

Crown Jesus, King of Glory  
A Study on the Gospel of Matthew

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## Introduction

When Christianity emerged as a new religion in the Roman Empire, the Romans considered it a subset of Judaism. Therefore, as long as those new believers obeyed Roman Law and did not stir up any political insurrection, Rome protected them.

Those first-century Jewish believers knew the Old Testament prophecies. They remembered God's covenant with Abraham—the promise of the land of Canaan for an everlasting possession (Genesis 17:8). They knew God's promise of an eternal kingdom (Isaiah 9:7). They expected the restoration of Israel and temple worship (Ezekiel 20:40–44; 43:1–12; Zechariah 14). They knew God cannot lie. He always tells the truth. Therefore, they expected King Jesus to set up an earthly political kingdom. We, however, have the advantage of reading the whole Bible and knowing history. They did not realize that God's promises of an eternal kingdom and an everlasting possession referred to the new heaven and the new earth. God does not lie, but he fulfills promises in ways unexpected by created humans.

Therefore, holy brothers and sisters, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus, whom we acknowledge as our apostle and high priest. He was faithful to the one who appointed him, just as Moses was faithful in all God's house. Jesus has been found worthy of greater honor than Moses, just as the builder of a house has greater honor than the house itself. For every house is built by someone, but God is the builder of everything. Moses was faithful as a servant in all God's house, bearing witness to what would be spoken by God in the future. But Christ is faithful as the Son over God's house (Hebrews 3:1–6).

## Crown Jesus, King of Glory

The Holy Spirit used Matthew's Gospel to dispel some misunderstanding of Old Testament prophecy. Matthew began by proving that Jesus satisfied the genealogy of the expected Messiah, or Jewish King. He ended with Jesus' promise that he had been given all authority in heaven and in earth.

Moses wrote the five books of the Pentateuch (the first five books of the Bible) detailing the beginning of God's dealings with humans, the setting apart of the Israelites as God's special people, God's expectations and laws for his people, and Moses' final reminder to keep the covenant or face punishment.

Matthew's Gospel encompasses the earthly history of Jesus woven around five of Jesus' sermons—becoming a member of his kingdom, marching orders for his disciples, explanations of how his kingdom will grow, believers during the church age, and end time realities. Matthew wanted his readers to catch a glimpse of the eternal nature of Jesus' kingdom. He also emphasized the fulfillment of Old Testament Scripture. Moreover, Matthew was more interested in teaching spiritual truths than in following a strict timeline of historical events in the life of the Lord Jesus.

# Lesson 1

## The King Has Come

Written by the disciple Matthew sometime between AD 50 to 70.<sup>1</sup>

Matthew writes primarily to Greek-speaking Jews to proclaim the good news that their Messiah has come. He quotes many Old Testament Scriptures to prove the fulfillment of God's promises to Israel to send the Messiah. Moreover, he employs the word "Messiah" or "Christ" three times in this introduction.

### The Genealogy of Jesus Christ

Messiah means "the Anointed One." In OT times anointing signified being set apart for service, particularly as king (cf. 1 Sa 16:1, 13) or priest (Ex 28:41) . . . But people were looking for not just *an* anointed one but *the* Anointed One, the Messiah."<sup>2</sup>

Read Matthew 1:1

1. According to Matthew, who is Jesus?

Read Genesis 22:18; Galatians 3:8, 16

2. What descendant of Abraham would bless all nations?

<sup>1</sup> Introduction to Matthew in NIV, 1584.

<sup>2</sup> Footnote to John 1:25 in NIV, 1762.

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Read 2 Samuel 7:12, 13

3. What did God promise King David?

Read Matthew 1:2–17

4. What is the purpose of this genealogy?

Read Genesis 38:6–18, 24–30

5. Who was Tamar and what happened to her?

Read Joshua 2:1–7; 6:15–17

6. Who was Rahab and what happened to her?

Read Ruth 1:22; 4:13–17

7. Who was Ruth and what happened to her?

Read 2 Samuel 11:2–5

8. Who was Uriah's wife and what happened to her?

Read Luke 1:26–33

9. Who was Mary and what happened to her?

10. What did God promise Mary?

11. Why do you think Matthew included those women in this genealogy?



## The King Has Come

12. In Matthew 1:16, how does Matthew describe Joseph and Mary? What is significant about this?
13. Matthew deliberately omits some names from this genealogy so that he ends up with three sets of fourteen generations. Why do you think he did this?

### **The Birth of the Christ**

Read Matthew 1:18, 19

1. Describe Joseph's character.
2. After Joseph found out about Mary's pregnancy, what did he want to do? Why?

Read Matthew 1:20–23; Isaiah 7:14

3. What did the angel tell Joseph?
4. What Old Testament prophecy did Jesus fulfill at his birth? (Keep a record of this on a separate piece of paper.)

Read Matthew 1:24, 25

5. How did Joseph obey the angel?

## Summary

Matthew begins his Gospel by telling his readers certain facts about Jesus. First, he provides the genealogical proof that Jesus descended from Abraham—thus, proclaiming Jesus as the seed who would bless all nations. The inclusion of the women, including the foreigners, in this genealogy hints at God’s love and grace extending toward all nationalities. Jesus would also become the long-awaited Messiah or King of the Jewish people, the son of King David.

Notice how Matthew introduces Joseph as the husband of Mary, Jesus’ mother. He carefully describes the virgin birth of Jesus to prove how this baby fulfilled Old Testament prophecy. The Christ is Immanuel, meaning God with us. The King has come.