

Key to MATTHEW

1. BACKGROUND

The writer is Matthew (also called Levi) a publican or tax collector. Undoubtedly a sagacious man, accustomed to writing, and a student of human nature. His home was Capernaum; he was well versed in the history, poetry, doctrine, prophecy of the Jews. He presents the material in plain, direct language and in an orderly way.

Date of writing is presumably A.D. 60, approximately 30 years after CHRIST's death. He writes of CHRIST the King; his special readers, the Jews.

2. THEME

The key verse is 1:1. Here is found the subject and purpose. Jesus of Nazareth is the promised King, the Son of David first, and the Son of Abraham (sacrifice) second.

The Messiahship (Kingship) of CHRIST is emphasized. CHRIST is the full embodiment of everything the Old Testament Scriptures promised would come. However, He is rejected, and turns to the fulfillment of the sacrificial type (Son of Abraham) at the cross.

3. MAIN DIVISIONS

The King presents Himself to Israel (1 - 12)
the King rejected, goes to the cross as the sacrificial Son; resurrection and ascension follow (13 - 28).

4. SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS:

Matthew is the "swinging door" or the "hinge book" between the Old and the New Testaments. There are more than 60 Old Testament references and about 40 quotations from the O.T. in Matthew.

A characteristic phrase is "**that it might be fulfilled.**"

Matthew presents a genealogical table tracing the Messianic line back to King David.

Two of CHRIST's major discourses are found here: the Sermon on the Mount, 5; 6; 7; and the Olivet Discourse, 24; 25. An unusual picture of the happenings of this present age is seen prophetically in chapter 13, where 7 parables form one picture.

5. OUTLINE:

Miraculous Birth of the King
Divine Preservation of the King
Baptism of the King by John
Temptation of the King by the Devil

Remarkable Proclamation of the King
Wonderful Miracles of the King
Preparatory Commission of the King
Deliberate Rejection of the King
Kingdom Parables of the King
Unchanging Compassion of the King
Promised Church of the King
Glorious Transfiguration of the King
Searching Discourses of the King
Triumphal Entry of the King
God-Given Wisdom of the King
Dreadful Denunciations of the King
Second Coming of the Great King
Foretold Betrayal of the King
Sacrificial Death of the King
Victorious Resurrection of the King

6. OUTSTANDING TEACHINGS:

The Sermon on the Mount applies:

- (1) to Christ's day;
- (2) to our day;
- (3) to the day of the coming Kingdom.

Note the attributes of the King: His Person, Preparation, Propaganda, Program, Passion, Power.

The account of the death and resurrection of CHRIST takes about 25 per cent of the total material in Matthew.

7. KEY:

CHRIST is King. He was rejected, crucified, resurrected, but He is still a King and will someday prove this.

Matthew is easy to read. Its material is alive and graphic. Note the "time words." Connect Matthew to the future happenings too.

~ end of Matthew ~

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