

Behold King Jesus!

Matthew; Zechariah 9:9 - NCBC, February 10, 2019

Main Point: **Matthew reveals Jesus as King in fulfillment of God's promises.**

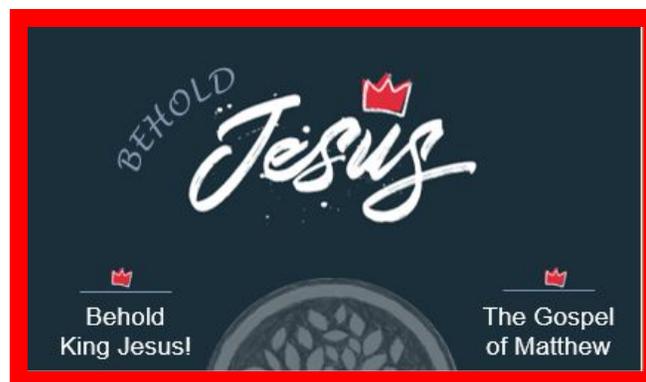
- Matthew's Background
 - King Jesus can answer your prayers (Mk 2:14-17; Heb 4:16)
 - King Jesus can bring life through His words (8:10-13)
 - King Jesus can grant you faith (16:16-17)
 - King Jesus can deliver you from sin (1:21; 9:6-9)
 - King Jesus can make you new (9:9; 10:3)
- Matthew's Themes
 - King Jesus is the all-sovereign Son of David (1:1; 15:22; 21:9; 2 Sam 7:16)
 - King Jesus is the all-saving Son of Abraham (1:1; 28:19; Gen 12:3)
 - King Jesus is the all-supreme Son of Man (9:6; 12:8; 25:31; Dan 7:13)
 - King Jesus is the all-present Son of God (1:23; 16:16; 27:54; 28:20; Is 7:14)

Application: **Behold King Jesus & Rejoice!**

Opening Announcements:

- Deer Fry March 9th – 6pm - All outdoors people invited! Great opportunity to introduce unsaved friends to gospel. Pray!
- Pray for a group of 25+ NCBC members leaving today for weeklong Biblical Counseling Training Conference in IN.

<<Yet Not I but Through Christ in Me>>



Our glorious Christ is the object of our worship. May we become more satisfied and joyful in Him through our continued worship of Him together.

We continue our worship now by opening our Bibles to the gospel of **Matthew**. Today we begin a brand new sermon series called “Behold King Jesus” from the Gospel of **Matthew**.



If you don't have a Bible today, simply raise your hand. The men are coming with Bibles to give away, as we

desire for everyone to have their own personal copy of God's Word to read today and every day.



Thank you for your continued prayers for our ongoing search for two new pastors here for our church.

I'm excited to announce that next Sunday a candidate for our Associate Pastor of Music and Worship will be here, leading our worship in music for both services. **Brian Joines** is currently being considered by our elders to join our pastoral staff – yet part of our evaluation is to see how he does leading all of us in worship together.

So next week, please welcome **Brian and his wife Anna Joines** with your prayers, New Castle hospitality, and full-throated singing! When candidates like Brian visit our church family, they are evaluating us just as much as we are evaluating them, as we all want God's will to be done in these important hires. We understand none of us are smart enough to know who to hire for these pastoral positions...so as our elders now enter into this more public phase of observing candidates lead us on Sundays, please let's keep praying for God's will to be

done. And regardless of whether God eventually calls these men to join our family or not, let's love them well and encourage them through the process – for every candidate that our elders invite to lead music or preach is our joyful Gospel partner with us.

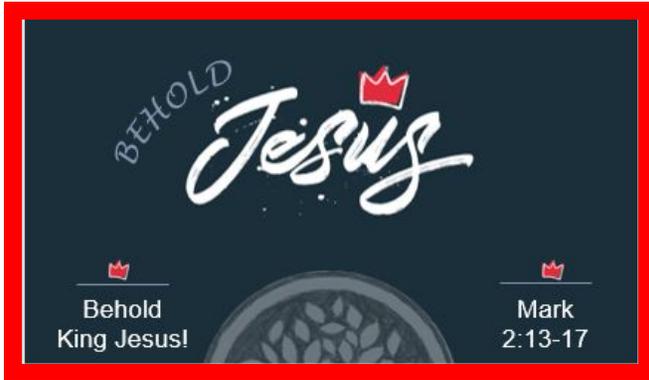


Now this morning we start out on a thrilling journey through the Gospel according to **Matthew**. My aim this morning is to preach the entire book in one sermon – to give an 30,000 foot overview of the major themes and background of this book, arguing that **Matthew reveals Jesus as King in fulfillment of God's promises.**

So for our Scripture reading, I'm going to throw a bit of a curve-ball at us this morning. Don't worry ... I'm not going to read the entire 28 chapters right now!

I could read **Zechariah 9:9** – printed on the front of our worship folder this morning – which quite possibly is the single verse in all of Scripture which best summarizes the message of **Matthew's** gospel.

But instead, I've chosen to start our study of **Matthew** with a public Scripture reading from **Mark chapter 2**.



In **Mark chapter 2, verses 13-17** we find the most detailed account of Levi's conversion. Levi, also called Matthew, is the person God used to write the Gospel according to **Matthew**. And a proper understanding of Matthew's background will help us rightly understand his gospel.

Please stand in honor of the public reading of God's Word as I read **Mark 2:13-17** from the **ESV** translation:

¹³ [Jesus] went out again beside the sea, and all the crowd was coming to him, and he was teaching them. ¹⁴ And as he passed by, he saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he rose and followed him.

¹⁵ And as he reclined at table in his house, many tax collectors and sinners were reclining with Jesus and his disciples, for there were many who followed him. ¹⁶ And the scribes of the Pharisees, when they saw that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors, said to his

disciples, "Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?" ¹⁷ And when Jesus heard it, he said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."

Thus reads God's Word. You may be seated.

Let's Pray.

I'd like to set the stage for,



Matthew's Background by introducing you to a faithful Jewish man named Alphaeus. **Mark 2:14** tells us that Alphaeus had a son whom he named Levi,¹ likely affirming his appreciation for God's priestly tribe.

¹ Mark 2:14. It is possible that Levi was a brother to James the lesser as well? (Matthew 10:3). However since Alphaeus was a common Jewish name in Jesus' time, this claim remains unproven and seems unlikely since other brother pairs (Peter and Andrew, James and John) are explicitly noted in the list of the 12 apostles (Matthew 10:1-4).

We can assume that Alphaeus and his wife raised their son Levi to know the Hebrew Scriptures. Like all the rest of the Jewish boys attending the Capernaum synagogue on the northern shore of the Sea of Galilee, Levi was taught to fear God, to know the Scriptures, and to hope for the promised Messiah.

But today, as I you to meet Alphaeus, his heart is breaking. For his son Levi is grown now – only to have broken his parents’ hearts. Yes Alphaeus and his wife still believe in God – there’s not a day that goes by that they don’t pray for their son’s salvation – and yet it seems that all their training and hopes for Levi were for nothing.

You see – after Levi received a good education – learning to speak fluently in Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek – Levi turned his back on his dad and his Jewish upbringing. It’s difficult for Alphaeus to even understand exactly how it happened – but Levi started hanging with the wrong crowd, he became very materialistic, and then brought shame on his entire family when he purchased the rights to be a tax-collector for the Romans on the highway outside of their town!

Alphaeus would never again have the respect of his Jewish kinsman. He had raised a traitor to God’s people!

Of course you need to understand – for Levi to be a tax-collector was not the same as someone who works for the IRS today. No...this would be like your own son going off and becoming a mob boss in a greedy pyramid of organized crime. Every day your son now makes the lives of all your neighbors and friends more difficult through his greedy extortion!

Publicans,² or tax collectors like Levi operated with the full authority of the Roman military, so Levi could stop every traveler on the road, and force them to open every package in their possession, and assess whatever taxes or tolls or customs fees that he desired. The way the system worked was that the tax collector was responsible to pay Rome a certain amount, and then keep whatever else he could collect for himself.³

There was no way to hide it. Levi had become a licensed robber. An enemy to the Jewish people, in public league with Rome – oppressing God’s people in their own land.

Can you imagine the pain that Alphaeus must have lived with? His own son – sure he had a big house across town – but he was a crook! A thief! A traitor! His own son – Levi ...that Alphaeus had once prayed could be a priest – was now a public enemy of God! Tax collectors were banned from even attending synagogue! Righteous people never associated with tax collectors. In fact, Alphaeus himself was often cursed by neighbors after they had been gouged by his son in the tax booth.

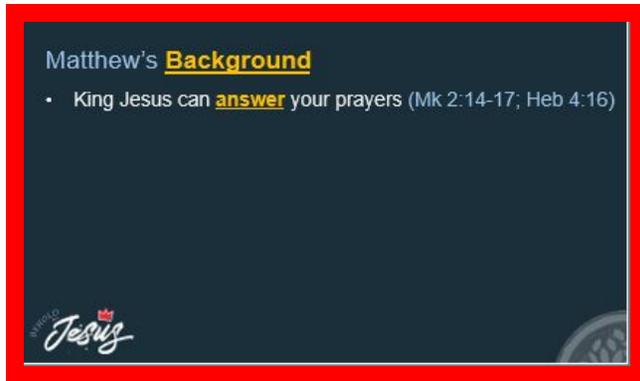
I believe some of you here this morning understand the emotions Alphaeus must have felt. For you too have a prodigal child. Your child, like Levi, causes you much pain, shame, and fear. And it seems there’s little hope – your child seems to have effectively insulated themselves from all righteous influence. You’re not aware of anyone

² From the Latin, “public servants” c.f. https://www.bible-history.com/links.php?cat=39&sub=430&cat_name=Managers+%26+Customs&subcat_name=Tax+Collectors

³ C.f. Luke 3:12-14

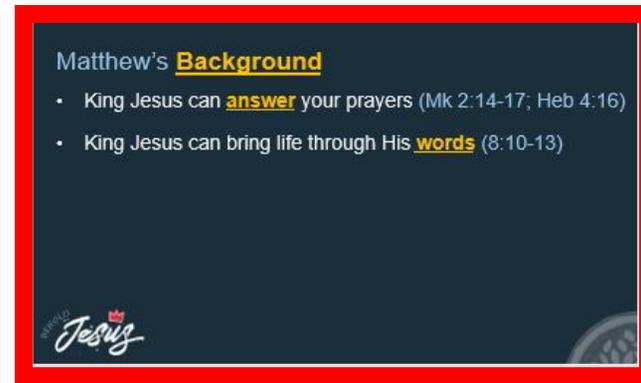
who is speaking biblical wisdom into your child's life anymore.

Dear parent of a prodigal child, learn from Matthew's background that,



King Jesus can answer your prayers.

When you think that all hope is lost, God can make a way. Where there is life, there is hope for salvation! Join the prayer chorus of Alphaeus and his wife who prayed faithfully for God's merciful salvation to be accomplished in their child's life! For what we learn from Levi's story is that,



King Jesus can bring life through His words

All those gospel seeds of Scripture that you planted in your child's heart while you were raising them in your home have power to convict of sin, and lead to repentance in the appointed time.

Parents – in all your efforts to educate your children – prioritize their instruction in God's Word. Hide God's Word in their hearts with songs, Scripture memory, object lessons, and prayers.

For at some point in Levi's life – as his licensed robbery was making him filthy rich, a sense of emptiness must have started to gnaw on his soul. As much as he tried to suppress these feelings, he just couldn't shake the thought that there had to be more to life than this.

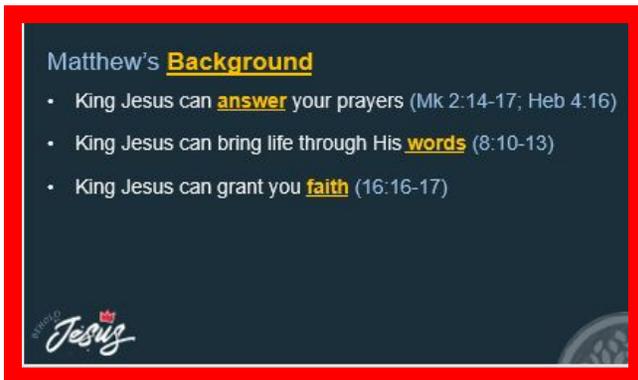
Along the busy trade route he must have started to hear stories about people being healed from all kinds of diseases and demons. Maybe he started to listen to all the rumors about the new miracle-worker in Galilee? Something drove Levi to start considering the Hebrew Scriptures for himself again. Were they really true? Was

God really going to send an Anointed One – Christ the Messiah – to deliver His people from the Romans?

We can assume Levi began to privately study the Hebrew Scriptures for himself at some point – for by the time he writes his Gospel, he quotes from the Old Testament Scriptures far more than all of the other three gospels combined!⁴ But remember, tax collectors were banned from the synagogue. When he purchased his tax booth, he had forfeited his spiritual birthright.

So on his own now, Levi started to recall the Scriptures he was taught as a boy. It must have been like a flood of memories. We don't know how much time passed,⁵ but we do know that faith comes by hearing Scripture,⁵ and at some unknown hour Levi's posture towards the Hebrew Scriptures must have changed.

Matthew's background teaches us that,



⁴ Matthew contains perhaps as many as 120+ quotes or allusions to Old Testament Scriptures.

⁵ Romans 10:17

King Jesus can grant you faith.

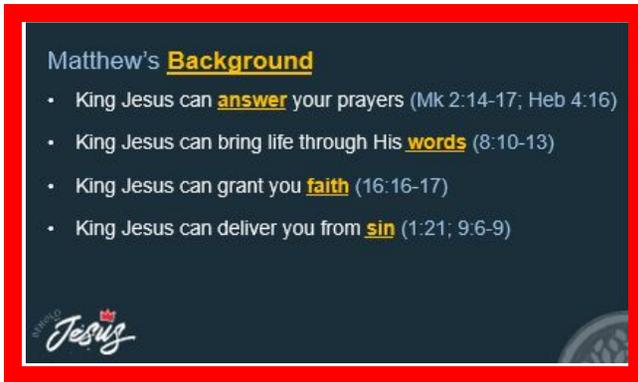
No amount of parental influence or environmental conditioning can ultimately cause a child to believe on Christ, and repent of their sins. Flesh and blood doesn't reveal the truth of the Gospel – but God Himself who is in heaven.⁶

Matthew's background teaches us that at some point King Jesus had answered distraught parents' prayers, convicted and convinced a prodigal son of the truthfulness of the Scriptures, and granted him faith that Jesus was the promised Messiah since, **Mark 2:14** simply says that while Jesus was passing by, *He saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he rose and followed him.*

This is the miraculous obedience of faith! All of those sleepless nights where Levi was trying to figure a way out of the mess he had gotten himself into... how could he ever start over in life after all that he had done and become...

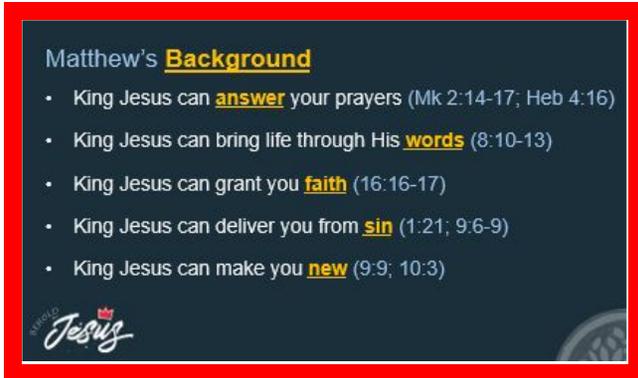
Jesus' commands bring life!! Loved ones, Matthew's background teaches us that,

⁶ Matthew 16:17



King Jesus can really deliver you from sin

From that point on, Jesus referred to Levi the tax collector as Matthew, meaning “Gift from God.” In other words,



King Jesus can make you new, and give you an entirely new identity! He took a depraved crime boss – the one society most despised – and made him into one of His 12 apostles!

Behold King Jesus! Learn from Matthew’s background that God calls the weak and the undeserving to be His

servants.⁷ Read this gospel afresh from Matthew’s perspective. Note his humility as he only refers to himself twice in the entire book,⁸ and yet commonly mentions tax-collectors as sinners.⁹

The wonder of King Jesus cannot be disputed! Jesus came to save us from our sins – to grant life in exchange for our death! Will you join Levi – and get up from your tax booth of sin – and follow Jesus as King?

Matthew reveals Jesus as King in fulfillment of God’s promises. Read the gospel of **Matthew**, and believe in King Jesus! You were created to know Him!

Now Matthew’s background helps us better understand,



the major Themes in his gospel.

Perhaps it would be helpful to start by noting the entire gospel outline from a high-level overview?

⁷ 1 Corinthians 1:26-31

⁸ Matthew 9:9; 10:3

⁹ Matthew 5:46; 9:10-11; 10:3; 11:19; 18:17; 21:31-32; c.f. 17:24-25, 22:17-19

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW				
1-3 Presentation of the King				
4-7 Proclamation of the King <i>Sermon on the Mount (5-7)</i>	8-10 Power of the King <i>Sending out the 12 Apostles (10)</i>	11-13 Rejection of the King <i>Kingdom Parables (13)</i>	14-20 Priorities of the King <i>Topsy-Turvy Values (18)</i>	21-25 Progress of the King <i>Olivet Discourse (24-25)</i>
Kingdom offered to Israel		Kingdom offered to all Nations		
26-28 Passion & Proof of the King				

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Sandwiched between opening and closing chapters, the gospel of **Matthew** is neatly divided into 5 sections. **Matthew** is not organized chronologically, but logically by topical themes. Each of these five sections provides narrative reports from Jesus' life ending with extended samples of His teaching. In fact, the end of each of these five sections are marked with the same Greek phrase, "when Jesus had finished these sayings."¹⁰

So, after the first 3 chapters **Present the King**, chapters **4-7** focus on

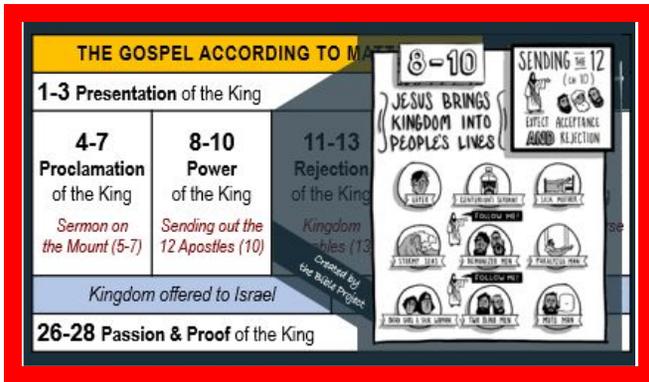
the **Proclamations of the King**.

Now on the back of your notes page this morning I recommend the *Bible Project videos*¹¹ for Matthew. I'd recommend taking 15 minutes today to watch these videos. I've included some of their work on the screen, and also provided handouts in the back, to help us quickly understand Matthew's outline.

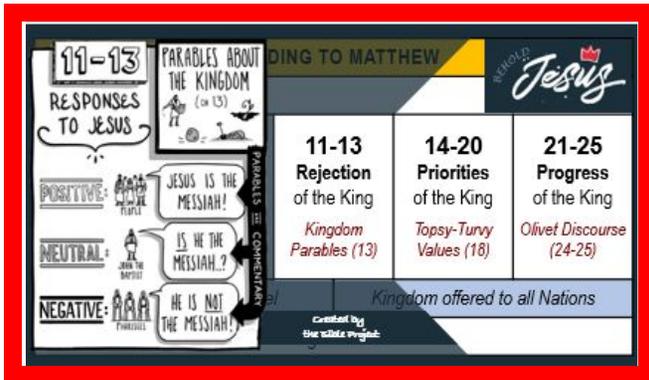
Chapters 4-7 announce that Jesus is even King over Satan, and then Jesus teaches how He has perfectly fulfilled the law so His subjects can live in His kingdom with the law written on their hearts.

¹⁰ Matthew 7:28; 11:1; 13:53; 19:1; and 26:1
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¹¹ <https://thebibleproject.com/explore/matthew/>



Chapters 8-10 focus on the **Power of the King**, concluding with Jesus commissioning the 12 apostles in **chapter 10**. In this section Matthew presents 9 miracles of Jesus in three groups of 3, commanding people to follow Him between each cluster of His miraculous demonstration of His Kingly authority.



Chapters 11-13 form the center pivot point of Matthew's gospel, illustrating the **Rejection of the King**. Will you believe Jesus is the promised Messiah, or like Israel's religious leaders will you reject Him? Up to **chapter 12**,

Jesus is offering his kingdom to the Jews. But after they reject Him in **chapter 12**, Jesus starts teaching in parables in **chapter 13**, and offers His kingdom to all nations! Tax-collectors and prostitutes from all nations are now invited to join the kingdom of heaven through faith in King Jesus!!



Chapters 14-20 then lay out the unexpected **Priorities of the King**. Jesus reveals He didn't come to defeat the pagan Romans like the Pharisees thought. Instead He came to suffer on our behalf. After teaching His topsy-turvy kingdom values in **chapter 18-20**,



The last major section, **chapters 21-25** focus on the **Progress of the King** via His triumphant entry into Jerusalem, condemnation of religious hypocrisy, and teaching about what to expect at the end of days in **chapters 24-25**.

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Kingdom offered to Israel			Kingdom offered to all Nations	
26-28 Passion & Proof of the King				

Chapters 26-28 conclude **Matthew** by presenting Jesus' final suffering and **proof that He is King over all** when He resurrects from the dead and commands His disciples to go multiply His followers among all the nations.

That's a jet-tour of Matthew's outline. Don't get overwhelmed with the detail. For now, just note 5 key sections – The Proclamation of the King, the Power of the King, the Rejection of the King, the Priorities of the King, and the Progress of the King. Each section containing the works and words of Jesus to prove Jesus as King and reveal His kingdom in fulfillment of the Old Testament promises.

Now let's look closer at Matthew's themes.

Matthew's **Themes**

- King Jesus is the all-sovereign Son of **David**

First Matthew is clear that **King Jesus is the all-sovereign Son of David** (1:1; 15:22; 21:9; 2 Sam 7:16)

For his Jewish audience, this theme is critical. Jesus comes from the line of David, and therefore is the fulfillment of the kingly promises given back to King David in the Davidic Covenant found in,

2 Samuel 7:16-17

16 And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever. 17 In accordance with all these words, and in accordance with all this vision, Nathan spoke to David.

2 Samuel chapter 7. In **2 Samuel 7 verse 16** God promised David through the prophet Nathan that,

Your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.

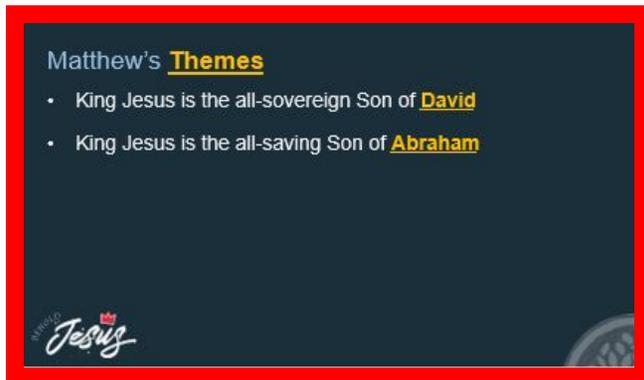
Only the son of David could fulfill God's Messianic promises. Therefore 9 times throughout this Gospel Matthew refers to Jesus as the "Son of David."¹²

Matthew doesn't hide this theme. In fact he starts his book with it. **Matthew 1:1** begins with the words,

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David.

This theme of Jesus as David's son is a strong witness to Jesus' majestic sovereignty and power. Behold King Jesus! Submit to Him dear friend. Jesus is the all-sovereign ruling Son of David. All authority has been given to Him. The scepter shall not depart from Judah.¹³ Jesus is the Son of David.

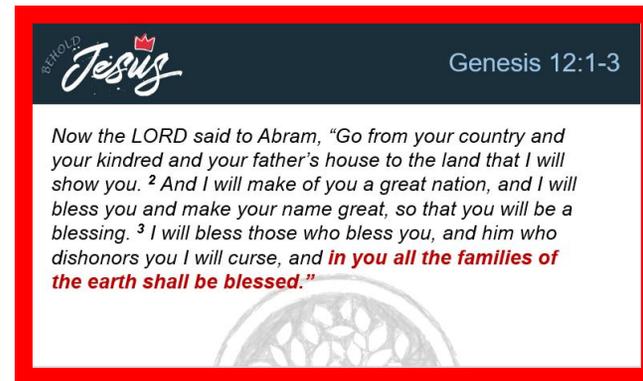
But you might notice how **Matthew 1:1** goes on to immediately add that,



¹² Matthew 1:1; 9:27; 12:23; 15:22; 20:30, 31; 21:9, 15; 22:42

¹³ Genesis 49:10

Jesus is *the son of Abraham*. **King Jesus is the all-saving Son of Abraham**. While revealing Jesus as the son of David emphasizes his Kingly right to rule the Jews, connecting Jesus as a son of Abraham emphasizes that it is through Jesus' kingdom that all the nations will receive salvation and blessing. For the Abrahamic covenant back in



Genesis 12 promised that,

In you – Abraham – all the families of the earth shall be blessed.

Not just the Jews.

Now think with me for a moment about how Matthew emphasizes these themes by how he starts and ends his gospel.

In **verse 1** of the book, Jesus is shown to be the Son of David to whom all authority has been given, and the Son of Abraham through whom all the nations will be blessed.

But in the last words of the last chapter, Jesus says,

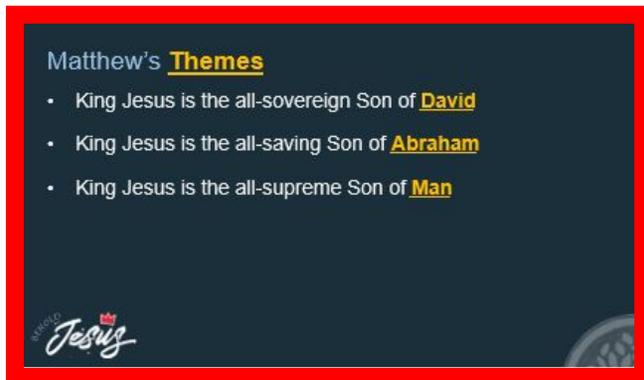
*All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.*¹⁴

Well that's because He's the son of David! And then Jesus says,

*Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...*¹⁵

And that's because He's the all-saving son of Abraham!

The ultimate fulfillment of the Davidic and Abrahamic covenants are only realized through faith in King Jesus! But Matthew doesn't *only* reveal Jesus as the Son of David and the Son of Abraham. 30 different times¹⁶ throughout his gospel Matthew references



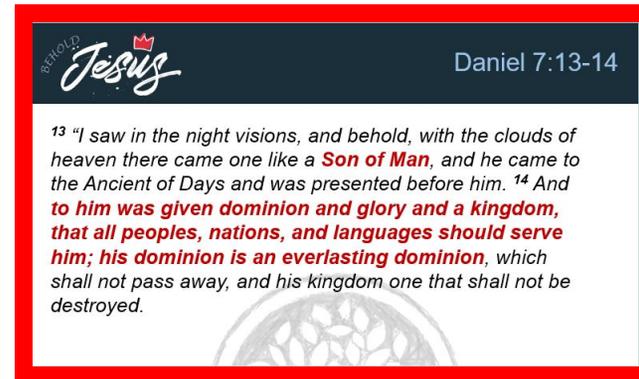
King Jesus as the all-supreme Son of Man.

¹⁴ Matthew 28:18

¹⁵ Matthew 28:19

¹⁶ Matthew 8:20; 9:6; 10:23; 11:19; 12:8, 32, 40; 13:37, 41; 16:13, 27, 28; 17:9, 12, 22; 19:28; 20:18, 28; 24:27, 30, 37, 39, 44; 25:31; 26:2, 24, 45, 64

Now please understand, for a Jew well acquainted with the Old Testament, Matthew's reference to the "Son of Man" immediately recalls,



God's promise from **Daniel chapter 7.**

For in **verse 13** Daniel saw,

one like a Son of Man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before Him. And to Him [the Son of Man] was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him; His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass way, and His kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.

Matthew wants to be crystal clear that Jesus is the all-supreme King of all people, nations, and languages for all time! Jesus is the fulfillment of God's long-awaited promises! Therefore look at Jesus – behold Him as King! No matter if you are despised by others, or feel like your past sins have you trapped with no way out – believe that Jesus' death and resurrection grants you welcome into His Kingdom!

And finally,



Matthew presents **King Jesus as the all-present Son of God.**

8 different times in his gospel account, others refer to Jesus as the Son of God.¹⁷ Interestingly this is how Satan and demons address Jesus. The religious leaders mock Jesus saying,

*If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.*¹⁸

So this theme of Jesus as the son of God effectively raises the question of how each of us will respond to Him. Will we join Peter in **Matthew 16**, and the centurion at the cross proclaiming with our life and lips that,

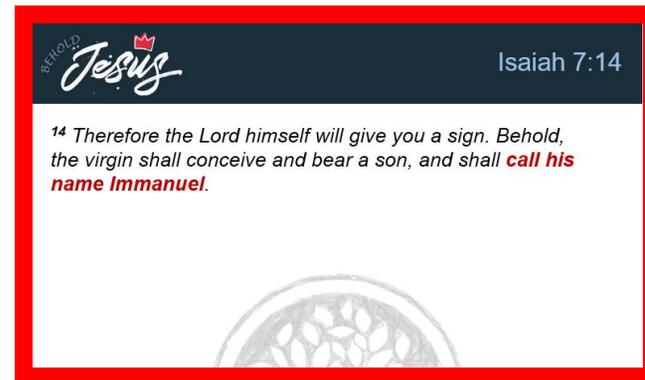
*Truly Jesus is the Son of the Living God?*¹⁹

¹⁷ Matthew 4:3, 6; 8:29; 14:33; 26:63; 27:40, 43; 54.

¹⁸ Matthew 27:40

¹⁹ Matthew 27:54

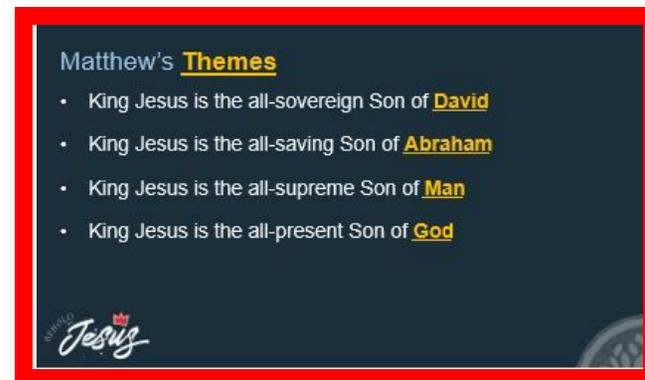
Matthew presents Jesus as the very Son of God Himself – right here among us. He was born of a virgin woman on earth, in fulfillment of



Isaiah 7:14, but God Himself was His father. So that even as **Matthew 1:23** says,

Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel (which means, God will us).

You see,



Matthew wants to emphasize that King Jesus is all-present with us. He is the very Son of God Himself. He is Immanuel. After all, what's the very last words of Jesus that Matthew records in this gospel?
And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

Immanuel! King Jesus is the all-sovereign Son of David, the all-saving Son of Abraham, the all-supreme Son of Man, and the all-present Son of God!



Matthew reveals Jesus as King in fulfillment of God's promises.

This is why I'm so excited to study Matthew's gospel with you this year. I desire for us to get a renewed vision of who Jesus really is... and then to,



Behold King Jesus & Rejoice!

Take an honest look at Matthew's eye-witness account. Examine the works and words of Jesus for yourself. See how He fulfills all the Old Testament promises of God!

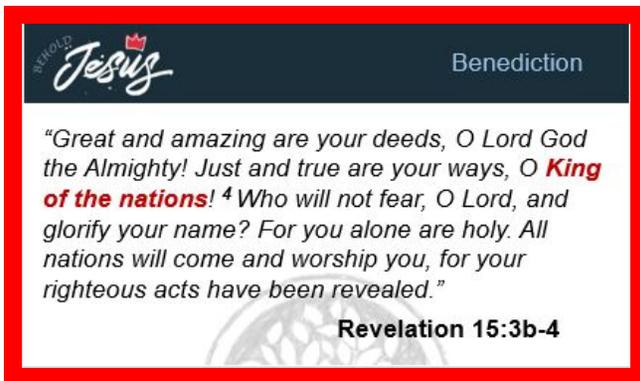
And then rejoice that no matter who you are, or where you've been, or how far you've fallen – like Levi the crime boss – there's a welcome of joy and rejoicing for you in the kingdom of heaven! Come joyfully receive salvation through faith in Jesus Christ! Turn from your sins, be baptized, and go tell all the nations everything God has commanded you! For Jesus is King – all authority has been given to Him – and behold – He is with us always – even to the end of the age!



Let's pray.

<<Crown Him with many Crowns>>

Let's pray our benediction together as we dismiss.



Great and amazing are your deeds, O Lord God the Almighty! Just and true are your ways, O King of the nations! 4 Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship you, for your righteous acts have been revealed.
Revelation 15:3b-4

Recommended Resources on The Gospel of Matthew:

- <https://thebibleproject.com/explore/matthew/>
- <https://www.gty.org/library/bible-introductions/MSB40/matthew>
- <https://www.gotquestions.org/Matthew-in-the-Bible.html>
- <http://sljinstitute.net/category/gospels/gospel-of-matthew/>

- *Commentary on the Gospel of Matthew*, ACNT, Broadus
- *Exposition of the Gospel Acc. to Matthew*, NTC, Hendriksen
- *The Gospel Acc to Matthew*, PNTC, Morris
- *Matthew*, NAC, Blomberg
- *Matthew*, MNTC, MacArthur

Growing Deeper: Life Group Questions

1. Watch the Bible Project overview videos of Matthew's Gospel referenced above. Discuss together and share what most impressed you from this overview.
2. Read Matthew 2:15; 4:1; and 5:1. How does Matthew portray Jesus as a better Moses? What is the significance of Moses' appearing in 17:3 at the revelation of Christ's glory?
3. Read Zechariah 9:9; Matthew 2:2; 21:4-5; 27:11, 29, 37, and 42 to consider Matthew's emphasis upon Jesus as the King of Israel (c.f. Zephaniah 3:15; Psalm 24:10). Do you see Jesus as your king? Explain. If so, what difference should this practically make in your life?
4. Read Daniel 7:13-14. Then skim through all the references to Jesus as "the son of man" in Matthew: 8:20; 9:6; 10:23; 11:19; 12:8, 32, 40; 13:37, 41; 16:13, 27-28; 17:9, 12, 22; 19:28; 20:18, 28; 24:27, 30, 37, 39, 44; 25:31; 26:2, 24, 45, 64. What do you learn from Matthew's presentation of Jesus as the Son of Man?
5. Read Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23, 28:20. How is God's presence with you good news to you?
6. Read Matthew 9:9 and 10:3. What did you learn about the person of Matthew from this sermon?
7. What are you most looking forward to in your study of this Gospel together? What questions are you hoping to get answered?