

# BOOK OF MATTHEW INTRO:

## Introduction:

1. Most of Christendom's denominations and churches often assume that Matthew-John are New Testament books. They say the O.T. begins with Genesis and ends with Malachi and that the N.T. begins with Matthew and ends with Revelation.

- a. Actually: Hebrews 8:8-9, 9:16-17 - [For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah: Heb. 8:9 Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord. Heb. 9:16 For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. Heb. 9:17 For a testament *is* of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth.]

This was fulfilled in Matthew 27 - Mark 15 - Luke 23 - John 19.

Matthew 26:26-29 - [And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed *it*, and brake *it*, and gave *it* to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. Matt. 26:27 And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave *it* to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; Matt. 26:28 For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. Matt. 26:29 But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.]

- b. \*\*Now simply apply the reasoning of Hebrews 9:16-17 with Matthew 26:26-29. Jesus died near the end of each of the four gospels. So, according to this truth, the New Testament could not have begun until at least after Calvary!

\*\*In other words, Matthew through John are O.T. books that continue God's dealings with Israel.

\* However, we use the terms O.T. and N.T. the same as most do today, as an accommodation in  
\* order to not be confusing.

2. Matthew has 28 chapters, 1071 verses, and 23,684 words. The date it was written was 37 A.D., just prior to Saul's conversion. Matthew is a transition book, as are Acts and Hebrews.

- A. Question? Why are there four accounts on the earthly ministry of Christ?

Answer: You get four different exposures and views of the Person and ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ.

1. Example:

- a. Matthew presents Christ as King.
- b. Mark presents Christ as Servant.
- c. Luke presents Christ as Man.
- d. John presents Christ as God.

\*\*All are aspects of Christ-Messiah that were presented and prophesied in the O.T.

2. Interestingly, around the throne of God are four living creatures (4 cherubims) and they have four faces of God. Their faces picture the account of how Christ was presented in the Four Gospels.
  - a. Lion - king of the beasts - Matthew
  - b. Ox - Servant - Mark
  - c. Man - Man - Luke
  - d. Eagle - Soaring in heaven...God Himself - John
  
3. \*\*These four things were what Israel looked for in her Messiah. Four times in the O.T. God said to Israel, "Behold thy Messiah", and He did it a little differently each time.
  - a. Behold thy King - Matthew - Zechariah 9:9 - [Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he *is* just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.]
  - b. Behold thy Servant - Mark - Isaiah 42:1 - [Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, *in whom* my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles.]
  - c. Behold the Man - Luke - Zechariah 6:12-13 - [And speak unto him, saying, Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, Behold the man whose name *is* The BRANCH; and he shall grow up out of his place, and he shall build the temple of the LORD: Zech. 6:13 Even he shall build the temple of the LORD; and he shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule upon his throne; and he shall be a priest upon his throne: and the counsel of peace shall be between them both.]
  - d. Behold your God - John - Isaiah 40:9 - O Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, that bringest good tidings, lift up thy voice with strength; lift *it* up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God!
  
4. Four times in the O.T., Messiah is called the Branch. Each time it corresponds to one of the Four Gospels.
  - a. Matthew - King - Jeremiah 23:5 - [Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth.]
  - b. Mark - Servant - Zechariah 3:8 - [Hear now, O Joshua the high priest, thou, and thy fellows that sit before thee: for they *are* men wondered at: for, behold, I will bring forth my servant the BRANCH.]
  - c. Luke - Man - Zechariah 6:12 - [And speak unto him, saying, Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, Behold the man whose name is The BRANCH; and he shall grow up out of his place, and he shall build the temple of the LORD:]
  - d. John - God - Isaiah 4:2 - [In that day shall the branch of the LORD be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the earth *shall be* excellent and comely for them that are escaped of Israel.]
  
- B. \*\*God's Word is the most fascinating book you will ever discover. If God can put together all these corresponding details, He won't have any problem helping us with the details of our lives!

1. \*Matthew 1 gives us the genealogy of Christ back to Abraham (**land**) and David (**throne**). The only other recorded genealogy of Christ in the Gospels is found in Luke, which goes back to Adam the first man. Luke presents Christ as a man...the 2nd Adam.
  2. Note: Matthew 1:1, 6 & 2:1-2 - [The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Matt. 1:6 And Jesse begat David the king; and David the king begat Solomon of her *that had been the wife* of Urias; Matt. 2:1 Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, Matt. 2:2 Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.]
- C. \*The issue in Matthew is: "Where is the king?" Matthew mentions the kingdom of heaven **32** times.
1. Matthew gives the parables of the kingdom.
  2. Matthew, in the "Sermon on the Mount", gives the regulations and lifestyles that are required when living in the kingdom (their **constitution**).
  3. Matthew reveals Christ's kingdom **glory** on the "Mount of Transfiguration".
  4. Matthew confirms that the Messianic Church will be built upon **Him** and Who He is.
- D. These Four Gospels all fit together to make Him one great Person!
1. Matthew - He will be King of the **kingdom**.  
Mark - He, as a servant, shows what He can **do**.  
Luke - He is the "Son of man" so He can identify in humanity with **us**.  
John - He is God, always existing, **never** tempted with **sin**.
  2. Matthew - tax collector for the king (under Roman rule)  
Mark - a servant, who eventually helped Paul  
Luke - the beloved physician who helped humans (mankind)  
John - the one who saw the divine side of Messiah
  3. **\*\*Of course in none of the Four Gospels, though wonderful, do we find anything about the Mystery Program or the Gospel of Grace. That does not take place until later, after Christ's resurrection, His ascension and Israel's final rejection of Messiah with the stoning of Stephen (Acts 7). Then in Acts **9**, God raised up **Paul** and revealed the Mystery to him for us today.**
- E. Many think the **red** letters are more inspired than the rest of scripture. II Timothy 3:16 states that "**All** scripture is given by inspiration of **God**"!
1. Red-letter Christians will always end up in a ditch! \*You can read the red letters of the Four Gospels and never hear the **true** gospel for today. Also, you would not please God in your walk because you would be living under law-kingdom instructions!

2. The red letters are about Christ's earthly ministry and His earthly message under law to the nation of Israel. They are not to us in the Body.

F. The goal of prophecy is to bring to pass the fulfillment of the promises God made to Israel and her fathers. Christ's ministry to the nation of Israel was exclusive. The reason for this was God's promise and His covenant with Abraham. Only through the rise of Israel could the Gentiles receive the blessings of God. It is Christ, the throne, the kingdom, and then blessings to the Gentile world.

\*Paul explained in Romans 15:8-12 - [ Now I say that Jesus Christ was a minister of the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises *made* unto the fathers: Rom. 15:9 And that the Gentiles might glorify God for *his* mercy; as it is written, For this cause I will confess to thee among the Gentiles, and sing unto thy name. Rom. 15:10 And again he saith, Rejoice, ye Gentiles, with his people. Rom. 15:11 And again, Praise the Lord, all ye Gentiles; and laud him, all ye people. Rom. 15:12 And again, Esaias saith, There shall be a root of Jesse, and he that shall rise to reign over the Gentiles; in him shall the Gentiles trust.]

1. God's prophetic program to the Jews has always included the nations. Gentile global salvation will be in the Kingdom. Remember [God so loved the world]. So the reason Christ's ministry is exclusively to the Jews in the Gospels' account is because in prophecy, through the covenants of promise, it is through the channel of the nation of Israel that the nations of Gentiles are to be saved.

2. The real goal of Christ's earthly ministry to Israel was for her to accept Him as the prophesied Messiah. God's heartbeat was [In thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed].

**\*\*So Christ's exclusive ministry to only Israel was not because He didn't care for the Gentiles, but to the contrary! However, we know now that because of Israel's sin and unbelief, Israel could not be the channel of blessings, yet!**

G.

Matthew:

1. Matthew 9:9 - And as Jesus passed forth from thence, he saw a man, named Matthew, sitting at the receipt of custom: and he saith unto him, Follow me. And he arose, and followed him.

a. Matthew was a government servant, a tax collector of tribute and tolls. He was part of that despised and hated group in Israel who had joined hands with the Roman Gentiles to serve.

**\*\*Matthew had left the distinctiveness of his nation by going over to the enemy (dogs).**

b. Matthew actually had become an accountant. Each day he would sit by his table on the side of the main highway, where each caravan had to stop and pay taxes-dues. No doubt, he had to keep an accurate account for the Romans and king. There were goals and anything collected above went into the pocket of the tax collector. When the governor or officials came to examine the records, they had to be right!

2. But: Matthew 10:2-3, 5 - Now the names of the twelve apostles are these; The first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James *the son* of Zebedee, and John his brother; Matt. 10:3 Philip, and Bartholomew; Thomas, and Matthew the publican; James *the son* of Alphaeus, and Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus; Matt. 10:5 These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not:

- a. \*\*Matthew is a good example of an Israelite being shoved **away** by the religious rulers' system that had control. But Christ calls Matthew out to follow Him and help to start spreading Messiah's truths to Israel - the Little Flock as the **new** nation of Israel.
- b. Matthew 21:43 - Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof.

Luke 12:32 - Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

Matthew 19:28 - And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.