

# Brief Outline of Matthew

The Gospel of the Messiah or King

## I. THE PROPHECIES OF THE MESSIAH REALIZED (1:1 – 4:11).

### *The Advent*

- A. Genealogy of Jesus (1:1-17). This was His birth certificate showing Him to be a descendant of Abraham and David the King.
- B. The birth of Jesus and early life (1:18 – 2:23).
  - 1. Birth of Jesus to Mary. He was conceived of the Holy Spirit.
  - 2. The visit of wise men (the *magi*) from the East.
  - 3. Herod's false pretensions of worship.
  - 4. The journey to Egypt (the longest trip made by Jesus during His earthly ministry).
  - 5. The slaughter of the male children by Herod.
  - 6. The return to the land of Israel, to Galilee, to the city of Nazareth.
- C. The ministry of John the Baptist (Immerser) (3:1-17).
  - 1. Preached: "repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."
  - 2. Preparing the way for the Messiah.
  - 3. The announcement that a greater one is coming.
  - 4. The baptism of Jesus by John.
  - 5. The proclamation of God: "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased."
- D. The temptation of Jesus (4:1-11).

## II. THE PRINCIPLES OF THE MESSIAH ANNOUNCED (4:12 – 7:29).

### *The Inaugural Address*

- A. Jesus hears of John imprisonment and goes to Capernaum (4:12-17). He begins His preaching: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."
- B. The call to become "fishers of men" (4:18-22).
- C. Jesus in Galilee, teaching in the synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and sickness (4:23-25; cf. 9:35-36). By this time Jesus has a great following.
- D. The sermon on the mount (5, 6, 7). In this sermon Jesus sets forth the principles of His ministry and His kingdom.

## III. THE POWER OF THE MESSIAH REVEALED (8:1 – 11:1).

### *The Miracles*

- A. Ten miracles are recorded to illustrate the power of Jesus and the fulfillment of prophecy (10:17).
  - 1. Leprosy (8:1-4).
  - 2. Paralysis – the Centurion's servant (8:5-13).
  - 3. Fever – Peter's mother-in-law (8:14-17).
  - 4. The power over nature (8:23-27; calmed the sea).
  - 5. Demons – in the country of the Gadarenes (8:28-34).
  - 6. Paralysis (9:1-8).
  - 7. Resurrection of synagogue ruler's daughter (9:18, 23-26).
  - 8. Discharge of blood (9:20-22).
  - 9. Blindness (9:27-31).
  - 10. Mute demoniacs (9:32-34).

- B. The mission of the twelve disciples (9:35 – 10:42).
  - 1. Empowered to perform miracles (10:1,8).
  - 2. The names of the **twelve apostles**: Simon Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas, Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon the Zealot, Judas (10:2-4).
  - 3. Sent forth to preach only to the “lost sheep of the house of Israel” (10:6; cf. 9:36).
  - 4. They were to preach: “The kingdom of heaven is at hand” (10:7).
    - a. instructions given regarding what to take and what not to take, etc. (10:9-15).
    - b. told to be cautious (10:16-18).
    - c. divinely aided (10:19-20).
    - d. told to expect persecution (10:21-23). Notice the urgency of their work.
    - e. they were below Jesus (10:24-25).
    - f. speak, and do not be afraid (10:26-33).
    - g. the challenge to follow (10:34-39).
    - h. expect the reward you deserve (10:40-42).
  - 5. Jesus also taught and preached (11:1).

#### IV. THE PROGRAM OF THE MESSIAH EXPLAINED (11:2 – 13:53).

##### *The Parables*

- A. John’s disciples come to Jesus (11:2-19).
  - 1. John said: “Are you the Expected One...?” Jesus answered: “Go and report to John what you hear and see: *the* blind receive sight and *the* lame walk, *the* lepers are cleansed and *the* deaf hear, and *the* dead are raised up, and *the* poor have the gospel preached to them. And blessed is he who keeps from stumbling over Me” (11:4-6).
  - 2. Jesus explains to the multitudes concerning John (11:7-19). John was the messenger who prepared the way for the Messiah.
- B. Jesus reproaches the cities of Chorazin, Bethsaida and Capernaum (11:20-24). They had opportunity to repent but did not.
- C. Jesus reveals the father and extends an invitation to those burdened by sin (11:25-30).
- D. Jesus is the Lord of the Sabbath (12:1-21). The Pharisees seek a way to destroy Jesus (12:14).
- E. Jesus’ work challenged by the Pharisees (12:22-37). They charge that He casts out demons by Beelzebul. Jesus severely rebukes them.
- F. The sign of Jonah (12:38-45).
- G. Jesus explains about His mother and brothers, and sisters (12:46-50).
- H. Jesus teaches in parables (13:1-53).
  - 1. The sower and soils (13:1-23).
  - 2. The wheat and the weeds (tares) (13:24-30, 36-43).
  - 3. The mustard seed (13:31,32).
  - 4. The leaven (13:33).
  - 5. The treasure (13:44).
  - 6. The merchant seeking fine pearls (13:45-46).
  - 7. The dragnet (13:47-50).
  - 8. The householder (13:51-52).

(**Note verse 36:** The last four parables are spoken only to the disciples).

**V. THE PURPOSE OF THE MESSIAH DECLARED (13:54 – 19:2).***The Crisis of the Cross*

- A. Jesus in Galilee.
  - 1. Jesus in His home town [Nazareth] (13:54-58). He is not well accepted and does not perform many mighty works.
  - 2. Herod [Antipas] beheads John (14:1-12).
  - 3. The 5,000 fed (14:13-21).
  - 4. Jesus walks on the water (14:22-36). (Note verse 33: “you are certainly God’s Son!”)
  - 5. The religious leaders confront Jesus regarding the traditions of the elders (15:1-20).
- B. Jesus withdraws to the district of Tyre and Sidon. There He heals the daughter of a Canaanite woman (15:21-28).
- C. Jesus returns to Galilee.
  - 1. He goes up to the mountain and heals the sick. After three days He feeds the 4,000 (15:29-39). He then goes to the region of Magadan. The site is otherwise unknown but seems to be on the western shore of the Sea of Galilee. Some equate it with Magdala or with Dalmanutha (Mk. 8:10).
  - 2. Jesus warns about the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees (16:1-12).
  - 3. Peter’s confession and Jesus’ promise to build His church (16:13-20).
  - 4. Jesus begins to show the necessity of His death at Jerusalem (16:21-28). The kingdom to come during the life of some of the disciples (16:28).
  - 5. Jesus transfigured (17:1-8).
  - 6. More explanation about John (17:9-13). John is *Elijah*.
  - 7. The power of faith (17:14-21).
  - 8. Jesus speaks again of His death (17:22-23).
  - 9. The two-drachma tax [annual temple tax] paid in Capernaum (17:24-27). Money taken from the mouth of a fish.
  - 10. Question concerning who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven (18:1-14).
  - 11. Duty toward a brother who sins (18:15-17).
  - 12. Jesus promises to be with those gathered in His name (18:18-20).
  - 13. A lesson on forgiveness (18:21-35).
- D. Jesus leaves Galilee. He goes to Judea to the other side of the Jordan River [Perea] (19:1-2).

**VI. THE PROBLEMS OF THE MESSIAH PRESENTED (19:3 – 25:46).***The Conflicts with Opponents*

- A. Jesus in Perea. This region was under the control of Herod Antipas at the time (14:1-5).
  - 1. The question about divorce and remarriage (19:3-12).
  - 2. Jesus receives little children (19:13-15).
  - 3. The rich young man comes to Jesus (19:16-30). Disciples ask what they will receive (note vs. 29).
  - 4. The laborers in the vineyard (20:1-16).
- B. On the road up to Jerusalem.
  - 1. The third prediction of the crucifixion (20:17-28). Notice that Jesus is on the way to Jerusalem where He will be crucified. Zebedee’s wife requests places of honor for her sons (20:20-28).
  - 2. Healing of two blind men outside of Jericho (20:29-34).
- C. Jesus enters Jerusalem.
  - 1. The triumphal entry into Jerusalem (21:1-11).
  - 2. Moneychangers cast out of the temple [court; Greek, *hieron*] (21:12-17).
  - 3. The barren fig tree (21:18-22).
  - 4. Chief priests and the elders question Jesus’ authority (21:23-46).
    - a. He responds with a question about the baptism of John (vss. 23-27).
    - b. The parable of the two sons (vss. 28-32).

- c. The parable of the landowner (vss. 33-46).
  - 5. The parable of the wedding feast (22:1-14).
  - 6. Pharisees and Herodians try to trap Jesus with a question about giving (paying) poll-tax to Caesar (22:15-22).
  - 7. The Sadducees question Jesus about the resurrection (22:23-33).
  - 8. The lawyer from among the Pharisees questions Jesus concerning the great commandment (22:34-46).
  - 9. Jesus pronounces woes against the scribes and Pharisees (23:1-36).
  - 10. The lament over Jerusalem (23:37-39).
- D. The apocalyptic discourse (24:1 – 25:46). This section frequently is called the **Olivet discourse**.
- 1. The Prophecy of the destruction of Jerusalem and the Lord's coming (24:1-51). Jerusalem was destroyed in A. D. 70. "That day and hour" is yet future (24:36).
  - 2. Four parables illustrating the necessity of watchfulness (24:42 – 25:46).
    - a. The head of the house (24:42-44). Be ready.
    - b. The faithful and sensible slave (24:45-51).
    - c. The ten virgins (25:1-13).
    - d. The talents (units of money; 25:14-30).
  - 3. The judgment of the nations (25:31-46).

## VII. THE PASSION OF THE MESSIAH ACCOMPLISHED (26:1 — 28:10).

### *The Death and Resurrection*

- A. Events leading to the betrayal and arrest of Jesus.
  - 1. The Son of Man to be crucified shortly (26:1-2).
  - 2. The chief priests and the elders plot to kill Jesus (26:3-5).
  - 3. Jesus anointed (in Bethany on the eastern slope of the Mount of Olives) for His burial (26:6-13).
  - 4. Judas makes a deal to betray Jesus (26:14-16).
  - 5. The last supper and the institution of the Lord's Supper (26:17-30).
  - 6. Peter's denial foretold by Jesus (26:31-35).
  - 7. Jesus in Gethsemane (26:36-46).
  - 8. Jesus' betrayal and arrest (26:47-56).
- B. The trials (26:57 – 27:31).
  - 1. Before Caiaphas, the high priest, and the Council (scribes and elders). The Jewish leaders brought two charges against Jesus (26:57-68).
    - a. He said He could destroy the temple of God and rebuild it in three days (26:61).
    - b. He blasphemes (26:65).
  - 2. Peter's denial (26:69-75).
  - 3. Before Pilate, the Roman procurator of Judea (27:1-25).
- C. The death, burial and resurrection.
  - 1. Jesus mocked and crucified at Golgotha (27:27-56).
  - 2. Burial in the new tomb of Joseph of Arimathea (27:57-61).
  - 3. Pilate provides guards for the tomb (27:62-66).
  - 4. The resurrection on the first day of the week (28:1-10).

## VIII. EPILOGUE (28:11-20).

### *Rumor and Reality*

- A. The chief priests and elders plot with the soldiers to say that Jesus' disciples stole His body (28:11-15).
- B. The challenge to action (28:16-20). The apostles worship Jesus. This is called the "Great Commission" because the disciples are commissioned to go to all nations with the gospel. Contrast the "Great Commission" with the "Limited Commission" in 10:6 and 15:24.

# Special Notes on Matthew

## I. ARE THE GOSPELS A PART OF THE NEW TESTAMENT?

Yes! Study Matthew 28:19-20. Notice the order: (1), Go, make disciples, (2) baptize them, (3) teach them (to observe all Jesus commanded). What Jesus commanded is in the gospels. These things are for us today. There are some things that were taken away with the Law, but a study of the gospels would reveal which ones. The Holy Spirit was to be sent to the apostles to “bring to your remembrance all that I said unto you” (John 14:26). The Holy Spirit brought to their remembrance the gospels. They are for us to obey.

## II. SERMONS OR DISCOURSES IN MATTHEW.

- A. Preaching of John (3:1-12).
- B. Sermon on the Mount (5:1 - 7:29).
- C. The Commission to the apostles (10:1-42).
- D. The Parables (13:1-52).
- E. The Meaning of Forgiveness (18:1-35).
- F. The Denunciation of the Pharisees (23).
- G. The Prediction of Destruction of Jerusalem (24).
- H. Lessons on the Kingdom of God (25).
- I. The Great Commission (28:18-20).

## III. THE CHURCH IN MATTHEW.

Matthew is the only gospel which uses the word church (16:18; 18:17). From Matthew 16 we learn that Christ would be the builder, Peter the doorkeeper. It was to be built on the deity of Christ. Jesus told Peter that He would build a church and then He gave Peter the keys of the kingdom. The terms kingdom and church are used interchangeably. At the close of that lesson Jesus said some of those same disciples would be alive when the kingdom was established (Mt. 16:28).

## IV. THE “GOSPEL.”

The Greek word for gospel is euangelion, which means good news. It was used with reference to any good news, and since the teaching of Christ and the things concerning Him were good news to a sinful world they are designated as the “gospel (euangelion)”.

## V. LESSONS FOR US. (Think seriously about these and accept them.)

- A. Study these “Challenges” that Jesus issued and apply them to yourself.
  - 1. A Challenge to Enter (7:13-14).
  - 2. A Challenge to Pray for Laborers (9:37-38).
  - 3. A Challenge to Follow (10:34-39).
  - 4.. A Challenge to Accept (11:28).
  - 5. A Challenge to Understand (13:51).
  - 6. A Challenge to Testify (16:13-5).
  - 7. A Challenge to Repent (23:37-39).
  - 8. A Challenge to Go (28:18-20).
- B. Will you accept the challenges?

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