

# *Who Do You Say That I Am?*

## Seeing and Delighting in Jesus through an Expositional Journey through the **Gospel of Matthew**

### 1 Introduction

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Church November 14, 2021

#### **Matthew 1:1**

**The record of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham:**

Now, if you were to travel to Syria and go into one of the old churches that are still standing- you would notice either a stained- glass window or a mosaic on the floor- or both. And one person, who would be depicted in either the glass or the tile floor- would be the man, we call, “*Matthew*” today. And Matthew will be connected in some way with three other men, “*Mark, Luke, and the Apostle John.*” And these four men will be depicted in either glass or tile as preaching the Word of God to a group of people. And probably somewhere close by would be some rendition (probably in Greek) of **The Revelation 4:5-11** that says:

**5 Out from the throne come flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder. And there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God;**

**6 and before the throne there was something like a sea of glass, like crystal; and in the center and around the throne, four living creatures full of eyes in front and behind.**

**7 The first creature was like a lion, and the second creature like a calf, and the third creature had a face like that of a man, and the fourth creature was like a flying eagle.**

**8 And the four living creatures, each one of them having six wings, are full of eyes around and within; and day and night they do not cease to say, "HOLY, HOLY, HOLY is THE LORD GOD, THE ALMIGHTY, WHO WAS AND WHO IS AND WHO IS TO COME."**

**9 And when the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, to Him who lives forever and ever,**

**10 the twenty-four elders will fall down before Him who sits on the throne, and will worship Him who lives forever and ever, and will cast their crowns before the throne, saying,**

**11 "Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created."**

So, in this Passage- John saw four “**living creatures**”:

1. “Like” a Lion
2. “Like” a Calf
3. A face of a Man
4. A flying Eagle

... and for the first 1,000 years of Church History, those four “living creatures” were considered to be the “*Four Evangelists of Christianity*”. And the fact that this is true can be seen in the stained-glass or the mosaic floor of those old churches.

So, these were the four men that God used to write down the four “*evangels*”; or the four different “*euangelion*” (Gr. *Good News*); or the four different “*Gospels*” or “*Records*” or “*Accounts*” of Jesus’ Life, Ministry, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension. And John saw these four men as:

1. Matthew (Man)
2. John Mark (Lion)
3. Dr. Luke (Calf)
4. The Apostle John (Eagle)

Now we don’t pay much attention to these things today, but in the mind of the Leaders of the early Church- the Apostle John “*soared like an Eagle*” in his lofty description of the Deity of the Word made Flesh. Mark began his gospel Record<sup>1</sup> with John the Baptist “*roaring like a Lion*” in the Wilderness. And Luke, a Gentile medical doctor, begins his Account of Jesus with the Narrative of Zacharias, the High Priest “*sacrificing a Calf or an Ox*” in the Temple.<sup>2</sup>

And then there is Matthew- the Man God used to begin his Gospel Record of Jesus, the “*long awaited*” King of the Jews (the *Mashiach*; the *Messiah*; the “*Anointed One*”)- with a genealogy of Jesus’ *Jewish* pedigree; and the fact that, from his *legal* father (Joseph)- Jesus was a full- blooded descendant of both King David and Father Abraham. So, the Apostle John saw the Symbol of a “*Man*” for Matthew- in the last Book of the Bible.

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<sup>1</sup> History tells us that the Apostle Peter commissioned John Mark to write the Gospel Record that bears his name from Peter’s perspective.

<sup>2</sup> Dr. Luke was commissioned by the Apostle Paul to write the Gospel Record that bears his name.

Now I teach and preach a lot from the New Testament Epistles and so, we hear much from them. And we just finished a verse-by-verse “Journey” through the Burden of the Old Testament Prophet **Habakkuk**. But it is the four Gospel Records that give us the Truth concerning the Incarnate God- Jesus, the Christ. And back around this time of year in 2008, I began a “Journey” through the **Gospel of Luke** that took us 9 years and 10 months to finish. And over the last several months, God has burdened my heart to begin a verse-by-verse “Journey” through the **Gospel of Matthew**.

And I want to begin this “Journey” this morning by giving you some insight into just *how* we will conduct this Effort and a little biography of Matthew himself along with the Book he was “moved” by God the Holy Spirit to write down.

So, what do I mean when I say that our “Journey” through **Matthew** will be “verse-by-verse?” Well, what I mean is that I will go over every single Word; of every single Verse; of every single Chapter of this magnificent Gospel Record. And you simply cannot do that quickly. And that is why the Goal will NOT be to simply get finished- but to learn more and more about our wonderful Savior- the Lord Jesus and to delight ourselves in Him.

So, I pray that as we take another step in our “Journey” each and every Lord’s Day- that through God’s Word- Jesus will look absolutely *irresistible* to you and that you will have more reasons for Jesus to be the Treasure of the Universe.

Now the reason I am going to look very carefully at each and every Word- is because the Bible is the ONLY Book in the History of the world where each and every Word- is “Inspired”. And we get the importance of this word, “Inspired” from **2Timothy 3:16&17** that says,

**16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;**  
**17 so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.**

Now the word that was translated here into English as “**inspired**” comes from a Greek word (*theopneustos*; Strong’s #2315), that has to do with *breath*; or *to blow*. And so, the Bible makes the claim that it is “*breathed out*” by God. And so, by extension, for the Scriptures to be breathed out by God also means they are:

- **Inerrant** (do not contain any Error)
- **Infallible** (cannot contain any Error)
- **Relevant** (true today- not obsolete)
- **Sufficient** (all we need for a life of Godliness)

And based on that- how you need to understand verse 16 is:

**All Scripture is inspired [breathed out] by God and [is therefore] profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness...**

... which means that four areas of Christian Ministry are to come “*from the Scriptures*” and “*from the Scriptures ALONE*”:

1. **ALL** Teaching (and Preaching)
2. **ALL** Reproof (testing Doctrines)
3. **ALL** Correction (spiritual Discipline)
4. **ALL** Training in Righteousness (Sanctification)

... which is why the Apostle Paul taught that by doing this:

**... the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work**

And the reason that so many people today are NOT spiritually Adequate; and why they are NOT being spiritually Equipped- is because they simply don't know what God has said in the Bible. And they are NOT studying the Bible themselves- but for the most part, they are also NOT being taught it in Church.

Now over the Centuries, the Leaders of the Church have “*watered down*” very important and deep and serious and eternal Issues that the Bible teaches. And they have sought to *summarize* them into short “*Sound Bites*”. But the Problem with doing this- is that after 2 or 3 generations- the people no longer remember what the Truth- *behind* the “*Sound Bite*”- is. ALL they know is the *Summary* or the *Slogan* or the *Sound Bite* and the Importance and Purpose and Meaning and Value behind the Summary has been lost to them.

Preaching verse-by-verse through an entire Book of the Bible fixes that Problem because it *forces* us to come to grips with what God has actually spoken- and how that Truth applies to us in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

For example, it is common today to hear people say,

“God said it; I believe it; and that settles it”

... and I understand what they mean by that, but the Truth is that if God said it- that settles it- *regardless* of whether you or me or anybody else believes it or not.

Believing God's Word is to *our* advantage. But God doesn't need our belief in His Word to make it true. What God said is true- if NOBODY believes it.

Another “sound bite” you hear today is, “*I believe what the Bible says*”. Well, me too. But that Statement is woefully inadequate, because 37,000 other groups lay claim to believe what the Bible says- yet they all teach different things. So, what we should say is, “*I believe what the Bible says, RIGHTLY INTERPRETED.*” Because the Truth is that the Bible HAS to be interpreted. And how you go about to interpret the Bible means *everything*.

The Bible *should* be interpreted using the “Literal; Historical; and Grammatical” Method of Interpretation. And that is an effort to find the meaning of the Words of the Bible. If we could walk up and ask Moses or Isaiah or Paul what they meant when they wrote a particular Book- that would solve the Problem. But we can’t- because they are all dead. So, all we have left are the Words that they used. And those Words have very specific meanings. In God’s Providence- Hebrew Aramaic and Greek all are very precise and detailed languages. So, we must analyze the Words of the Bible- in the original languages- and that will give us the answer as to what the writer meant.

So, it simply isn’t enough to understand what the Bible *says*. We also have to know what the Bible *means* by what it says. But once we understand what the Bible says and what the Bible means by what it says- we are then held accountable by God to *obey* what it says. So, in our “Journey” through **Matthew**, those three Questions:

1. What does the Bible *say*?
2. What does the Bible *mean* by what it says?
3. How may we be *obedient* to what the Bible says?

... will be asked and answered for every single verse.

Now preaching verse- by-verse through an entire Book of the Bible is normally called, “*Expositional Preaching*”. It is Preaching in a way that *explains* or *makes clear* or *expounds* the true meaning of every verse. But I like to call it, “*Expositional Worship*”- because Preaching IS Worship. And Preaching *expositionally*- is *especially* helpful to us- as we endeavor to walk this world in White.

But in order to do that- there are several things that have to be done. First, we have to struggle with the “*Language Issue*”. You see, the Bible was NOT originally written in English. It was written in either Greek, Hebrew, or Aramaic. So, in my preparation of every Sermon in Matthew- I will take every verse- *in its original language*- and I will conjugate the verbs; and diagram the sentences- so I can make sure that I get the Language Issue correct. Let me illustrate why this is so important. Let’s read **1John 3:6** in the King James Version:

**Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him.**

Now this verse *seems* to suggest that a person, who is saved- no longer sins- AT ALL! In fact, it *appears* to say that if a person sins- he doesn't know Jesus- AT ALL. And that is *exactly* how many different groups teach this verse. They teach what is called, "*Sinless Perfection*"- where a person isn't saved unless he stops ALL sinning.

The Problem with teaching this is that NO human being can become sinless. And that has nothing with us simply putting forth more effort. Because of the limitations of our flesh- NO human being can attain sinless Perfection. And yet several different groups teach that based on what this verse *appears* to say.

But by going back to the original Greek- we see that the tense of the verbs are clearly NOT teaching sinless Perfection. And so, by getting the tense of the verbs correct- we see that John was actually saying,

Whoever abides in Jesus does not *dwelt continually* in Sin. And whoever does *dwelt continually* in Sin has not seen Jesus neither known Him.

So, John was talking about *ongoing; dominating; and pervasive* Sin that people dwell in *continually*- not ALL Sin. Think of the Agony that people have gone through as they come to the Reality that they simply CANNOT be sinless- yet they have been taught that if they sin AT ALL- they're not saved. Going back to the original Language and getting the verbs right prevents that kind of Error.

But then I also have to make sure that I understand the proper Context of every verse as well. Because if you get the Context of a verse wrong- everything else you say after that- is also wrong. And I promise you that, if God will help me- I will prepare every single Sermon in our "Journey" through **Matthew**- with these things at the forefront.

But now I want to give you some background Information about the man, Matthew, himself and then also give you a brief outline of the Book itself.

## **Matthew- the Man**

Now, first of all, Matthew's name was NOT "*Matthew*". His real name was probably, "*Levi*". And "*Matthew*" is an *anglicized* version of the Hebrew name, "*Mahtiyahu*". And in *Sanhedrin 43a* of the ancient "*Babylonian Talmud*" there is a statement that reads:

“Mattai is one of the five disciples of Jeshu”<sup>3</sup>

... and from that name- we got, “*Matthew*”. So, his name *may* have been, “*Levi Mahtiyahu*” or “*Mahtiyahu Levi*”. And this name means: “*Gift from God*”. So, from that we see that Matthew’s parents were very devout and they loved their son.

Now most Bible scholars think that the tax collector, who was chosen to be an Apostle by Jesus, was the man, who wrote this Gospel Record. **Luke 5:27&28** says,

**27 After that He went out and noticed a tax collector named Levi sitting in the tax booth, and He said to him, "Follow Me."**

**28 And he left everything behind, and got up and began to follow Him.**

... and **Mark 2:14** says,

**As He passed by, He saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting in the tax booth, and He said to him, "Follow Me!" And he got up and followed Him.**

Notice that both **Mark** and **Luke** record his name as, “*Levi*”. But when Matthew begins his Account of Jesus choosing the Apostles, look at how he describes himself in **Matthew 10:3**:

**Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus;**

... so, we are almost certain that the man who wrote this Gospel Record was, in fact, the “*Levi*” or the “*Matthew*”, who had been a tax collector before he was saved. And if that is true- then we also know some other facts about him:

1. He was a Jew
2. His parents were devout
3. He was educated
4. He was literate
5. He was fluent in several languages
6. He was able to use Math
7. He was wealthy

Now at the time that Matthew wrote his Gospel- the Roman Empire was expanding. They were fighting wars on several fronts and needed lost and lots of

<sup>3</sup> Schneemelcher 2003, p. 17.

money. So, the Roman Government imposed various taxes on the peoples they had conquered. As a beginning, the Government of Rome taxed 1/10 (10%) of all grain that was harvested and 1/5 (20%) of all fruit. Each adult with the Empire was taxed a set amount (poll tax) and the people paid 1% of all their business income. There were also taxes on goods sold (Sales tax); and even “Tolls” for driving over certain roads.

So, Rome hired local people, who knew the area and who the wealthy people were. And people would come from miles around to put in their bid to get a “tax License” or a “tax Franchise” because it was very, very lucrative. And when they got that Franchise- they could basically charge whatever they wanted and keep whatever was over and above what Rome required. So, from all of that- we know that Matthew was a man of some wealth.

This made the tax collectors to be the most despised men in all of Israel. They were seen as traitors to their own people and the very worst of the worst.

Now to keep everybody afraid to not pay him- the tax collector hired several brutal and cruel men to impose violence on those from whom he would collect taxes. And when the people couldn't (or wouldn't) pay- these men would beat them and even kill them and confiscate their property.

And this Testimony about Matthew was written in the Bible to give us insight into the Power and Miracle of the New Birth. The people of that day would have known *exactly* what Matthew was giving up- in order to follow Jesus. And this would have been a very big deal to them. You see, it is one thing for someone, who has nothing going for himself, to seek a change. But the only explanation of why Matthew would just walk away from a thriving business- is that something very Powerful; very Important; and very Miraculous had happened to him!

And the way that Matthew left his Occupation so quickly shows us how he never waivered. And this is meant to awaken us to the Reality of what it means to be a real follower of the Lord Christ. Matthew saw Jesus. He heard the Master's Call. And he *immediately* obeyed with no hesitation at all! No complaining about what God was requiring of him. No belly-aching about how straight and narrow the path is. No second-guessing about whether he made the right choice. His eyes were opened to see Jesus. His ears were opened to hear the Master call him. And the result was a sold- out bond-slave of Jesus! This is what Paul meant when he wrote this in **2Corinthians 4:3-6:**

**3 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing,  
4 in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.**

**5 For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your bond-servants for Jesus' sake.**

**6 For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.**

Salvation occurs when our eyes are sovereignly “unveiled” by a powerful and miraculous Act of God. And the result is that we “see” Jesus in His pristine Glory. And when a person truly sees Jesus in His Glory- there is only one Response: “*We love what we see.*” And when a person genuinely loves the glorified Jesus- they are “*changed into what they see*”.

And these people, who have been changed will genuinely hate Sin and love God and to them- following Jesus is the only game in town.

But until that Miracle happens- we are yet in our Sins; and it is only a matter of time until we find a reason to just walk away from Jesus and leave Him standing in the middle of the road. But when that Miracle happens- we are willing to die rather than fail God; or be separated from Him. It is interesting to compare Matthew’s response to Jesus with that of the rich young ruler.

But we need to know that, before he was saved- Matthew had helped to drive the Disciples into Poverty. Matthew was a well-known man. And he was known as a man, who would have imposed great financial Hardship on everybody- including Peter, James, and John- in order to fund the lavish building projects of both Herod and Antipas. So, Peter and the others would have had many reasons why they would have literally *hated* Matthew.

For example, it was not uncommon back in the 1<sup>st</sup> Century for a father to NOT be able to take his dying son to the doctor to get help because the tax collector had robbed him of the money he needed to treat his son. So, the little boy would just die! There is no doubt that Matthew would have caused Hardship like this to those he taxed before he was saved- even the Disciples!

Yet there is no record anywhere where the other men, whom Jesus had called, held Matthew in any way other than as a dear brother in Christ!

Again, this would have spoken volumes to the people of the ancient world. “*Come to Jesus and He will so change you- that even when you have a reason to hate- you will forgive and love instead!*” Only God could do that! And this should speak volumes to us today. If we have truly experienced the Miracle of the New Birth- we will NOT hate anyone!

Now in order to keep his records- Matthew would have had to be educated in Mathematics. And he would have not only been literate in Hebrew- but also in several different ~~taxes-~~languages as well. We need to remember that the Romans, who controlled Israel in the 1<sup>st</sup> Century, spoke Latin. But most Jews did NOT

speak or write in Hebrew. Some did- but many spoke in Aramaic and yet those who were educated- wrote in Greek. Matthew would have had to know all four languages.

Now it is possible that Matthew was also a brother to another Apostle. In **Mark 2:14** it reads:

**As He passed by, He saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting in the tax booth, and He said to him, "Follow Me!" And he got up and followed Him.**

... and then in **Matthew 10:3** we read:

**Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus;**

... so, both Matthew and James were sons of a man named, "*Alphaeus*".

So, why didn't Matthew refer to himself as the "son" of this Alphaeus like Mark did? And why didn't he simply say that James was his brother? We don't know for sure- but it is possible that, as a tax collector- Matthew would have been *disowned* by his father- who was a devout Jew. And so, in his own Gospel Record- Matthew does NOT link himself to either his father or his natural brother- but to his former, sinful occupation- "**Matthew the tax collector**". And this would have made Jesus' choice of both of the sons of Alphaeus all the more amazing.

## **Matthew- the Book**

There is evidence to suggest that Matthew's Gospel Record was the *first* Gospel to be written down.<sup>4</sup> And there is also some evidence that it was originally written in Hebrew and NOT Greek. For example, in his book, "*Histories*", the Church historian, Eusebius<sup>5</sup> quoted an early Church leader, Papias, who said,

“Therefore, Matthew put the Logia [his Gospel Record] in an ordered arrangement in the Hebrew language... ”

Now in the 1<sup>st</sup> Century- the term, "*Hebrew language*" would have *included* Hebrew and Aramaic. And **Matthew** contains both. Eusebius also said that *Pantaenus*, an early Missionary in India, found a copy of Matthew's Gospel- in Hebrew- in 180AD.

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<sup>4</sup> Most scholars believe that **Mark** was the first Gospel Record.

<sup>5</sup> Eusebius of Caesarea (260-340AD)

The early Church Father, Irenaeus<sup>6</sup> was a Greek Bishop noted for his role in guiding and expanding Christian churches in the southern regions of present-day France. He was also used mightily in the early development of Christian Theology by combating Heresy and defining what true Orthodoxy was. And Irenaeus wrote,

“Matthew also issued a written Gospel among the Hebrews in their own dialect...”

... and Jerome<sup>7</sup> said,

“Matthew composed a Gospel of Christ at first published in Judea in Hebrew for the sake of those of the Circumcision [the Jews] who believed.”

... Jerome also said that Matthew’s Gospel was originally,

“... written in Palestine; preserved in Caesarea; collected by Pamphilus; and attested to by the Nazarenes in Berea and Syria”.

What we DO know is that Matthew’s Gospel was written TO the Jews- to help them to come to believe that Jesus was the long-awaited Messiah; the King of the Jews; and the fulfillment of the Old Testament Prophecies.

So, when Matthew ends his Gospel with these Words of Jesus,

### **Matthew 28:18b-20**

**18 ... "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.**

**19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,**

**20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."**

... he obeyed this Command by preaching the Gospel to his unsaved Jewish brethren.

Now for several decades after the Resurrection- the Apostles simply taught and preached the Gospel to as many people as possible- without any Writings. Matthew then wrote down his Account of the Life, Ministry, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus- highlighting certain specific Words and Teachings and Miracles and Events that he knew would help Jews comes to Salvation.

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<sup>6</sup> Irenaeus (130-202AD)

<sup>7</sup> Jerome (342-420AD)

And so along with **Mark** and **Luke**- these three Gospel Records are called, the “*Synoptic Gospels*”. And this means that these three Records are to be seen and read and understood- *together*. They are three perfectly true and reliable and inerrant and infallible Records- but which are written from three different angles. So, when “*seen together*” **Matthew**, **Mark**, and **Luke** give the reader a complete picture of the Lord.

John’s Gospel is called the “*Spiritual Gospel*”- NOT because the other three are not spiritual- but because John *empathizes* Jesus’ full Deity.

So, **Matthew** is the most “Jewish” of the four Gospels and when a Jew- who was trained and educated in the Old Testament read Matthew’s Gospel- he would have *immediately* recognized the “*Semitic Style*” imbedded in the Gospel itself.

For example, right off the bat- **Matthew** begins with a genealogy about Jesus’ Jewish roots- acting as a “Bridge” between the Old and the New Testaments. Also, Matthew’s use of the Aramaic term, “*Rhaka*” (*Raca/ you good for nothing*) in **Matthew 5:22**, showed his Jewish readers that he was one of them and understood their common language.

Another key is when **Matthew** describes Joseph as Mary’s “**husband**” in **Matthew 1:19**- and says that Joseph,

**... being a righteous man and not wanting to disgrace her, planned to send her away secretly.**

Now the phrase, “**send her away**” had to do with a legal and formal Divorce. But how do you divorce someone to whom you have not yet married? This has to do with how the Jews dealt with Marriage back in the 1<sup>st</sup> Century and the seriousness and formality of the Jewish Engagement. We just pass right by this- but a Jew would immediately pick up on it.

Matthew begins his Gospel by teaching that Jesus was the *continuation* of everything the Jews held dear from the Old Testament. So, Jesus was:

1. “*The Messiah*” from the line of both David and Abraham
2. “*The new Moses*”- bringing in the *fulfillment* or the *completion* of the first Covenant
3. “*God with Us*”- Immanuel

Now everything in this Book appeals to the Jew. So, Matthew designed his Gospel Record with a Beginning (Chapters 1-3) and then an Ending (Chapters 26-28) that serve as a Frame around five separate Sections of Jesus’ Teachings- that

are designed to remind his Jewish readers of the first five Books of the Old Testament.

### **The Beginning: Chapters 1-3**

Chapters 1-3 are designed to bring the reader up to date after having lived through 400 years of Silence. Ever since Malachi wrote his Prophecy- God has not spoken to His people. For four Centuries- there has been no Sign; no Wonder; no Miracle; no Angel; no heavenly Voice; no Prophet; and no Word from God. Nothing but silence for over 400 years! That is over 155 years LONGER than the United States has been a Nation!

So, Chapters 1-3 are designed to show that God has NOT forgotten His people and has fulfilled His Promise to send Messiah. And this Messiah does NOT bring in a new Religion- but a completion of what God began with Adam. So, **Matthew** begins with a Genealogy certifying Jesus' link with both Abraham and David and thus with both the Abrahamic and Davidic Covenants.

Then **Matthew** gives us the narrative of Jesus' miraculous Birth from a Virgin- showing that Jesus is NOT a mere Man- but is Immanuel- God with Us!

This gives two of **Matthew's** main Themes:

1. Jesus is of the Line of both David and Abraham and is the long-awaited Messiah
2. Jesus is God with Us

... and this is **Matthew's** Introduction

But now Matthew links Jesus as being the "new Moses" with five Separate Sections of Teaching that *fulfills* or *completes* what Moses taught in the first five Books of the Scriptures.

So, Matthew tells his Jewish readers that, like Moses:

- Jesus came up out of Egypt
- Jesus "passed through the water (Baptism)
- Jesus was "in the Wilderness for 40 Days
- Jesus delivers His Teaching from a Mountain (Mt. of Olives)

... and through all of this- **Matthew** is showing the Jews that Jesus is the "new Moses" who is going to:

- Deliver God's people from Slavery (Sin)
- Give them new Divine Teaching

- Save them from their Sins
- Bring about a New Covenant Relationship with them

So, then **Matthew** portrays Jesus as the “Perfect Teacher” in five Sections that mirror the Books of Moses.

### **Section 1: Chapters 4-7**

Here Jesus announces the arrival of God’s Kingdom. He is here to:

1. Confront Evil
2. Restore God’s Reign
3. Create a “new” people of God- the saved

... then Jesus delivers His first major Section of Teaching- the “Sermon on the Mount” (Chapters 5-7)- where he illustrates two major themes:

1. What it looks like to be “Lost”
2. What it looks like to be “Saved”

... this is what living in the Kingdom of God is all about.

### **Section 2: Chapters 8-10**

This is where Jesus brings the Reality of living day-to- day in the Kingdom of God. And He does that by giving 9 different Teachings- 3 groups of 3 Truths- all about hurting and broken and sinful people being redeemed. And in between these 3 groups- Jesus repeats a common Theme: “*Follow ME!*” Chapter 10 is the huge block of Teaching and where He calls and sends out the 12 Apostles.

### **Section 3: Chapters 11-13**

Here we see Teaching about people either *accepting* or *rejecting* Jesus. And in this Section, we see three groups of Jews:

1. **The Positives:** Jesus IS the Messiah
2. **The Neutrals:** Jesus MIGHT be the Messiah
3. **The Negatives:** Jesus is NOT the Messiah

... and in Chapter 13 we see a large block of Parables about what the Kingdom of God looks like.

#### **Section 4: Chapters 14-20**

This Section shows all of the Expectations that the Jews had about “Who” the Messiah is and “What” the Messiah is supposed to do when he gets here. And most of these Expectations were wrong. Now the Expectations of Who the Messiah is and What He will do when He gets here- *as far as they were concerned*- was their “Eschatology”. It is what these Jews believed and taught about “Last Things”.

But we see that their Eschatology was dead wrong. And it was wrong because they had grossly misunderstood the Old Testament. And that is amazing since they studied the Old Testament *fastidiously*. But Jesus never gave them an “out” about this and He rebuked the Jews and constantly asked them,

**“... have you not read...?”**

And this shows us how easy it is for us to place our own Ideas; and our own Thoughts; and our own Beliefs onto the Scriptures. People do this all the time- *especially* concerning Last Things. More people have been more wrong about Eschatology than anything else. And we must guard our hearts that we don’t make the same mistakes.

Now the highlight of this Section is Chapter 16- which defines WHO Jesus is and WHAT Jesus will do. This Section is where MOST of the modern- day Jews *categorically* reject Jesus as the Messiah- because Jesus teaches that He rules and reigns- NOT *militarily* or even *governmentally*- but He rules and reigns by and through two Ways:

1. By suffering
2. By serving

... chapters 18-20 illustrate the “upside-down” Nature of Jesus’ Kingdom- such as God’s people GAIN Honor- by Serving; and they achieve Revenge against their Enemies- by Forgiving them; and we Gain true Wealth by NOT loving Money and by giving.

#### **Section 5: Chapter 21-25**

It is in this Section where we see the titanic Clash of the two Kingdoms: The kingdom of Man and the Kingdom of God. Jesus rides into Jerusalem and turns the money changer's tables over- picking a fight with the wicked Rulers- because it is now time for Him to die.

The huge block of Teaching here is Chapters 23- 25, where Jesus condemns the religious frauds and promises an eternal End of the Original Covenant- highlighted by the Destruction of the Temple- which is a Symbol of His Own Crucifixion and the Promise of His Resurrection.

## **The Ending- Chapters 26-28**

The End of Matthew's Gospel gives us the Last Supper; the Prayer in the Garden; the Arrest; Trial; Crucifixion; the Resurrection; and the Ascension. And then Matthew gives his Jewish readers the final Words and Commands of Jesus:

### **Matthew 28:18-20**

**18 ... "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.  
19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."**

... this shows the Jews that Jesus has been given ALL Authority and is the Messiah and the Savior of the world! And it is the fact that Jesus already has ALL Authority as to why the "Great Commission" will be successful- culminating in the Great Victory of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming!

Beloved- this is really going to be quite a "Journey"! So, please go with me- as we see and delight ourselves in Jesus as we travel through the **Gospel of Matthew!**

Amen. Let's pray.

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The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God alone.