

## Sunday School Lesson

### The Book of Matthew

**Author:** Matthew (also call Levi), one of the 12 apostles, (**Mark 2:14**) undoubtedly a Jew who was a Roman tax collector (**Matthew 10:3**). When called by Jesus, he left all and followed Him (**Luke 5:27- 28**). He made a great feast for Christ, who attended it despite the fact that the tax collectors belonged to a despised class, **Luke 5:29-30**.

**Date Written:** about 60 A.D.

**Purpose:** To show that Jesus of Nazareth was the kingly Messiah of Jewish prophecy.

**To Whom Written:** Address primarily to the Jews. This view is confirmed by the fact that there are about 60 references to the Jewish prophecies in about 40 quotations from the Old Testament. Christ's mission to the Jews is especially emphasized (**Matthew 10:5-6; 15:24**)

**Main theme:** Jesus is God's promised, anointed Messiah, the King of the Jews!

**Keywords:** "Fulfilled," which is repeated frequently to indicate that the Old Testament prophecies were fulfilled in Christ. "Kingdom," which appears 50 times. "Kingdom of heaven," 30 times. The "King, Jesus as" (**Matthew 2:2; 21:5; 25:34; 27:11, 37, 42**)

#### **Outline:**

**I. Jesus, Kingly in Birth (Matthew 1-3)**

**II. Jesus Kingly in Teaching (Matthew 4-7;11-13;16, 18 – 20:28; 21- 25)**

**III. Jesus Kingly in Power (Matthew 8-10; 14 and 15; 17, 20:29 to chapter 21)**

**IV. Jesus Kingly in Death (Matthew 26 – 28)**

**Prominent People:** Jesus, Mary, Joseph, John the Baptist, the Disciples, Jewish religious leaders, Pilate

**Introduction:** There was about a 400-year absence of the writings of the word of God between Malachi, the last book of the Old Testament, and the books of the Gospels (Matthew Mark Luke and John). The four Gospels give us four views of the ministry, and to some extent, the life of Jesus. Not too much is recorded about Jesus' life before the beginning of this ministry. The book of Matthew records the most about Jesus' life before his ministry. Matthew's view of Jesus is unique. Matthew, the man was a publican or tax collector. He was a Jewish man that was placed by the Romans into that position. The people generally hated these men; because they took advantage of the people, stealing their money. God used this man to pen the Gospel that most ties Jesus to the Messianic prophecies. The Old Testament is quoted more in Matthew than any other Gospel. Matthew's view of Jesus was that of the king of the Jews.

Matthew, Mark and Luke were all, most likely, written about the same timeframe, about 40 A.D. The Gospel of John was, most likely, written between 60-80 AD. Being written about the same time, it is interesting that, as the Bible was organized, the book of Matthew is nearest the Old Testament. God used this Jewish man, who had been employed by the Romans and knew something of the recordkeeping and organizing, to pen the introduction to Jesus. Seemingly, he was attempting to convince the Jews that Jesus fit the criteria of the Messiah. God's chosen people had rejected Jesus both in life and in death; yet, He seemed to be using Matthew's Gospel to reach out to the Jews to show them that He truly was the Messiah they sought. As we take a quick overview of the book of Matthew, we will see how Jesus truly was a king in every sense of the word.

### **I. Jesus, Kingly in Birth (Matthew 1-3)**

As king of the Jews, His lineage must be recorded through both David and Abraham – Abraham, being the father of the Jews and David, being the king for whom God promised to bring the Messiah. Many aspects of the king are depicted in Matthew. Jesus was presented in a royal light through Matthew. It began through His lineage, carried through his birth, followed shortly by the appearance of the wise men searching for the king. Those wise men initially went to King Herod but soon found the error of their way and went, following a star, to where Jesus was in order to present their gifts, fit for a king. All kings have a person who cries out, announcing their coming - Jesus was no different. His cousin John the Baptist was used by God to proclaim the arrival of the Messiah. John found out Who Jesus was when he baptized Him and the Holy Ghost descended on Him as God, the Father, spoke of His Son's arrival. Jesus was truly King in birth and presentation.

### **II. Jesus - Kingly in teaching (Matthew 4-7; 11-13;16, 18 – 20:28; 21- 25)**

According to Matthew 7:28, Jesus, "Taught them as One having authority and not as the scribes." This can be seen in the recorded discourse in the book of Matthew. He taught the disciples about relationships, in the Sermon on the Mount; and then He addressed the religious crowd of the day who they were making a mockery of the Levitical Laws. He then spoke to the people in a long series of parables in hopes that the "common man" would learn and understand His Doctrines. He finalized the teaching phase of His ministry by speaking to the world-to-come with His return to claim His church and signs of the end-of-the-age. Jesus took the role of Teacher as a King would, pronouncing the truths He expounded with poise and conviction - so much so, that people gathered just to hear Him teach

### **III. Jesus, Kingly in Power (Matthew 8-10; 14 and 15; 17, 20:29 to chapter 21)**

Jesus came, also, with amazing powers! The demonstrations of power over the elements, sickness and death were all simply a way to prove to those around that He truly was the King of power. He, then, commissioned his disciples to go preach to the nation of Israel, His Kingdom. He healed many others and fed the multitudes at two different times. He even walked on the water to prove to His disciples that He was more than they could imagine and worthy of

obedience. The disciples saw Jesus take on a heavenly form, as He was transfigured before their eyes. Before all was said and done, Jesus boldly entered the Temple and cleaned out the moneychangers - those who sought to pervert His Father's house and procedures. Throughout this book, we can see Jesus behaving as a King would have behaved in might, power and conviction

#### **IV. Jesus, Kingly in Death (Matthew 26 – 28)**

Jesus knew that the time was approaching for Him to sacrifice Himself. He boldly, as a King ready to sacrifice all for His people, went toward the place of His demise! En route, Mary anointed him in anticipation of His death. He observed His last Passover and introduced the first Lord's Supper. He prayed in agony to His Father and Gethsemane and willingly allowed himself to be taken, falsely accused and even crucified for the ones over Whom He ruled. John 10:8 says that Jesus laid his life down, Himself. What a powerful King to be able to lay His Own life down and take it back again! How he did it, we cannot understand; but he did, and we need only to believe it to be saved.

#### **Conclusion:**

The Book of Matthew would take a lifetime to study completely. It contains so much that can teach us! One thing we can see through Matthew's Gospel, that Jesus truly is the Christ or Messiah that the Jews were seeking. If only they would have looked! If only all would look!!!