

THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW; YOUR KINGDOM COME...ON EARTH
FALL SEMESTER

Week 1 – The Story Continues

September 14, 2021

Scripture is the glorious story about God’s plan of redemption which is based on His love for the WORLD.

Our method of study is to understand the Bible literally...to understand the plain sense of the words. If the plain sense makes perfect sense, seek no other sense. Figurative language that we do find in Scripture is explained in the same passage or in a cross-referenced passage. Symbolic verbiage points to a LITERAL event and/or outcome.

As we read Scripture and understand it literally, make observations about what you’re reading. “I see this in the text.” Note what you see and then ask questions about what you’ve observed...Why? How? What? Where? When? So? And, grasp the context of the passage. Understand what led up to that verse or passage and what follows it. Our context is the entire Bible! Our desire is to explore the depths of what God has revealed to us in His word so that we can fit the pieces together...so that we can comprehend the BIG PICTURE of Scripture!

It’s critical in our study of Scripture to ask, “To whom is God speaking?” and “WHY?” Determine God’s intent in His message to whom He is speaking.

The big picture of the Bible is the unfolding of God’s story which encompasses God’s plan for the nations, for the nation of Israel, and for the Church! Thus, the story continues.

During past classes we have discussed how the big picture can be broadly summarized through four headings: CREATION FALL REDEMPTION RESTORATION. How do those individual “plots” of the Bible fit into the overall STORY of Scripture?

Matthew was inspired by God the Holy Spirit to write the book that would introduce the NT and serve as the bridge between the OT and the NT. Matthew means “gift of the Lord” – speaking of the grace of God. Matthew always referred to himself as he wrote the gospel of Matthew, “Matthew, the tax collector.” Matthew did not want to forget from where he came. Matthew ALWAYS wanted to focus on the grace of God poured out upon him.

The Story Continues. From WHEN does it continue?

Rev. 13:8 – tells us that Jesus is *the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.*

Micah 5:2 – the prophecy of the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem Ephrathah...Micah tells us that Jesus is *the One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting.*” The story continues from...ETERNITY PAST!

“The account of Jesus and the kingdom He came to establish has deep roots in the soil of Israel’s history. For centuries, the strip of land between the eastern side of the Mediterranean Sea and the western boundary of the Arabian Desert has been – and continues to be – ground zero for ongoing conflict between good and evil. The conflict is – and will be cosmic (universal). Therefore, it is no accident that Jesus was born there or

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that His destiny was so intricately intertwined with the future of Israel.” (Chuck Swindoll, *The Greatest Life of All, Jesus*, p. 61)

Matthew wrote to a Jewish audience. The Gospel of Matthew is the perfect bridge between the OT and the NT. And, Matthew has told us in his gospel much about the kingdom of heaven/the Kingdom of God on earth in harmony with OT passages.

The NT doesn’t reinterpret what God promised Israel nor does the NT nix what God promised Israel. The NT doesn’t replace or eliminate Israel. Rom. 11:29 - ...*the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable* – God will not rescind/take back what He has promised to Israel. Jesus came to fulfill God’s promises made to Israel which impacts the world!

The OT tells us Who the Messiah is. The OT tells us exactly when the Messiah would come to Israel (Dan. 9:25-26).

The Gospel of Matthew PROCLAIMS Who Jesus is in light of what God had already promised the Jewish people in the Hebrew Scriptures. As we flip over from Malachi to Matthew, we are in the age of heightened Messianic fervor. There was a longing for the Messiah. The Jewish people hoped in the coming of the Messiah because God had promised the Jewish people the Messiah!

God has a plan, and a purpose to redeem people and to restore the world! God will restore the world back to His/God’s original plan!

Read: Genesis chapters 1 & 2; Psalms; Isaiah; Jeremiah; Ezekiel (focus on chapters 40 through 48); Daniel; Zechariah; Revelation 21 & 22; (In the book of Revelation there are approx. 550 references to the OT). God has already delivered on His promise to send the Messiah – and He came! THE STORY CONTINUES!

Why then do Jewish people who haven’t yet put their trust in Jesus as their Messiah say, “We’re waiting for our Messiah.” My response – “I’m waiting for the Messiah to come – the second time!” We can ask our Jewish friends, “How will you recognize the Messiah?” The Tanakh gives us the profile of the Messiah. Conservatively, Jesus fulfilled at least 300 prophecies in His earthly ministry.

WHY does the Messiah, according to Scripture, come twice?

The Bible teaches one Messiah/two comings! WHY?

Jesus came first as the Suffering Servant to die for sin – for salvation.

He will come again at His PHYSICAL Second Coming for judgment and to establish His Kingdom, the earthly Millennial Kingdom, the literal 1,000 year Kingdom of God on earth. Millennium/Millennial means 1,000.

NOTE: Jesus' return, His Second Coming, is seen in two phases:

Jesus first returns for believers from Pentecost through the time of the rapture – when we are caught up and He meets us in the air. *I Thess. 4:16-18 - For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Therefore comfort one another with these words.*

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After the 7-year tribulation, Jesus will return to earth on a white horse, crowns on His head (Rev. 19:11ff), to engage in the campaign of Armageddon. Believers will be following Him on white horses. This is Jesus' "physical" Second Coming. Following Armageddon, He will establish His Kingdom on earth – in fulfillment of II Sam. 7:12-16.

We understand that there are two comings of the Messiah from the OT/the Hebrew Scriptures. What are the OT references?

FROM ETERNITY PAST...THE STORY CONTINUES....

The last words God spoke through a prophet, the prophet Malachi – before 430 years of silence – no prophetic message from God for 430 years – 430 years - the span of time between Malachi and Matthew... *Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD (DAY OF JUDGMENT) ⁶ And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers (a general repentance of the nation of Israel), lest I come and strike the earth with a curse.* (Mal. 4:5-6) AND, this is how the OT ends!!!!

And so, we turn the page from the end of Malachi to the beginning of Matthew and we read. . . . *The book of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham.*

CONSIDER: after reading the last words of Malachi, when we turn to the NT, we are brought face-to-face with the solution concerning the curse: the Son of David...the Messiah...the promised One of Israel (the Seed of the woman [Gen. 3:15])!

It's important for us to know there are 430 years between Malachi and the events Matthew records. Interestingly, knowing the big picture of the Bible, the children of Israel were in Egypt for 430 years...400 of those years in bondage. And then God called Moses as a deliverer...looking forward to the GREATER DELIVERER...JESUS Who would come into this world of chaos 430 years following Malachi's last words!

The book of Matthew presents the REMEDY for the curse of sin. Here's the MESSIAH...He has come!!!! We need to know that Jewish people were glued, they were riveted to genealogies which...

- Proved that the person was indeed a descendant of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob – that they were physical Jews.
- Identified the tribe to which he belonged.
- Determined what land you received based on your tribe.
- Qualified certain Jews for religious duties
 - Priests had to come through the priestly tribe, the tribe of Levi.
 - Kings had to come through the kingly tribe, the tribe of Judah.

The Messiah – JESUS – is “the Son of David” (Messianic title) – David -who was the King of Israel. Jesus came through Judah – the kingly line!

The Gospel of Matthew in the first verse, proves Jesus is the Messiah and King of Israel.

Matthew's theme: Matthew, in writing to a Jewish audience, emphasizes Jesus' fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy, proving that He is the long-awaited Messiah – the King of Israel (Gen. 49:10; Num. 24:17; Psa. 2; Psa. 45; Psa. 110; Jer. 23:5-6; Micah 5:2; (Matt. 2:2; Matt. 2:6; Matt. 27:11; Mk. 15:32; Jn. 1:49; Jn. 12:13)

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What does it mean that Jesus is the King of the Jews?

God anointed David (I Sam. 16:1-13) – with holy anointing oil (Ex. 30:23-33).

Anointing a king was consecrating that king – setting him apart for service. And God promised that out of David's line, THE anointed king would come to redeem Israel and establish his rightful place on the throne of Israel.

2 Samuel 7:12-16 – God told David - *When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will 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. (God then talks about King Solomon whom God had to chastise because Solomon committed iniquity) ¹⁴ I will be his Father, and he shall be My son. If he commits iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men and with the blows of the sons of men. ¹⁵ But My mercy shall not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I removed from before you. ¹⁶ And your house (David) and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever.*

THE MESSIAH was prophesied! This is JESUS!

God promised King David a kingdom on earth (II Sam. 7:16 – *And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever*). The prophets throughout the OT, described the GLORIES of the Kingdom of God on earth. The prophets had a message of hope that caused Israel to eagerly anticipate the fulfillment of God’s promise re: the kingdom.

ISAIAH’S DESCRIPTION OF ISRAEL’S FUTURE KINGDOM...ON EARTH
(MacArthur’s Study Bible)

- The Lord will restore the faithful remnant of Israel (saved Jewish people; Jewish believers) to the Land to inhabit the Kingdom at its beginning: Isaiah 1:9, 25-27; 3:10; 4:3; 6:13; 8:10; 9:1; 10:20, 22, 25, 27; 11:11, 12, 16; 14:1-2; 14:22, 26; 26:1-4; 27:12; 28:5; 35:9; 37:4, 31, 32; 40:2-3; 41:9; 43:5-6; 49:5, 8; 49:12, 22; 51:11; 54:7-10; 55:12; 57:13, 18; 60:4; 61:1-4, 7; 65:8-10; 66:8, 9, 19.
- As the Lord defeats Israel’s enemies, He will provide protection for His people: Isaiah 4:5, 6; 9:1, 4; 12:1-6; 13:4; 14:2; 21:9; 26:4, 5; 27:1-4; 30:30-31; 32:2; 33:16, 22; 35:4; 49:17-18; 52:6; 54:9-10; 55:10-11; 58:12; 60:10, 12, 18; 62:9; 66:16.
- In her Kingdom, Israel will enjoy great prosperity of many kinds: Isaiah 26:15, 19; 27:2, 13; 29:18-20; 22:22-23; 30:20; 32:3; 32:15-20; 33:6, 24; 35:3, 5, 6, 8-10; 40:11; 42:6-7, 16; 43:5-6, 8, 10, 21; 44:5, 14; 46:13; 48:6; 49:10; 52:9; 54:2-3; 55:1, 12; 58:9, 14; 60:5, 16, 21; 61:4, 6-10; 62:5; 65:13-15, 18, 24; 66:21-22.
- The city of Jerusalem will rise to world preeminence in the Kingdom: Isaiah 2:2-4; 18:7; 25:6; 40:5, 9; 49:19-21; 60:1-5, 13-15, 17; 62:3-4.
- Israel will be the center of world attention in the Kingdom: Isaiah 23:18; 54:1-3; 55:5; 56:6-8; 60:5-9; 66:18-21.
- Israel’s mission in the Kingdom will be to glorify the Lord: Isaiah 60:21; 61:3.

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- Gentiles in the Kingdom will receive blessing through the channel of faithful Israel: Isaiah 11:10; 19:18, 24-25; 42:6; 45:22-23; 49:6; 51:5; 56:3, 6-8; 60:3, 7, 8; 61:5; 66:19.
- Worldwide peace will prevail in the Kingdom under the rule of the Prince of Peace: Isaiah 2:4; 9:5-6; 11:10; 19:23; 26:12; 32:18; 54:14; 57:19; 66:12.
- Moral and spiritual conditions in the Kingdom will reach their highest plane since the Fall of Adam: Isaiah 27:6; 28:6, 17; 32:16; 42:7; 44:3; 45:8; 51:4; 61:11; 65:21-22.
- Governmental leadership in the Kingdom will be superlative (of the highest quality; excellent; magnificent) with the Messiah heading it up: Isaiah 9:6-7; 11:2-3; 16:5; 24:23; 25:3; 32:1; 32:5; 33:22; 42:1, 4; 43:15; 52:13; 53:12; 55:3-5.
- Humans will enjoy long life in the Kingdom: Isaiah 65:20, 22.

- Knowledge of the Lord will be universal in the Kingdom: Isaiah 11:9; 19:21; 33:13; 40:5; 41:20; 45:6, 14; 49:26; 52:10, 13, 15; 54:13; 66:23.
- The world of nature will enjoy a great renewal in the Kingdom: Isaiah 12:3; 30:23-26; 32:15; 35:1-4, 6-7; 41:18-19; 43:19-20; 44:3, 23; 55:1-2, 13; 58:10-11.
- “Wild” animals will be tame in the Kingdom: Isaiah 11:6-9; 35:9; 65:25.
- Sorrow and mourning will not exist in the Kingdom: Isaiah 25:8; 60:20.
- An eternal Kingdom, as a part of God’s new creation, will follow the Millennial Kingdom: Isaiah 24:23; 51:6, 16; 54:11-12; 60:11, 19; 65:17.
- The King will judge over sin in the Kingdom: Isaiah 66:24.

The title King of the Jews had both messianic and political implications.

Isa. 9:6 – ...unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given;

And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,

Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Kings in Israel were anointed with oil as a sign of God’s choosing (see 1 Kings 1:39), and the meaning of *Messiah* is “Anointed One.”

As the Son of David, the Messiah would fulfill the Davidic Covenant and rule on the throne in Jerusalem.

“Where is He who is BORN King of the Jews?” When the Magi came to Jerusalem seeking the King of the Jews, they most likely had in mind a future political leader. The Magi were not kings; they were king makers. They were looking for a king to take the place of their Persian king who had been dethroned. How did they know about the birth of this One Who was indeed King of the Jews? Dan. 2:41; Dan. 9:24-27 – timeframe.

During the trial of Jesus, Pilate had asked Him, “Are you the king of the Jews?” (Mark 15:2). Jesus answered, “It is as you say” (NASB)

The Story Continues.... Why did Jesus enter our mess? Why did He breathe in our stench and bear our shame? Why was He born into the Jewish culture at that specific time? And, why the Jewish culture? Why will He be returning to Jerusalem as the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, as the root of David?

CONSIDER: Jesus waited approx. 27 years in Nazareth (returning from Egypt to Nazareth at about age three) - performing duties at home and at the carpenter’s shop... knowing all the time that He was God in the flesh; knowing all the time that there was a lost world. Knowing that there were those who were waiting and watching for Him. Knowing all the time that He would be rejected by His own people – by the nation of Israel... WHY? Because it was prophesied that He would be crucified (Isa. 53; Psa. 22; Dan. 9:26 – cut off but not for Himself. But, at its birth, the Church was comprised of

primarily Jews. And, there would always be a remnant (Jewish believers) because God had promised (Isa. 1:9; Isa. 6:13; Rom. 11:5)

Twenty-seven years in Nazareth...waiting for the right time. And – it was NOW... And John cried out to those who gathered at the Jordan River to be immersed, *Behold the Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world* (John 1:29). This is the One Who would redeem...Who would purchase man out of bondage by paying a ransom price!

Jesus is the King of Israel and He is the Lamb of God...lambs were sacrificed!

At His first coming, Jesus stepped out of obscurity (unimportance, insignificance, anonymity) to be announced to Israel by John the Immerser, John the Baptizer. Jesus was “hidden,” so to speak, in Nazareth. Nazareth means to be guarded/watched.

John the Immerser preached to the masses who came to him as he, John, preached repentance and immersed his Jewish brethren in the Jordan, announcing Jesus to Israel – the expected One.

John proclaimed, *Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!* (Matt. 3:2).

WHY was that John’s message? God had told the Jewish people – as a NATION, throughout the OT, to TURN to Him...

Joel 2:12 – *Turn to Me with all your heart.*

Psa. 33:12 - *Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, The people He has chosen as His own inheritance* (possession; Deut. 7:6-8).

...*the kingdom of heaven is at hand** because the King of Israel (Nathaniel – Jn. 1:49) Himself, JESUS, was about to appear in the midst of the Jews! Jesus was coming to the Jordan River from Nazareth. BUT – Jesus was going to be rejected...by the NATION. BUT, He would be received by many Jewish people – because God had promised a remnant.

This offer from John the Immerser was a unique opportunity for the Jewish people...for Israel at that time (because the fullness of time had come – Gal. 4:4)

Jesus repeated John’s words, *Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand* (Matt. 4:17). Jesus was announcing, “I am here - the One Who will sit on the throne of David from Jerusalem in the future earthly kingdom of God, promised to Israel.”

Did the Jewish people remember what had been spread around the countryside after the angel Gabriel spoke with Zacharias and told him that he and Elizabeth would

have a son who would come in the spirit and power of Elijah – who would herald the coming of the Promised One of Israel, the Messiah.

Gabriel visited Mary and told her...

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Luke 1:31-33 - And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. ³² He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. ³³ And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.

And she pondered these things in her heart!

Jesus' first coming – He made Himself of no reputation. He came in humiliation – He was beaten and crucified...He died the death of a criminal – for you and me. All the while knowing He would return and be manifested as King of Kings and Lord of Lords – because He is!

QUESTIONS:

Any V8 moments? How did this lesson impact you?

How should we study Scripture?

What is the context we should understand?

What are the four plots of the BIG PICTURE of Scripture?

Why should we understand the BIG PICTURE of Scripture?

When did the story of God's plan of redemption begin?

To whom did Matthew write? WHY?

How important is the OT? WHY?

WHY is prophecy important?

WHY does the Messiah come twice?

WHY does the Messiah come twice? What verses in the OT tell us that the Messiah would come twice?

WHY is it important that Jesus is the King of the Jews?

SUGGESTED HOMEWORK:

Reread the Week 1 handout along with the Scripture references.

Note observations; jot down questions.

Determine which questions you'll begin to research.

Begin to find answers for those questions in the Scripture.

Begin to find the verses in the OT that teach that the Messiah would come twice.

How has this lesson impacted you? What action will you take?

Read Week 2's handout when you receive it.