

# The Secrets of the Kingdom

Matthew 13:10-11

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## Introduction

- Secrets (Gk. *mysterion*) something previously unknown that is made known
- To the disciples it has been given (as a gift) to know
- To others it has not been given to know
- *Kingdom* as major theme throughout Matthew's Gospel
- Re: Advent/Christmas holiday zooming out to Mt.1

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## Matthew 1 - the Genealogy

- v.1 Significance of genealogy - why is this genealogy structured by Abraham and David?
- **Abraham** - Genesis 17
  - Covenant - Nations - Kings - Offspring - Worship - Land
- **David** - 2 Samuel 7
  - Covenant - Name - Place - Rest - Offspring - House - Throne - Kingdom

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### Matthew 1 - the Name

- The Name Jesus Christ
- **Jesus** (Aram. Yeshua) - “Yah saves”
- **Christ** (Gk. christos/Heb. meshia) = anointed
  - Three offices anointed with oil to symbolize being set apart - prophet, priest, and king
- v.17 Historical reference to deportation/exile
- v.20 Angel references Joseph by the title “son of David”, oriented to the royal lineage and setting the stage for what is to come

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### Matthew 1 - the Savior

- Baby is conceived by the Holy Spirit of God to be named Jesus because “He *will save* His people from their sins”
- A line of “judges” who were not so much legal adjudicators as heroes for rescue from enemies
- This anointed one comes to bring final rescue from sin - not just forgiveness (though certainly included)
- Sin is that which disrupts human flourishing and the honoring of God as Benevolent Creator

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- Sin (falling short of God’s glory) includes the consequences of everything contrary to the goodness of the original creation
  - It includes personal reconciliation and forgiveness with God
  - It also includes the misuse and abuse of the creation, injustice, sickness, poverty, crime, and ultimately death (consider Isaiah’s exquisite and holistic vision of redemption - far as the curse is found)
- This Jesus will call for complete loyalty above all earthly kings and allegiances, family ties, and personal desires
- This sets up for ch.2 where he expands on the theme of Jesus’ Kingship

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### **Matthew 1 - the Presence**

- One of the secrets of this kingdom is found in the prophecy from Isaiah 7 which Matthew invokes
  - This King is Immanuel “God with us”
  - This isn’t just in a general sense (God’s presence and power to an ordinary human beings)
  - This is not only the offspring of Abraham and the son of David, but at His baptism is proclaimed to be “My beloved Son”
  - He is not only conceived by the Spirit, but anointed by the Spirit

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- This is God the Son who has taken on a full human nature
- Israel originally rejected God as king to have a king “like the nations” (which God granted)
- The series of failed human kings showed again and again that there is something fundamentally flawed in human nature
- But now God grants not only one who is human, but also God Himself
- The God-Man is the King who has come to inaugurate God’s Kingdom through a New Covenant

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### **Matthew (highlights) - the Unfolding**

- 4:17 Jesus’ primary message
- 5:10 Will bring persecution
- 6:10 Fundamental to prayer
- 6:33 To be sought above our daily essentials
- 7:21 Will be entered fully by those who do God’s will
- 12:28 Its presence is marked by Jesus casting out demons by the power of the Spirit of God
- 24:14 The “end” will come when the good news of the kingdom has been preached to all nations
- 28 His given authority for international proclamation

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**Participation**

- Our need to let the nature of the good news of the Kingdom with our King “soak in” to our whole life
  - This is a conceptual framework which is foreign to our Western Democratic sensibilities
  - Savior is not a merely *therapeutic* term, but *regal*
- **First advent** (coming) is the celebration of the birth of the Savior-King
- The **second advent** is the return of the King
  - We live as waiting and working citizens - Phil 3:20
  - Revelation 19:11-16

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