

The Gospel of Matthew

Summary

Message 1

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1

Background

The Book of Matthew is one of the earliest written accounts of the Lord Jesus.

- The Book is anonymous, but reliable history links it to Levi, a tax collector from Capernaum, later, called Matthew (Gift of God) one of the 12 disciples.
- But who was Matthew?

2

Author

1. Matthew was likely one of the few disciples who was literate.
 - As an officer of Rome, he likely spoke several languages - Latin, Greek, Hebrew and Aramaic.
 - He wrote the Gospel of Matthew in Greek and 3 times, at least, inserted Aramaic phrases.
2. Matthew was likely very wealthy as a tax collector.
 - The Roman Empire taxed in 3 ways:
 1. Harvest tax - 1/10th of all grain and 1/5th of all fruit.
 2. Poll tax - a set amount for each adult.
 3. Income tax - most hated.
 - Locals bid for the position and taxed as they saw fit - to leave it was costly.

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Author

3. Matthew, as a tax collector, likely impoverished the other disciples with taxes he collected.
 - He collected taxes in the region of Capernaum, near where Peter, Andrew, James and John were from.
 - Matthew's name means "gift of God", yet likely few others saw him that way - until he met the Lord Jesus.
4. Matthew may have been the brother of "James the son of Alphaeus" - *"He saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth, and He said to him, "Follow me." Mk. 2:14*
 - Matthew may have been seen as an outcast by his family - but the Lord had use for him!

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Author

5. Though Matthew turned his back on his people by being a tax collector for Rome, after meeting the Messiah, he wrote for the benefit of the Jew, that they might see Him as the Messiah as well.
 - The writing style, quotations from the OT, beginning with a Jewish genealogy and use of Aramaic words,- all mark his book out as a “Gospel to the Jews”.
 - Zacchaeus altered his path by declaring to the Lord “*if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold.*” Luke 19:8. But Matthew sought to retore the Jew back to God.

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Background

- After the Ascension, for about 30-40 years, all the disciples passed on, via Oral Tradition, the life events and teachings of our Lord.
- Matthew organizes these into a written tapestry to highlight key themes.

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Key Themes

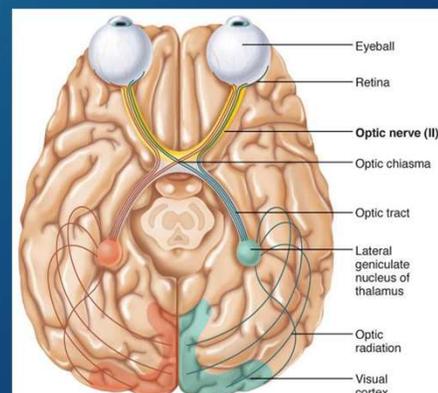
Matthew has 3 over arching themes concerning the Lord Jesus:

1. He is the promised Messiah from the line of David.
2. He is the New and Better Authoritative Teacher - like Moses.
3. He is the Ultimate Messenger from God - Emmanuel, “God with us”.

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Organization

- These themes are presented in a Chiastic Structure.
- But what is chiastic structure?
- For that matter, what is a chiasm?



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Chiastic Structure

- A chiasm is a literary device that presents a series of ideas, and then repeats them in opposite order.
- The goal of chiastic structure is to create emphasis, repetition, and clarification.
- The term 'chi' comes from the Greek letter '*CHI*,' which looks like the letter 'X' in English.

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Chiastic Structure

- Chiastic structure is often expressed in letters.
- Idea A and idea B, followed by idea B' and idea A'.
- B' and A' are the same ideas as B and A, but in reverse order creating ABB'A'.

A - Idea 1

B - Idea 2

B' - Idea 2

A' - Idea 1

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Chiastic Structure - Matthew

- A. Demonstration of the Qualifications as King (Ch. 1-3) - Overcoming 3 Tests (Ch.4)
- B. Sermon on the Mount: Who Can Enter His Kingdom (Ch. 5-7)
- C. Miracles and Instruction (Ch. 8-9)
- D. Instruction to the 12: Authority and Message for Israel (Ch. 10)
- E. Opposition: The Nation's Rejection of the King (Ch. 11-12)
- F. Parables of the Kingdom: The Kingdom Withheld (Ch. 13)
- E.' Opposition: The Nation's Rejection of the King (Ch. 14-17)
- D.' Instruction to 12: Authority and Message for the Church (Ch. 18)
- C.' Miracles and Instruction (Ch. 19-23)
- B.' Olivet Discourse: When the Kingdom Will Come (Ch. 24-25)
- A.' Demonstration of the Qualifications as King (Ch. 26-28) - Overcoming 3 Tests

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Chiastic Structure - Matthew

- It's certain that Matthew wrote his Gospel for the Jews.
- But to them, the humiliation, rejection and death of the Lord Jesus was a very real stumbling block.
- They had expected a military and political deliverer.
- We see this in the pronouncement of the two on the road to Emmaus:

"Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a Man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people ... our chief priests and rulers delivered Him up to be condemned to death and crucified Him. But we had hoped that He was the One to redeem Israel." Lk. 24:19-21

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Chiastic Structure - Matthew

- So, Matthew sets out to show that the Lord Jesus was indeed their Messiah.
- Thus, the structure of the book correlates with the the OT to draw the Jew back into the scriptures revealing that the Messiah has come, in the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- As Christ answers the two, so Matthew speaks to the Jew
 - *““O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into His glory?” And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, He interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.” Lk. 24:25-27*

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Chiastic Structure - Matthew

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Overall Structure

Ch. 1-3	Introduction
Ch. 4-7	Section 1
Ch. 8-10	Section 2
Ch. 11-13	Section 3
Ch. 14-20	Section 4
Ch. 21-25	Section 5
Ch. 26-28	Conclusion

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Introduction

- Ch. 1-3 Introduction
- The introduction draws the reader back to the OT to show the Genealogy, Birth and Attestation of God and the prophets (John being the greatest).
 - These reveal the Lord Jesus is the Christ.
 - Remember the 3 Key Themes:
 1. He is the promised Messiah from the line of David.
 2. He is the New and Better Authoritative Teacher - like Moses.
 3. He is the Ultimate Messenger from God - He is, Emmanuel, "God with us".

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Introduction

Ch. 1-3 Introduction

- In the Introduction, all 3 Key Themes are introduced:
 1. He is the promised Messiah from the line of David.
 - The Genealogy shows:
 1. He is of the Messianic line of David. The Throne is His by right.
 2. He is also of the line of Abraham, showing that He will be the One to bless all nations.

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Introduction

Ch. 1-3 Introduction

- In the Introduction, all 3 Key Themes are introduced:
 2. He is the New and Better Authoritative Teacher - like Moses. Hence the accounts of His life and early ministry.

Moses

Called out of Egypt
Through waters of Red Sea
Fasted 40 days on Mt. Sinai
Received law on a Mount

Lord Jesus

Called out of Egypt
Through waters of Jordan
Fasted 40 days in the wilderness
Gives His law on a Mount

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Introduction

Ch. 1-3 Introduction

- In the Introduction, all 3 Key Themes are introduced:
 2. He is the New and Better Authoritative Teacher - like Moses. Hence the accounts of His life and early ministry.
 - But not only is the Lord Jesus NEW Moses, but He is BETTER than Moses!

The Lord Jesus is Greater than Moses:

Delivers from spiritual slavery - not just Egypt.

Gives new divine teaching - at a much higher standard.

Initiates a new permanent covenant with God.

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Introduction

Ch. 1-3 Introduction

- In the Introduction, all 3 Key Themes are introduced:
 3. He is the Ultimate Messenger from God - Emmanuel, “God with us”.
 - His virgin Birth and Attestation (Baptism), show He is no mere human, but God Incarnate.

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Body Structure

Ch. 4-7 **Section 1**

Ch. 8-10 **Section 2**

Ch. 11-13 **Section 3**

Ch. 14-20 **Section 4**

Ch. 21-25 **Section 5**

- Each of these sections begins with EVENTS in the life of our Lord and ends with a block of TEACHING.

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Body Structure

Ch. 4-7 **Section 1**

Ch. 8-10 **Section 2**

Ch. 11-13 **Section 3**

Ch. 14-20 **Section 4**

Ch. 21-25 **Section 5**

- Each one of these blocks of teaching harken back to a book of Moses - the great teacher of the OT.
- “*The scribes and Pharisees sit in Moses’ seat”* Matt. 23:2. The seat of teaching.

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Old Testament Structure

Ch. 4-7	Section 1 - Genesis
Ch. 8-10	Section 2 - Exodus
Ch. 11-13	Section 3 - Leviticus
Ch. 14-20	Section 4 - Numbers
Ch. 21-25	Section 5 - Deuteronomy

- Thus, the body of the book continues on with the 2nd of the 3 themes - a **New and Better Authoritative Teacher - like Moses.**
- We will explore each in turn.

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5 Sections of Teaching

In each of these **5 Sections** we'll examine:

1. The Events that took place.
2. The Teaching that the Lord Jesus gives.
3. The Relationship the section has to the OT book.

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Ch. 4-7 Announcing the Kingdom

Genesis

1. Events:

- The Lord Jesus has come to set up a kingdom, to set right that which has fallen into wrong.
- He begins by confronting the figure head of evil, the Devil, and summarily defeats him by the Word of God.
- He does so, not in a garden, well fed and strong, but in the wilderness in a state of deprivation.
- His public ministry then starts by healing all manner of disease - the consequence of sin and evil - calling out a new people.

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Ch. 4-7 Announcing the Kingdom

Genesis

2. Teaching - Chapters 5-7:

- He then gives His first large block of teaching, the Sermon on the Mount.
- His teaching shows the practical aspects of Gods Kingdom:
 1. There are no privileged people in the kingdom - all are welcome.
 2. Christ came to fulfill the law - not to repeal it.
 3. The purpose of His coming was to change hearts - not just actions and words.

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Ch. 4-7 Announcing the Kingdom

Genesis

3. Relationship to the Book of Genesis:

- Genesis is the book of beginnings - the universe, the world, all life, human institutions and relationships start here.
- The self-revelation of God to man is also found here.
- The book culminates in the promise of a coming Messiah.
 - Joseph says, “*I am about to die, but God will visit you...” Gen 50:24*
- The Lord Jesus here initiates new principles for His Kingdom.
- The Lord Jesus is Emmanuel - defeating the fountain head of evil in the world and sin’s consequences.

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Ch. 8-10 Bringing the Kingdom to the People

Exodus

1. Events:

- This section has 9 events in it - 3 groups of 3.
 1. Leper, Centurion's servant and Peter’s sick mother-in-law
 2. Stormy sea, demonized men and a paralyzed man
 3. A dead girl/sick woman, two blind men and a mute man

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Ch. 8-10 Bringing the Kingdom to the People

Exodus

1. Events:

- This section has 9 events in it - 3 groups of 3.

1. Leper, Centurion's servant and Peter's sick mother-in-law

“FOLLOW ME” Scribe - 8:22 (Rejected)

2. Stormy sea, demonized men and a paralyzed man

“FOLLOW ME” Tax Collector - 9:9 (Accepted)

3. A dead girl/sick woman, two blind men and a mute man

To experience the Power/Grace of the Lord, one must FOLLOW!

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Ch. 8-10 Bringing the Kingdom to the People

Exodus

2. Teaching - Chapter 10:

- The Lord gives the 1st set of instructions to the 12: The Authority and Message for Israel.
- Having shown the disciples His power and grace, He sends them out to show the same. To proclaim the Kingdom.
- He not only tells them **HOW** to announce the Kingdom, but also what to expect as a **RESPONSE**.
- Nothing comes as a surprise to Him - even if it surprised the disciples.

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Ch. 8-10 Bringing the Kingdom to the People

Exodus

3. Relationship to the Book of Exodus:

- In the book of Exodus, the promised redemption from Egypt, a land where they had suffered helplessly as slaves for generations, is brought before the people.
- Note they do not enter the land in the book of Exodus, but the promise is made.
- In this section, Matthew brings the people to this point as well - offering salvation through the power and grace of God into a new Kingdom.

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Ch. 8-10 Bringing the Kingdom to the People

Exodus

3. Relationship to the Book of Exodus:

- In Exodus 9 plagues (signs) fell on the Egyptians. In this section 9 blessings (signs) came. But present in both is the call to "Follow Me".
- But weren't there 10 plagues?
- Actually, the Lord promised only 1 curse on Pharaoh, "*Israel is my firstborn son, and I say to you, "Let my son go that he may serve Me." If you refuse to let him go, behold, I will kill your firstborn son"* Ex. 4:22-23

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Ch. 8-10 Bringing the Kingdom to the People

Exodus

3. Relationship to the Book of Exodus:

- The 9 plagues that proceeded it were signs (warnings) of what was to come.
- These 9 plagues were all reversed.
- But not the 10th. It was a curse, the 1st born died and was never raised in Egypt.
- The cost of the Exodus from Egypt was the death of a son.
- The cost of the Exodus from sin was the death of the 1st born of God. But He was raised up in an indissoluble life!

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Ch. 8-10 Bringing the Kingdom to the People

Exodus

3. Relationship to the Book of Exodus:

- The God of old showed His power, through His servant Moses, in the 'Exodus' of His people from Egypt,
- On a far greater scale, God, in the person of the Lord Jesus, shows His power over everything:
 1. Nature - The Storm
 2. Satan - The Demonized man
 3. Disease - The Leper, the Sick, the Paralyzed, the Blind and the Mute
 4. Death - The Ruler's Dead Daughter

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Ch. 11-13 Response to the Kingdom

Leviticus

1. Events:

- Here are a group of events about how the people responded to the Lord Jesus.
- The responses are varied and run the gamut:
 - A few recognized Him as the promised Messiah - the disciples.
 - More were indifferent to Him - the cities in chapter 11.
 - The elite leaders outright rejected Him - the Scribes and Pharisees.

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Ch. 11-13 Response to the Kingdom

Leviticus

1. Events:

- Due to the heinous rejection of their Messiah, the Lord prophesied that two witnesses: *“will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it”* Matt. 12:41-42
- Who is it that will condemn them at the Great Judgement?
 1. The Men of Nineveh.
A GENTILE CITY WHO PILAGED THE NATION
 2. The Queen of Sheba.
A GENTILE WOMAN

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Ch. 11-13 Response to the Kingdom

Leviticus

2. Teaching - Chapter 13:

- Here Matthew collects the Lord's parables about the Kingdom.
 - The Sower, a mustard seed, a pearl of great price and buried treasure, all speak of the Kingdom in a different way.
- These are also a commentary on the responses to the offer of God's Kingdom in chapters 11 & 12.
 - A few accept, some neglect and many reject.
- But the key to these parables is that God's Kingdom is of ultimate value, and it will come to pass.

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Ch. 11-13 Response to the Kingdom

Leviticus

3. Relationship to the book of Leviticus:

- Leviticus literally means "and He called". The book is a calling to Israel to worship Him and only Him.
- In Matt. 11:28, we hear the Lord Jesus say, "*Come unto Me...*". The call to worship goes out.
- The highest day of the year is introduced in Leviticus - the Day of Atonement. It is referred to as "*a Sabbath of rest unto you...*" Lev. 16:31
- In Matt. 12:8 we read, "*the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath*"

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Ch. 11-13 Response to the Kingdom

Leviticus

3. Relationship to the book of Leviticus:

- It's clear, as certainly as God called to His people through Leviticus, the Lord Jesus calls to the Nation of Israel.
- But as they rejected God then in the wilderness (foretold in Leviticus 26), the people rejected the Kingdom of God when it came to them.
- Irrespective of the people's rejection, the Lord said "*I will remember my covenant with Jacob*" Lev. 26:42
- So it is with the Kingdom - it will come to pass.

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Ch. 14-20 Incorrect Expectations of the Kingdom

Numbers

1. Events:

- The common thread through this section is the different expectations that people had about the Messiah and how this led to His rejection (similar to section 2 - Ch. 11-13).
- Despite the rejection the Lord continues to heal and perform miracles.
- He even gave His closest disciples a foretaste of the Kingdom to come on the mount of Transfiguration.

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Ch. 14-20 Incorrect Expectations of the Kingdom

Numbers

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Ch. 14-20 Incorrect Expectations of the Kingdom

Numbers

1. Events:

- Central to the passage is the feeding of 2 multitudes.
- The feeding of multitudes was clearly important to the Gospel writers since, aside from Christ's resurrection, it is the only **miracle** recorded by all four Gospelists.
- Both Matthew and Mark record 2 different feedings:
 - Feeding of 5,000 men took place near Bethsaida, close to the Sea of Galilee. (12 baskets remained - 1 for each disciple)
 - Feeding of 4,000 men took place in the region of the Gerasenes, in the region around Decapolis. (7 baskets remained - Days of Creation)

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Ch. 14-20 Incorrect Expectations of the Kingdom

Numbers

1. Events:

- Despite these miracles the Pharisees and Scribes incorrectly apply passages such as Psalm 2 and Daniel 2, expecting the Messiah to come victoriously and defeat the pagans in His 1st advent.
- Even Peter, though he correctly states “*You are the Christ, the Son of the living God*” Matt. 16:16, expects the Lord to conquer in might and power.
- In response the Lord, not once, but twice tells them plainly of His death Matt. 17:22-23 & 19:17-19.; teaching from Isaiah 53.

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Ch. 14-20 Incorrect Expectations of the Kingdom

Numbers

2. Teaching - Chapter 18-20:

- This block of teaching deals with correcting the expectations of the Kingdom that the Nation held.
- The Messiah came (at this advent) not to conquer but to be the suffering Servant, who would lay down His life for the people. Not just the people of Israel but of the whole world.
- The expectations were turned “right-side-up” - for example:
 - Honor is gained by Serving.
 - Revenge is replaced by Forgiveness.
 - True Wealth is Gained by Giving it Away.

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Ch. 14-20 Incorrect Expectations of the Kingdom

Numbers

3. Relationship to the book of Numbers:

- Having been brought to the doorstep of the promised land at Kadesh-barnea, the Israelites said this *“We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we are.”**The land..., is a land that devours its inhabitants”*
Nm.13:31
- Saying: God will **not provide food** but **make us food**.
- *“The LORD bringing us into this land, to fall by the sword. Our wives and our little ones will become a prey.”* Num. 14:3
- Saying: God will not make **our enemies prey**, but **we will be**.

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Ch. 14-20 Incorrect Expectations of the Kingdom

Numbers

3. Relationship to the book of Numbers:

- Israel in the wilderness got it all backwards and blasphemed God in the process!
- So it was in Christ’s day, they did not see Him as the Messiah but instead called HIM a Blasphemer! Matt. 26:65
- Despite being misunderstood and hated our Lord continued to love the unlovable and feed them of His Goodness - not once but twice.
- This was similar to Moses, who fed the people not once but twice - manna and quail.

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Ch. 21-25 Authority and Prophecy of the King

Deuteronomy

1. Events:

- This section begins with the fulfilment of Zech. 9:9 “*Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is He, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey*”.
- The Lord then immediately asserts His authority and overturns the tables of the money changers.
- The chief priests and elders in turn challenge His authority. They attempt to shame the Lord in public debate and fail.

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Ch. 21-25 Authority and Prophecy of the King

Deuteronomy

1. Events:

- Attempting to match wits with Him, they come away the losers.
- The Lord then displays His moral authority over the following:
 1. The Herodians - Matt. 22:15-22
 2. The Sadducees - Matt. 22:23-33
 3. The Pharisees - Matt. 22:34-46
- He demonstrates authority over all the leadership - despite their perceived power to put Him to death - He is in control.

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Ch. 21-25 Authority and Prophecy of the King

Deuteronomy

2. Teaching - Chapter 23-25:

- Our Lord further displays His authority by exposing the Pharisees as hypocrites. Yet He weeps over Jerusalem and its rejection of God and His Kingdom.
- He then foretells of His death at the hands of these leaders, but it will ultimately be their demise.
- By rejecting His peaceful Kingdom and choosing to revolt against Rome, Jerusalem and the temple will be destroyed.
- But this is not the end of the story, He will be vindicated by resurrection and one day set up His Kingdom over all nations.

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Ch. 21-25 Authority and Prophecy of the King

Deuteronomy

3. Relationship to the book of Deuteronomy:

- The book of Deuteronomy starts at the edge of the Jordan.
- It contains the final teachings of Moses as he reiterates the Law to a new generation shortly before his death.
- The book concludes with a series of prophecies regarding Israel finally entering the land.
- The similarities here are plain. The Lord gives His final teachings, including prophecies about Israel, before His death.

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Conclusion

Ch. 26-28 Conclusion

- The climax of the book points back to the OT. As in the introduction, Matthew increases his quotations from the OT (9x).
- The Passover imagery is used by our Lord to reveal the purpose of His death.
- His Death, Burial and Resurrection show His qualifications for the future kingdom.

“Therefore, God has highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the Name that is above every Name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,... every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.” Ph.2:9-11

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Conclusion

Ch. 26-28 Conclusion

- Interestingly, there is no recounting of the ascension.
- Likely this is because, as the King, Christ Jesus belongs on earth.
- Similarly, there is no record of Isaac coming down from Mount Moriah, and we don't read of him again until the bride arrives.
- An allegory of Christ not being seen until He raptures the Church home.

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Summary

Ch. 1-3	Look Back to OT - Historical Qualifications of the Messiah
Ch. 4-7	Announcing the Kingdom - Genesis
Ch. 8-10	Bringing the Kingdom to the People - Exodus
Ch. 11-13	Response to the Kingdom - Leviticus
Ch. 14-20	Incorrect Expectations of the Kingdom - Numbers
Ch. 21-25	Authority and Prophecy of the King - Deuteronomy
Ch. 26-28	Looking Forward from the OT - Qualifications for the future rule of the Messiah