

King of Kings

Preached by: Matthew S. Black

Text: Introduction to Matthew

Series: King of Kings

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Living Hope Bible Church of Roselle, IL

Introduction: Open your Bible to the book of **Matthew**. We are beginning a new series through the book of Matthew. The title of the series, and of today's message is: "King of kings!"

Tammie & Horses

Some of you know that I have a twin sister. I also have two twin brothers who are 12 years older than me. My twin sister loves horses. It's so funny because the first time that my sister mounted a horse, the horse decided to lie down! We always had friends in the Wilmington and Kankakee area that had a horse ranch. We loved riding horses.

There was something that happened when my sister and I moved to Louisiana. We went to a horse ranch and my sister mounted a horse and began to ride. The horse got spooked and took off wildly. My sister lost the reigns and the horse ran wild for about half an hour. I remember we had to chase the horse with the car until a horse trainer was able to grab the horse and halt it.

Can you imagine being a scared little girl on a wild horse? Being out of control is a scary thing.

Who is in control of your life? What the greatest influences? Ultimately, what do you really live for? What are you all about?

What Exactly is the Book of Matthew?

A. The book of Matthew is a Gospel (an account of good news!).

- It is not a congregational letter.

We just finished a study through the book of Ephesians

- It is not a comprehensive biography.
- It is not a chronological history.
- It is an account of GOOD NEWS, carefully crafted by the Holy Spirit to reveal to us one aspect of who Jesus is.

B. The book of Matthew is one of four Gospels. – These four Gospels are like the different angles of a diamond. They are speaking of the same person from *various vantage points*.

- **John** emphasizes the **deity** of Christ: Jesus is **God**. “In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” John writes in a very simple style to the whole world.
- **Luke** (Writing for Paul) emphasizes Jesus’ **humanity**: Jesus is the Son of **Man**. Luke writes in a personal very sophisticated way to a Greek convert named Theophilis.
 - *In ascending order, Luke traces the physical lineage of Jesus to Adam.*
- **Mark** (Writing for Peter) emphasizes Jesus’ **humility**: Jesus is the Suffering **Servant**. He’s the Servant or Slave of God. Mark writes to the Roman Empire where over half the population was in slavery.
- **Matthew**: emphasizes Jesus’ **royalty**. Jesus is the Promised **King**. Matthew writes mainly to Jewish Christians.
 - *In descending order, Matthew traces the legal lineage of Jesus from Abraham.*

Matthew is a synoptic Gospel

About 25% off Matthew’s Gospel is identical to Mark

About 20% is identical to Luke

About 55% is not found in either.

Even what is found in the other Gospels is written quite differently from the perspective of Matthew

- The **Anticipation** of God’s King, “the Christ”
- The **Arrival** {Visitation} of God’s King
- The **Reception** of God’s King

Matthew 1:1 (ESV), “The book of the genealogy of Jesus [the] **Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.”**

You might be thinking, what a boring way to begin a book! Not so to the first century readers.

Prince William Arthur Philip Louis, the Duke of Cambridge

Do you know who William Arthur Philip Louis, the Duke of Cambridge is? You may know him as Prince William of Wales. He got married April 29 of last year (2011). Why is that significant? He could one day be king of England! Now in our family we are royal watchers. We enjoy the pomp and pageantry of the royals. It’s exciting.

Matthew’s Announcement

Matthew is making an announcement. The king is here. From the very beginning of the Bible, God promises that His king will come.

- **Adam and Eve** – After the Fall, God promises Adam and Eve in Genesis 3:15 (ESV), “I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his

heel.” This is called by theologians, the **proto-evangelium** – the first mention of the Gospel. The **Seed of the woman** (Jesus Christ) will come into the world and defeat the **serpent** (Satan).

- Eve’s expectation is that the Savior will immediately be born. She has a son and names him Cain. Genesis 4:1 (ESV), “Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, “I have gotten a man with the help of the LORD.”” The words “with the help of” are supplied by the translators. They are not in the Hebrew. Martin Luther translated this verse in German, “I have gotten a man – the LORD”. Many scholars believe that Eve may have believed that her first son was going to be an immediate answer to bear God’s promised Messiah. Eve says, “I have born the promised Seed, the God-man, Yahweh!!
- **Abraham** – In Genesis 12, 15, and 17, God gives His covenant promise to Abraham concerning the promised king. In Genesis 17:5-6 God specifically promises a miracle baby to Abraham. Abraham is old and Sarah isn’t getting any younger! “Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. 5 No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. 6 I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you.” Sarah, Abraham’s barren wife would have a miracle baby that would be the father of many nations and kings, and even the King of kings!

The coming king is the Son of **Abraham**.

- God promised He would form a covenant people.
- God promised He would give them a promised inheritance on earth.
- God promised He would use them to accomplish a global purpose. He will send a King.
- **Jacob tells us the tribe of the king** – Genesis 49:10, in Jacob’s prophecy about his 12 sons, he turns to Judah, from which Christ would come, and he promises the King will come through Judah; “The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler’s staff from between his feet, until tribute comes to him; and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples.”
- **David tells us the family of the king** – In 2 Samuel 7:11-13, God promises a kingdom to David that would last FOREVER. “I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. 12 When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. 13 He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.” Now David’s kingdom did not last forever. Solomon’s son Rehoboam split the kingdom. But this promise was for the Messiah, Jesus Christ.

- The Prophets reiterate the promise of the King –
 - **Jeremiah 25:5-6** (ESV), “Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as King and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. 6 In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: ‘The LORD is our righteousness.’” The branch of David’s family tree will reign!!
 - **Isaiah 9:6-7**(ESV), “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.”
- The Hebrew Hymnal (Psalms) promised that this king would rule over the nations.
 - **Psalm 22:27** (ESV), “All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations shall worship before you.”
 - **Psalm 22:28** (ESV), “For kingship belongs to the LORD, and he rules over the nations.”
 - **Psalm 67:2** (ESV), “that your way may be known on earth, your saving power among all nations.”
 - **Psalm 67:4** (ESV), “Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth. Selah.”
 - **Psalm 72:11** (ESV), “May all kings fall down before him, all nations serve him!”

This coming kingdom is what the people of Israel sang about. So bursting was this breathtaking anticipation that Habakkuk would predict in **Habakkuk 2:14** (ESV), “For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.”

What a joy to consider! The Old Testament promises a coming Messianic king and kingdom.

Yet with all the joyful expectation, the Old Testament leaves us with

- **Unexplained** ceremonies
- **Unfulfilled** prophecies
- **Unsatisfied** expectations

Transition: So the Apostle Matthew writes to announce the arrival of this promised King!

I. The Arrival of God's King

Matthew 1:1 (ESV), “The book of the genealogy of Jesus [the] Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. ”

He's here!

Introducing the One the Prophets foretold...

He is the Savior. He is the Christ, Messiah.

He is the Son of David.

Differences of the Genealogies

The book of Matthew begins with a genealogy. Both Matthew and Luke (3) have the genealogy of Joseph. They are quite different. Luke records Joseph's **biological** genealogy, whereas Matthew's genealogy is concerned with Joseph's **legal** right of succession to the throne.

Genealogy... three groups of 14

Fourteen (14) is the number of DAVID's name in Hebrew.

- The first group lists the patriarchs – 14 generations
- The second names the kings– 14 generations
- The third contains ordinary people– 14 generations

The intent was not to give a strict record, but rather, present the historical progression and message that Jesus is the promised Messiah, the Son of David.

We saw this from the passages in 2 Samuel 7 and Jeremiah 23. The king has come!

- A continual seed will endure to the end.
- An honored son will reign on the throne.

His Kingdom will one day expand to all people groups.

Matthew is going to tell us a lot about the Kingdom...

Gospel: The message of the kingdom.

Disciples: The citizens of the kingdom.

Discipleship: The demands of the kingdom.

Church: The outpost of the kingdom.

Mission: The spread of the kingdom.

Demons: The enemies of the kingdom.

Hope: The coming of the kingdom.

- The kingdom is a present reality... The King is here!
- The kingdom is a future realization... The King is coming back!

Being accustomed to keeping systematic records, Matthew gives us a beautifully organized account of our Lord's life and ministry. The book can be divided into ten sections in which “doing” and “teaching” alternate. Each teaching section ends with,

“When Jesus had ended these sayings” or a similar transitional statement. The chapters can be divided like this:

Outline of the Book of Matthew

The book of Matthew is divided into 11 sections.

- 5 narratives that tell us of the life of Jesus
- 5 sermons that tell us of the mission of Jesus
- The final section is the account of Jesus substitutionary death, His burial, and His rising from the dead in victory over sin, death, hell, and the wicked one.

Authority Lost by Man, Regained by Christ

The Old Testament shows how we LOST authority and dominion over the earth.

The book of Matthew shows how Jesus comes to take that AUTHORITY back! He ends the book by saying in **Matthew 28:18** (ESV), “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.”

[**BOLD:** *One of Five major sermons Jesus gives – the rest is generally narrative]*

Part One: The <u>Arrival</u> of the King & His Kingdom	ch. 1-4 – Jesus born, begins ministry <i>The Jews expected a conquering king, but Jesus in humility!</i>
Part Two: The <u>Citizens</u> of the Kingdom	ch. 5-7 – Describing Disciples <i>The Jews expected that they would be called as mighty warriors to destroy their enemies. Instead Jesus says they need to be “poor in spirit” and to come “as little children”.</i>
Part Three: The <u>Power</u> of the Kingdom	ch. 8-9 – Jesus works miracles <i>They expected Jesus battle to be against Rome. Instead it was against principalities and powers. He came to give the captives spiritual freedom, not just freedom from Rome.</i>
Part Four: The <u>Commissioning</u> for the Kingdom	ch. 10 – Commissioning Disciples <i>What a motley criue! Jesus commissions the uneducated and the outcasts of society. God does not call many strong and wise, but the weak and the foolish that no flesh should glory in His sight!</i>
Part Five: The <u>Confirmation</u> of the King	ch. 11-12 – Jesus confirms ministry <i>So unexpected is Jesus’ kingdom that he has to confirm it with John. Jesus confirms it not by saying He’s taking over the Roman Empire, but that He is SAVING His people. Listen to His words in Matthew 11:5 (ESV), “<u>the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them.</u>”</i>
Part Six: The <u>Spread</u> of the	ch 13 – Encouraging Disciples

Kingdom	<i>The Kingdom is not going to come in with a roar, but is going to be like leaven that slowly spreads, like a small mustard seed that slowly grows, but it will be so great that all the nations will come into it!</i>
Part Seven: The <u>Training</u> for the Kingdom	ch. 14-17 – Jesus prepares disciples <i>Jesus does not train His disciples in the synagogue. He takes them outside the boundaries of Israel and tells them instead of taking over the Roman Empire, He's going to die!</i>
Part Eight: The <u>Grace</u> of the Kingdom	ch. 18 – Rebuking Disciples <i>Instead of using force, Christ comes as a servant – He comes to give His life a ransom for many.</i>
Part Nine: The <u>War</u> of the Kingdom	ch. 19-23 – Jesus confronts the enemy <i>The most unlikely people reject Jesus' ministry – the very leaders of Israel plot to put Jesus to death.</i>
Part Ten: The <u>Coming</u> of the Final Kingdom	ch. 24-25 – Jesus predicts His victory <i>Jesus describes not a golden Jewish age on the current earth, but a destruction of the earth and the establishment of a new heaven and new earth for His Kingdom.</i>
Part Eleven: The <u>Atonement</u> of the King & <u>Expansion</u> of His Kingdom.	ch. 26-28 – Jesus defeats the enemy <i>The most unlikely ending occurred for the King of kings. He did not come to condemn the world but John 3:17 (ESV), “<u>God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him</u>”. The King of kings dies, but three days later he rises again. And this victory is not just for Israel, but He ends the book by telling them to Matthew 28:18-20 (ESV), “<u>All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.</u>”</i>

II. The Attitude toward God's King

John 1:11-13 (ESV), “He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. 12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.”

Matthew 1:1-17 – look at the people God saves! All you have to do is see the genealogy, and realize that there were four women in varying degrees of scandal. There is great sin represented.

God saves only by his sovereign grace.

- Jesus came not because of Israel's righteousness, but in spite of Israel's sinfulness.
 - See the sinful responsibility of man.
 - See the supreme will of God.
- Jesus came for (and through) the morally outcast.
- Jesus came for (and through) the ethnically diverse.

God saves ultimately for his global purpose.

- Jesus fulfills God's promise to bless his chosen people.
- Jesus accomplishes God's purpose to bless all peoples.

Three groups of people in the Book of Matthew...

Jewish Leaders (Scribes & Pharisees)

Crowds (Casual Observers)

Disciples (Unconditional Followers of Christ)

- **Rejection:** Like the **leaders**, will you completely reject Jesus?
- **Accommodation:** Like the **crowds**, will you casually observe Jesus?
- **Devotion:** Like the **disciples**, will you unconditionally follow Jesus?

Author: Matthew

Early Christian tradition unanimously attributed this gospel to the authorship of Matthew the apostle, the former tax-collector of Capernaum, whose call it records in 9:9 (Mark and Luke call him Levi). There was also a persistent tradition that it was written originally not in Greek but in Hebrew or Aramaic.¹

Matthew's Response

The author of this Gospel is Levi Matthew, a Jew who had been rejected from his family, because he turned his back on God and his country and became a servant of Rome.

Matthew was a **tax collector**. “Matthew was categorically the vilest person in Capernaum.”² The Bible does not say this specifically about Matthew, but look at the context. Jesus just told the Pharisees that He has the power to forgive sins. The question is asked—how far can Christ go in forgiving sinners? So Matthew seems to think of the most extreme example of a sinner, and he ends up using himself as the example!

Explanation: “When Rome moved in and took over Palestine they wanted to exact taxes and individuals living in the land of Palestine would buy franchises from the Roman government, which gave them the right to operate the taxation system in a certain district

¹ *New Bible commentary: 21st century edition*. 1994 (D. A. Carson, R. T. France, J. A. Motyer & G. J. Wenham, Ed.) (4th ed.). Leicester, England; Downers Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity Press.

² John MacArthur, commentary on Matthew 9, from “Receiving the Sinner”.

or a certain town. So when Matthew bought into the Roman system he revealed himself as a traitor to the cause of Israel".³ Tax collectors had a certain amount they had to pay to Rome, but after that, ***they could demand anything they wanted*** out of their own people. They were traitors. They were sort of the Israeli mafia. They were surrounded by thugs, people who could extract the money out of people to fill their coffers. These tax collectors were hated by the people, put out of their own families, cast out of the synagogues, and completely disassociated from society. They then took bribes from the rich, they extorted from the middle class and the poor, they became hated and despised.

Matthew – the Most Unlikely Apostle

We read **verse 9**, and we find Jesus saying, "Follow me." and we are told that Matthew "...arose, and followed him". We read this account and it seems like all the sudden, Matthew arises and follows a stranger. No, it wasn't like that. Matthew's tax booth was located in Capernaum. Miracle upon miracle upon miracle had happened there. So Matthew knew about the Lord. That's why he followed so fast when Jesus invited him. There was mercy for Matthew!

When Matthew hears the Lord's voice to follow Him, it opens up Matthew's heart, and it seems that this is where Matthew is converted. Amazingly, there is no prolonged appeal. We find simply that Jesus approached Matthew's tax booth, and said, "Follow Me". He must have heard Jesus preach the word of God in the open air around Capernaum because God gives the increase!

Explanation: In case we have any questions about it, Luke adds a little statement that says, "He forsook all" (**Luke 5:28**). Matthew doesn't talk about what he left.

Conclusion: I asked at the beginning and I'll ask again...

Who is in control of your life? What the greatest influences? Ultimately, what do you really live for? What are you all about?

Who is Jesus? Is He the King of kings in your life?

³ Ibid.