words to the leaders?
What would the response of His family have been?
2. Why did the leaders request a sign at this point in the Story?
3. What was the *greater* of which He was speaking?

The King is Proven!

Read Chapters 13-16

Chapter	Title	Key Verse
13		
14		
15		
16		

KEY QUESTIONS

Chapter 13

1. What were Jesus' reasons for speaking in parables?
2. These have been called the Kingdom parables. What does each one teach you about the nature of Christ's kingdom?

Chapter 14

1. What effect did John the Baptist's death have upon Jesus and why?
2. What does Peter's water-walk teach us about faith?

Chapter 15

1. Why did the disciples want Jesus to send the woman away? Was Jesus willing?
2. Again He compliments the faith of a Gentile. Why?

Chapter 16

1. Again the Pharisees demand a sign. What is Christ's continued response?
2. What changes and/or progress is occurring in this chapter with regard to the disciples perceptions of Jesus? In what ways are difficulties presenting themselves?

What about today?

How can you fall into the trap of sacrifice without compassion in your journey to follow Jesus? Are the "signs" already given enough for you to believe?

The King is Presented!

Read Chapters 17-21

Chapter	Title	Key Verse
17		
18		
19		
20		
21		

Jesus now presents Himself as the King who will die for the nation. Notice His confident authority. He knew Who He was, why He was here, and what needed to be done!

KEY QUESTIONS

Chapter 17

1. In what ways do you think the transfiguration (Jesus on the mountain) was significant?
2. Who participated in this event and why was each person important to the event?
3. Who was Elijah?

Chapter 18

1. Why would questions of personal greatness have been significant to these men?
2. Jesus outlines what makes someone great. What does He teach us that can make us great in the Kingdom of Heaven?

Chapter 19

1. What does Jesus specifically teach us about divorce?
2. Why do you think Jesus believed it was hard for a rich man to enter the Kingdom?
3. Does He really expect men to sell all they have and give to the poor?
4. How do you think the words of 19:27-30 made the disciples feel?

Chapter 20

Remember the earlier question about greatness in the Kingdom?
He continues to build on this theme!

1. Note 19:30 and 20:16. What does this teach us about being great in Christ's Kingdom?
2. What do you learn about the maturity of the disciples from 20:20-28?

Chapter 21

1. Jesus' expectation is to deliver Himself to die in Jerusalem. What do you think the disciples were expecting?
2. Continue your list of what you are learning about the nature of the Kingdom of God.
3. Who is the stone (vs. 42) and where is it found in the "old testament?"

The King is Presented!

Read Chapters 22-28

Chapter	Title	Key Verse
22		
23		
24		
25		
26		
27		
28		

KEY QUESTIONS

Chapter 22

In what specific ways does Christ display His authority in this chapter?

Chapter 23

What was defective about the Pharisees and the things they were teaching?

Chapter 24, 25

These chapters clearly speak of things to come. Make a list of the events that will occur at the end of the age. What more do you learn from these chapters about the nature of the Kingdom?

Chapter 26

1. Why were the disciples so offended by the perfume incident?
2. Why was communion important to the King?
3. What was it that enraged the high priest and why?

Chapter 27

1. What did Pilate know he should have stopped him?
2. Note the two places where "King of the Jews" is mentioned. Isn't this ironic?
3. What impact do you think the events of 51-54 would have had?
4. What did the Jews do to protect themselves from Christ - even after His death?

Chapter 28

1. What does 28:11-15 reveal about the Jews?
2. How do the final words of Christ make you feel?

WHAT ABOUT TODAY?

1. Christ teaches much in this book about His Kingship. How do you personally display a willingness to submit to authority? An unwillingness?
2. Summarize what you learned from Matthew about the nature of God's Kingdom.

THE KING IS COMING

The book of Matthew was written to amplify the Jewish perspective on the unfolding Good News. Fulfilled Messianic prophecy illuminates the timeless power of God in fulfilling His Word! Here are just a few of the many prophecies that were completely and miraculously fulfilled in the life and Words of Jesus the Deliverer - the Son of God Most High!

OLD TESTAMENT QUOTES...Christ in Matthew

1. 1:23	Isaiah 7:14	Virgin Birth (Emmanuel)
2. 2:6	Micah 5:2	Where was He born?
3. 2:15	Hosea 11:1	The flight into Egypt
4. 2:18	Jeremiah 31:15	The babies slaughtered
5. 3:3	Isaiah 40:3	The Preparer preaches
6. 4:15, 16	Isaiah 9:1,2	Capernaum ministry

Messiah (verb)...'To smear, to anoint'...The anointed one who "covers." Here are some prophetic passages which speak of the Christ who was to come. What do you learn about Christ from these prophets?

Isaiah 4:2	(Branch)	Isaiah 42:1-4	(Servant)
7:10-17	(Emmanuel)	49:1-6	
9:1-7	(Son)	50:4-9	
11:1	(Vision)	52:13-53:12	
32:1-8	(Righteous King)	53	
55:3,4	(Everlasting Covenant)		

Jeremiah 23:5,6 (33:14-16; 30:9,21,22) *The Lord Our Righteousness* (Messianic Prince)

Jeremiah 31:31	--	New Covenant
Ezekiel 34:23,24	--	Israel's Shepherd
Ezekiel 37:22	--	Everlasting Covenant
Hosea 3:4,5	--	Israel's Latter Day Return
Micah 5:1-4	--	Booth Raised (4:8?)
Zechariah 9:9,10	--	Triumphal Entry

MESSIANIC FULFILMENT

Deuteronomy 18:18; Acts 3:22; 7:37; Psalm 2:1; Acts 4:25; Matthew 3:17; Acts 13:33; Hebrews 1:5; 5:5; 2 Peter 1:17; Psalm 110:1; Matthew 22:44; Acts 2:34; Hebrews 5:6,10; 6:20; 7:11, 15, 21; Psalm 118:22; Matthew 21:42; Acts 4:11; 1 Peter 2:7

MESSIANIC PSALMS

8; 22; 34:21; 41:10; 45; 69; 72

Other Passages (Isaiah 28:16) in Romans 9:33; 10:11; 1 Peter 2:4

Why do you think the fulfilled prophecies concerning Christ are important?

THE KINGDOM IS AT HAND

God is our King - the Scriptures leave little doubt. The Word speaks of a *Sovereign Originator*. It is He who rules in immeasurable majesty over all He has created. Here are some passages that point our hearts to the Kingship of God: Psalm 48:2; 33:13-22; 93:1-4; 95:3-5; 99:1; 103:19; 145:8-10. Also note Ezekiel 1:26-28 and a vision of God's glory.

Jesus' message appears to be a continuation from the prophets:

"Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand"! Matthew 4:17. The Kingdom of God or the Kingdom of Heaven is at the core of Christ's teaching. Matthew records the phrase 55 times, Mark 20, Luke 46, and John 5.

We focus three key words for this study:

Repent...for it is the necessary response to the Gospel; *Kingdom of Heaven*...for it is the reason to repent; and *at hand*...because the issue is a pressing one!

REPENT

Through the years certain words seem to lose their precise meaning and sometimes even evolve into the opposite of what was originally intended.

In a day where some are encouraging us to accept and love ourselves toward a *me-ism* religion, the word repentance is either lost in the crowd or is looked upon as a verbal *party-pooper*. Another misunderstanding is attributed to the word repentance - that it only applies to the unconverted. True, we must preach the gospel of repentance and never, never preach lies. But the word repent is not only applicable - but necessary for the believer's walk, echoing the apostle's command, "As you have received Christ, so walk in Him." Did you receive Christ without a turning heart (Luke 13:56)? Of course not. Neither can you follow and grow in Him without the same attitude.

Repentance is being disgusted with sin enough to turn away, let go, and abandon your association with it. Implicit in the word is the idea that one not only turns away from something, but TOWARD something as well. That something is someone: it is our Creator Himself! Many Christians are trying to run the race without laying aside or repenting of sin (Hebrews 12:1). Remember, if we are to enter God's Kingdom, we must repent; if we are going to a prepared place, we must be a prepared people.

Check out Ezekiel 18:31; Hosea 14:2; Joel 2:12; Luke 13:2-3; Acts 3:19, 8:22; and James 4:4-10 concerning "turning."

THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

As Christians living in a democratic society, it's often difficult to understand the meaning and application of the Kingdom of Heaven. We must not allow ourselves to develop a democratic mentality of belief or conditional obedience toward Jesus Christ and His Kingdom. Democratic thinking is woven into our very thought process by our present political system; therefore, we must be transformed by the renewing of our minds (Romans 12:2) if we are to understand Christ's Kingdom from His perspective. We have certainly enjoyed religious freedom in our democratic form of government - and for this we are thankful. However, an earthly democracy is no replacement for the heavenly kingdom. We were created to flourish in a "theocracy," with God as sole Ruler!

Let's consider this contrast and the possible impact on the way we approach the idea of God's Kingdom. Consider the definition of a democracy: a government by (or from) the people, exercised either directly or through elected representatives. Now consider a theocracy as being governed by God.

Ask yourself these questions: Do you invest ultimate authority in God (Colossians 2:10b)? Is He your representative (2 Corinthians 5:20)? Did you elect Him (John 15:16)? Your answers must be a resounding "No" if you believe in the God of the Scriptures. Yet consider how often we question the wisdom of God or His right to change certain areas of our lives. Perhaps you have never complained or grumbled against God directly but harbor discontent for your lot in life. This is a subtle way of telling God that He is not in control.

We must take care to not form a carnal, independent mind or an *entitled* religion and become a law to ourselves. This certainly is not kingdom thinking! This type of person has in their futile mind rendered God to a reactor - and they the initiator (Isaiah 29:16). Like the apostle Paul in his second letter to the Corinthians, chapter 10, verse 5: "We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ!"

We must respect the absolute authority of Jesus Christ throughout His Kingdom, being a people set apart to bow before His Kingship. The impact of Kingdom living will not just be manifested in outward obedience (though desirable) but also by a heart that is resolved to be submissive to the all-sovereign King - Jesus Christ. This "kingdom connection" ensures *abundant entrance* into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Read 2 Peter 1:11; Matthew 25:34; Mark 1:15; Luke 9:62, 17:21; John 18:36;
Acts 20:25; Romans 14:17; 1 Corinthians 4:20; Hebrews 12:28

Where is the Kingdom of Heaven?

It is in the heart and soul of each living stone!
1 Peter 2:4-10

What is the Kingdom of Heaven?

It is the connected heart and soul of man filled with the Word and will of his Creator!
John 14:23, 26

Summarize in your own words what is meant by the Kingdom of Heaven:

In what ways does the Kingdom of God differ from the Kingdom of men?

KING AND LORD!

Can we receive Christ as our Savior and subsequently make Him Lord of our life at a later, more informed or convenient time? I wonder how partial Jesus would be to such a modern view of His Kingship!?

Recognition of the deity (Godness) and consequent Messiahship (deliverer) of the Lord Jesus Christ is the first responsive step which guides us to the threshold of salvation. The illusion of "fire-escape religion," however, finds little place in the Word of God. A response to the offer of salvation to "all who believe" appears to mean little without a recognition of our inability to please God in and of ourselves. The Bible terms our response to this recognition "repentance" or "turning from," in this case, our sin. To turn from our sin, we must embrace the Mastery that Christ has won over the penalty and power of our sin. When this mastery is responded to in any humble request for new life, God brings about our conversion and places us into the realm of our new King. Previously we served Satan as our king. Now we serve the Risen Christ!

When we call upon God to "smear" us with the blood of the Christ and cover our sins, there is a strong accompanying expectation from Him. The parable of the sower (Mark 4:1-20) indicates that good soil produces good crops. Those who quickly fall away (v. 15) or quit because of trouble (v. 16, 17) or are choked out because of worldly concerns (v. 18, 19) apparently have a *limited view of the Lordship of Christ*. Jesus Himself said, "If you continue in my Word, then you are truly disciples of mine; and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:31, 32).

Jesus also said very plainly, "And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. He who has found his life shall lose it, and he who has lost his life for My sake shall find it." (Matthew 10:38,39)

When Christ is recognized as our Savior, He comes to us as more than just a suffering servant. He is the King of the earth. He is the incomparable risen Christ, ready to judge the living and the dead.

In Revelation 1:9-18 we encounter the Risen Christ as He exists at this very moment. He is Jesus born of Mary, King of the Jews. He is the Deliverer promised before the dawn of time. He is the Lord who created this earth and all it contains. Lordship is not a subsequent choice to be viewed as an add-on option. It is, rather, a living expectation!

In what ways do you feel that Jesus has been enthroned as King of your life?

CHRIST'S EXAMPLE

There are two basic reasons for engaging in a study of character. The first is to give us a *deeper understanding* of a person, so we can begin to see things through his or her eyes. This will give you a better understanding of the full context of a book or section and the consequent truths that are taught. God works with and through individual personalities to greater demonstrate His truth.

The other reason is to *compare your own character* development with that of the examples we are given in Scripture. We can see how other men and women have matured in Godly character, what has brought such growth about, and how we can make those qualities a reality in our own lives. This study reveals the character of Jesus Christ as seen both in His actions and teaching in the book of **Matthew**.

The character headings are taken from James 3:17. Compare that verse with **Matthew 5:1-12**. Investigate the passages and their context and sift your character in these areas. Where you measure up, thank God! Don't fail to take positive steps to change where you fall short.

Pure

1:23; 3:15; 4:10; 22:16; 23:16-23; 6:22-24; 13:40-43; 13:47-50; 15:1-20; 18:7-11

Peaceable

12:19; 26:52; 23:1-2; 6:14,15

Faithful

24:45; 25:21; 26:42; 26:53, 54; 28:20; 26:74, 75

Gentle

9:1,2; 9:3,4,26; 11:28-30; 7:1,2; 12:20; 21:5; 23:37-39

Good Fruits

7:12; 10:40-42; 12:7; 15:32; 12:33; 25:35-46; 11:28-30; 12:12,13

Mercy

4:23-24; 8:3, 17; 9:18,19; 9:27-29; 7:12; 9:12, 13; 18:21-35; 14:14, 34-36

Unwavering

4:1-11; 7:28,29; 7:24-27; 10:22; 16:23; 20:17-19; 24:12,13; 24:45; 14:28-31

Without Hypocrisy

7:3-5, 13-23; 11:19; 12:33; 23:3

Carefully consider James 3:13-18. The wisdom of God often differs from the wisdom of men. How can we evaluate whether or not our wisdom and actions are from men or from God? *"But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy." By cultivating honesty and reliance, of course!*

4 THE KING COMES!

Check out these awesome Kingship passages.

Matthew 2:2	Where is He who has been born King of the Jews?
Matthew 2:11	They fell to the ground and worshipped Him!
Matthew 4:17	Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand!
Matthew 11:2-6	Are You the Expected One?
Matthew 11:25-30	The Yoke of the True King!
Matthew 13:51,52	Like the Head of a Household...
Matthew 18:4	Who ever humbles himself like a child...
Matthew 25:31-40	Inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world!
Matthew 27:37	King of the Jews!
Revelation 19:11-16	The King Comes

1. Once we have heard the testimony, we must make a decision about Jesus' kingship. If He was the expected One who came once, then He will surely return. We will want to be prepared for that return!
2. We must also make a decision about "being a disciple of the Kingdom." Apparently this involves headship over a "household" who brings old and new things. Unlike our human kings, His is a liberating rulership - rather than one of bondage!
3. This Second Coming of the King will not be unpleasant on any level for His sheep. We will share His glory as we willingly take our place among the sheep because we have seen Him as our true Shepherd - and our true King!

Have you believed the testimony?
Are you being liberated by the King?
Are you bringing old and new things out of your treasures?
Are you humbling yourself (as a child) before your Sovereign King?
Are you keeping and teaching these things?
Are you looking forward to a glorious appearing?