



Review of Matthew

THY KINGDOM COME

The Gospel of Matthew was the church's most popular Gospel in the decades up to the time of Irenaeus (AD 180). After an extensive analysis of Matthew's influence on early Christianity, Édouard Massaux relates, "Of all the New Testament Writings, the Gospel of Matthew was the one whose literary influence was the most widespread and the most profound in Christian literature that extended into the last decades of the second century... Until the end of the second century, the first gospel remained the gospel par excellence. The Gospel was, therefore, the normative fact of Christian life. It created the background for ordinary Christianity." Moreover, the unanimous and unquestioned consensus of the church fathers was that Matthew was the first gospel written and, almost without exception, the early church placed the Gospel of Matthew first in the canon of the New Testament.

—F. David Farnell, *The Master's Seminary Journal* (Spring 1999)

	MATTHEW	MARK	LUKE	JOHN
Jesus	King	Servant	Son of Man	Son of God
Genealogy	Son of David	None	Son of Adam	Eternal
Audience	Jews	Romans	Greeks	Universal
Emphasis	Sermons	Miracles	Parables	"I AM"

- A. Jesus' Qualifications as King (1-4)
- B. Sermon on the Mount: Who Can Enter the Kingdom? (5-7)**
- C. Miracles and Instruction (8-9)
- D. Instruction to the Twelve: Message for Israel (10)**
- E. Opposition: Israel's Rejection of Jesus (11-12)
- F. Parables of the Kingdom (13)**
- E'. Opposition: Israel's Rejection of Jesus (14-17)
- D'. Instruction to the Twelve: Message for Church (18)**
- C'. Miracles and Instruction (19-23)
- B'. Olivet Discourse: When Will the Kingdom Come? (24-25)**
- A'. Jesus' Qualifications as King (26-28)

THE IDENTITY OF THE KING (ch. 1-4)

- He is the Son of Abraham – the promised Seed.
- He is the Son of David – the prophesied King.
- He is the Son of Man – the perfect Man.
- He is the Son of God – the omnipotent Lord.

THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF THE KINGDOM (ch. 5-7)

The King has arrived and His kingdom has come near. But what does it take to qualify for the righteousness of the messianic kingdom?

Poor in Spirit	<i>I see my own sin</i>	Merciful
Mourn	<i>I am broken over my sin</i>	Pure in Heart
Meek	<i>I have yielded my will to God</i>	Peacemakers
Hunger & Thirst	<i>I seek God's righteousness alone</i>	Persecuted

During the first three centuries of the church, Matthew was the most highly revered and frequently quoted canonical Gospel.

—D. A. Carson

According to the unanimous testimony of the early church, Matthew was the first gospel written. The church father Eusebius places the date of the gospel of Matthew in AD 41.

—Don Stewart

The Gospel of Matthew revolves around the coming of the King to Israel. The atmosphere surrounds the book from the early question of the wise men, "Where is he that is born King of the Jews?" to the final answer upon the superscription of the cross, "This is Jesus the King of the Jews" (2:2, 22:37).

—S. Lewis Johnson

Kingdom of heaven is used 32x in the NT, only in Matthew. The emphasis of the word *kingdom* (Grk, *basileia*) is on the one who reigns. Thus, it refers to heaven's reign on earth (cf. Dan. 2:44; 7:13-14).

It will be found that this Sermon returns again and again to one main idea: That of awakening men to a sense of their wretchedness, and shutting them up to the righteousness of God. —A.W. Pink

THE POWER & AUTHORITY OF THE KING (ch. 8-10)

As Israel's King, Jesus' life repeats and completes the history of Israel.

- **Exodus:** Jesus is called out of Egypt (ch. 2)
- **Red Sea:** Jesus goes through the waters of baptism (ch. 3)
- **Wilderness:** Jesus is tempted in the wilderness (ch. 4)
- **Sinai:** Jesus pronounces the law of God (ch. 5-7)
- **Miracles:** Jesus performs ten signs (ch. 8-9; cf. Num. 14:22)
- **Twelve Spies:** Jesus sends out His twelve disciples (ch. 10)

THE REJECTION OF THE KING (ch. 11-12, 14-17)

The kingdom is offered to the nation of Israel but they increasingly reject the King and His kingdom. He is not the King they wanted. Jesus refused to dance to their tune and they refused to repent. Instead, it is the Gentiles who are the most receptive to the King.

THE POSTPONEMENT OF THE KINGDOM (ch. 13)

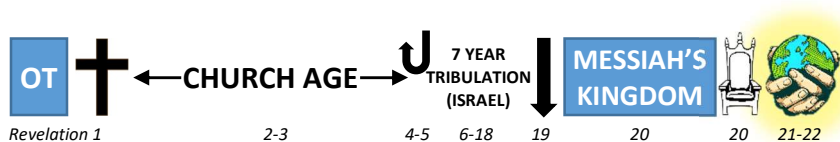
Israel's rejection of the kingdom marks a shift in Jesus' ministry and message. Using parables, Jesus reveals the *mysteries of the kingdom of heaven* (13:11). Heaven's reign will not be a sudden in-breaking on earth but rather it would be evident in the lives of those who receive the King and become kingdom citizens. This is the church age.

THE POWER & AUTHORITY OF THE KING (ch. 18-23)

Jesus trains His disciples on how they are to live in the church age. Jesus enters Jerusalem as King but the opposition against Him grows.

THE FUTURE COMING OF THE KINGDOM (ch. 24-25)

In 24:4-31, Jesus describes *how* the world will end. In 24:32-25:30, Jesus answers *when* the world will end—*no one knows except God* (24:36). Instead of setting dates, Jesus uses seven parables to teach His disciples how to live in light of His imminent return.



THE VICTORY OF THE KING (ch. 26-28)

- He is the Suffering Servant.
- He is the Passover Lamb.
- He is the Resurrected Lord!
- He is the coming King!

Matthew...saw Jesus as the One who actualizes and completes all that God intended for the nation.

—Tracy L. Howard

The ancient rabbis designated three miracles as “messianic miracles” that only the Messiah could perform: 1) healing a leper, 2) healing one born blind, and 3) casting out a mute demon. Jesus performed all three yet the Pharisees refused to believe.

What the OT had not revealed was that an entire age would intervene between the offer of the kingdom by the Messiah and Israel's reception of the King and enjoyment of full kingdom blessings.

—J. Dwight Pentecost

Mystery. Greek, *mysterion*, “a hidden or secret thing.” Biblically it refers to that which was hidden in the OT but is fully revealed in the New (cf. Rom. 11:25; 16:25-26; 1 Cor. 2:7-8; 15:51-54; Eph. 3:1-13; Col. 1:25-26; 1 Tim. 3:16)

The idea that the coming of the Messiah will be preceded by greatly increased suffering is entrenched in Jewish thought. These “birth pangs” will last seven years and then the Messiah will come.

—Raphael Patai

The key to faith is looking to Jesus.

—Adrian Rogers

*Look around and be distressed.
Look inside and be depressed.
Look at Jesus and be at rest.*

—Corrie ten Boom

Upon a life I did not live, upon a death I did not die, I risk my whole eternity on the resurrection.

—Charles H. Spurgeon