

THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW; YOUR KINGDOM COME...ON EARTH
JROC – Revisiting Matthew Chapters 1-3:13
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Matthew 1

Matthew is the perfect book, written approx. 50 AD, to continue the one story of the Bible!

Starting with a genealogy (Jesus' genealogy through Joseph)?? Jewish people were GLUED to genealogies because they confirmed their Jewish heritage, confirmed their tribal designation which told them their responsibilities in serving God (Priests from Levi; Kings from Judah). And tribal designations determined their marriages (Num. 36:3)

Following the Jewish prophet Malachi, for 430 years, God did not send a prophet to warn the Jewish people. What was the last message of a Hebrew prophet to the Jewish people? Malachi warned the Jewish people of their sin. In Malachi's day the priests were offering corruptible sacrifices – BLEMISHED offerings (Deut. 15:21). And the people were not tithing as they should (Lev. 27:30, 32). Malachi warned but he also told the people of God's love for them (Mal. 1:1-5). And Malachi told of God's promise of a coming messenger (John) who would serve as the herald of THE Messenger (Mal. 2:17-3:5)!

The final book of the Old Testament PRONOUNCES God's justice and the promise of Israel's restoration through the coming of the Messiah.

Mal. 4:5-6 - *Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. ⁶ And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the earth with a curse.* God was telling the nation of Israel to REPENT! The Jews understood this to mean that Elijah would return in person as a forerunner of the Messiah.

Matt. 1:1 - The scroll of the origin of Jesus the Messiah, the Son of David... Jesus is from the kingly tribe of Judah; "Son of David" is a Messianic title. And, as the "Son of Abraham" – Jesus' genealogy is telling us that He/Jesus is a physical descendant of Abraham/Isaac/Jacob – He is Jewish. God promised the Messiah to the Jewish people (Gen. 12:3; Gen. 22; Deut. 18:15-18; Psa. 2; Isa. 7:14; Isa. 9:6; Isa. 49:5-6; Isa. 53; Jer. 23:5-6; Dan. 9:25-26)

Matthew totally breaks with Jewish tradition in mentioning the names of four women in Jesus' genealogy: Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, and Bath-sheba (v. 6b "of her that had been the wife of Uriah – the Hittite"). Not only is it unconventional for Matthew to list females, but three of these women are associated with sexual sins! These women in Jesus' genealogy foreshadowed Mary of whom Matthew wrote. Here, at the outset of Matthew...

at the outset of the NT...we see that God's GRACE forgives the darkest of sins and reaches beyond Israel to the world. God's plan of salvation always included Gentiles (Gen. 12:3; Isa. 49:6).

2

Matthew is the BRIDGE between the Hebrew Scriptures. Matthew was telling his audience, primarily Jewish, in the first verse that Jesus is the King of the Jews and the Messiah/Deliverer of the world. BUT we don't see kings in Jesus' genealogy after the Jews returned from exile. WHY? JECONIAH – Jer. 22:24-30. HOW IS JESUS KING OF THE JEWS?

THE VIRGIN BIRTH - Matt. 1:16 – *And Jacob begot Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus Who is called Christ.* Jesus the Messiah was not born of a man; He was born of a woman. And then Matt. 1:18 goes right into the virgin birth following the genealogy.

John MacArthur – “The virgin birth is an underlying assumption of everything the Bible says about Jesus. To throw out the virgin birth is to reject Jesus' deity, the accuracy and authority of Scripture, and a host of other related doctrines that are at the heart of the Christian faith. No issue is more important than the virgin birth to our understanding of Who Jesus is. If we deny Jesus is God, we have denied the very essence of Christianity.” We have denied the message of the Messianic prophecies that proclaimed that the Messiah would be God (Isa. 9:6; Micah 5:2; Jer. 23:5-6).

We need to remember in studying the book of Matthew that the world of Jesus was not the OT Hebrew world. The OT Hebrew world was God-centered. Approx. 600 years prior to Jesus' birth in Bethlehem, Gentile Empires began ruling the world: Babylon, Persia, Greece, and Rome. And, Greek philosophy played a big role in transforming the thinking/belief of the world. Greek philosophy was man-centered.

When the Jewish people were carried away from Jerusalem and taken captive to Babylon, they no longer had access to the Temple in Jerusalem. It had been destroyed. The Jewish world had revolved around the Temple. Instead of the Temple, synagogues were established. The Jewish world was now being taught by Rabbis who were adding man-made laws to the commandments God had already given them. And so we read of Jesus NOT agreeing with what I'm going to call Rabbinical Judaism. Rabbinical Judaism is based on Rabbi's opinions and NOT on the Hebrew Scriptures.

Among the Jewish people there were various groups: Pharisees (adhered to the law); Sadducees (embraced Greek philosophy); Zealots (desired to overthrow Rome even if it meant violence); Essenes (primarily Jewish men who desired the Messiah). This is the world into which Jesus was born.

In the fullness of time God sent His Son....Galatians 4:4

As we flip over to Matthew from Malachi, we are in the age of heightened MESSIANIC FERVOR because the world was in chaos. It was dark and violent!! There was a longing for the Messiah. The people hoped in the coming of the Messiah based on what God had promised the Jewish people throughout the OT.

Matthew 2

Matthew 1 ends with, *And he called His name Jesus for He will save His people from their sins.* Yeshua – “salvation”

3

Matt. 2:1-2 – *Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea...in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, ‘Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.* What happened to the Bethlehem account? The Magi are Gentiles from the East? Why did they travel to Jerusalem? How did they get included in the Christmas account? Daniel 2:48.

Matthew 3

A Voice Crying in the Wilderness

Matt. 3:1-6 - *In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, ² and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!” ³ For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying: “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the LORD; Make His paths straight.’ ⁴ Now John himself was clothed in camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ Then Jerusalem, all Judea, and all the region around the Jordan went out to him ⁶ and were baptized by him in the Jordan, confessing their sins. Who is this? What do we know about John? Why is he crying “Repent”? John is connected to Isaiah? Why was John dressed in camel’s hair? II Kings 1:8 *So they answered him, “A hairy man wearing a leather belt around his waist.” And he said, “It is Elijah the Tishbite.”**

Remember Mal. 4:5-6 and the 430 years of no prophetic voice from God? WHY were so many Jewish people flocking to the Jordan? WHY wasn’t John preaching in Jerusalem? Jews were being immersed. This was nothing new. BUT, what was new was that John, a Jewish man, was immersing fellow Jews who were thought to be righteous and on their way to heaven. Jewish people could immerse Gentiles who chose to believe in the one true God of Israel. Gentiles were outside of the covenant. In the Jewish mind that was not following the Bible, Jewish lineage was the requirement for entering heaven. That is NOT what Scripture teaches. That was NOT what John the Immerser was preaching.

Matt. 3:7-12 - *...when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, “Brood of vipers! - Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸ Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance, ⁹ and do not think to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones. ¹⁰ And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire (judgment!). ¹¹ I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will*

thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

Matt. 3:13 - *Then Jesus came*