**The Book of Matthew**

**Notes**

Theme of Matthew: Jesus the [Jewish] Messiah is the culmination of salvation history and brings salvation from sin to all people.

Or

The Messiah is here and has brought salvation to all people.

Theme verses Matthew 1:21, Matthew 28:18-20

Things to bear in mind:

A strong Jewish element. Jesus is the fulfillment of the Jewish messianic expectation.

Emphasis on fulfillment of historical messianic prophecies

(In Luke Jesus is the Messiah because his life and ministry meet the messianic expectation. In John Jesus is the Messiah because of who he says he is and because of his miracles)

Jewish leaders strongly criticized.

Five long discourses with a topical arrangement.

Style: Discourse/narrative/discourse/narrative

Jesus as “God with us.” Jesus as Son of God Jesus as Son of David

Importance of Peter.

Matthew has more careful attention to structure than any of the gospels (with the possible exception of John)

Despite its length—28 chapters—Matthew has the most concise writing style of the four gospel writers (whereas Mark is the opposite)

Structure:

Five major discourses—extended sermons. Each is ended by the phrase: “And it came about when Jesus finished these words….”

1. Sermon on the Mount Ch 5-7

2. Commissioning of the Twelve Ch 10

3. Parables of the Kingdom Ch 13

4. Life in the Church Ch. 18

5. Woes on the Pharisees , The time of the end. Ch 23-25.

Outline of Matthew:

1:1-2:17 Genealogy and Birth narrative

3:1-4:11 Preparation for Jesus’ ministry

4:12-11:1 Ministry of Jesus to Israel

11:2-20:34 Reactions to Jesus. Believers become more faithful. Non-believers opposition grows.

21:1-26:1 Jesus in Jerusalem.

26:27:56 Passion and death

27:57-28:20 Resurrection and Commission of the disciples

Prophecy fulfillment:

Note: The OT quotations in Matthew are translated directly from the Hebrew, suggesting, unlike the other gospel writers, that his primary OT was the Hebrew Bible.

“This was to fulfill” Here Matthew is helping us out in case we do not get it.

Below, \* = Matthew uses the “this was to fulfill” formula. Possibly he does this when it is not as obvious to his hearers that these are indeed prophecy fulfillment.

\*1:22-23 Isaiah 7:14 virgin birth

2:5-6 Micah 5:2 Birth in Bethlehem

\*2:15 Out of Egypt I called my son. Hosea 11:1. Note that critics accuse

Matthew here of taking Hosea 11:1 out of context, but this is a shallow understanding of the OT and the principle of foreshadowing.

1. Out of Egypt God called Moses, the prefigure of Christ.
2. Out of Egypt God called his people Israel, a foreshadow of our own being called out of Egypt.
3. Out of Egypt God called Jesus as the savior of his people out of Egypt.
4. Out of Egypt God calls every one of us, all of who are slaves to sin (John 8:31f)

\*2:17-18 Jeremiah 31:15 Tears in Ramah for the death of children.

\*2:23 He will be called a Nazarene In the Hebrew, the word Nazareth is *nazaret*,the same as the word branch. It is very interesting that God caused the Messiah, Jesus, to be raised in Nazareth because Nazareth means branch. There are several Old Testament passages which prophesy that the Messiah will be called the branch, which can also be interpreted as Nazarene. It is interesting and wonderful that Jesus was both the branch of Jesse and a Nazarene. This is one of hundreds of amazing pieces of evidence which proves conclusively that the entire Bible is inspired by God. The relevant passages are
Isaiah 11:1,2 Jeremiah 23:5 Zechariah 3:8 and Zechariah 6:12. Branch passages.

3:3 As in Mark, JTB fulfills Isaiah 40:3

\*4:14-16 Jesus, despite being born in Bethlehem Ephrathah, is from Zebulun/Naphtali (show the two maps)

5:17 Jesus fulfills the Law and the Prophets (John 5:26). Jesus does this in a wide variety of ways.

1. In that he, unlike any other human before him, literally fulfilled all the requirements of the Law of Moses.
2. In that through is actions satisfied the penalty for all of us who did not fully obey the Law of Moses.
3. Most importantly, in that his life fulfilled the foreshadows and prefigures contained in the entire Law of Moses (the sacrifices, the festivals, the laws, the items in the tabernacle, etc.)

\*8:17

10:34-35

11:2-6

\*12:17-21 The Messiah a humble and gentle servant. Isaiah 42:2

13:14-15 Parables not to be understood by the hard-hearted Isaiah 6:9

\*13:35 Messiah to speak in parables Psalm 78:2

15:7-9 Disobedience Isaiah 29:13

\*21:4-5 Jesus enters Jerusalem on a colt, the foal of a donkey Zech 9:9

21:13 The temple a den of robbers Isaiah 56:7 Jer 7:11

21:16 Praise from the lips of children Psalm 8:2

21:42 Jesus rejected and becomes the capstone Ps 118:22

26:31 Shepherd struck and sheep scattered Zechariah 13:7

\*27:9-10 Betrayed for 30 pieces of silver Zechariah 11:12-13

Jesus in Matthew:

1. Jesus is the Messiah—the fulfillment of prophecy, prefigure and foreshadow.

a. Son of Abraham (Matthew 1:2)

b. Son of Moses/Second Moses 17:3 (mount of transfiguration) 2:25 (out of Egypt I called my son) Matthew has Jesus persecuted by Herod, goes to Egypt and children are killed in unmistakable parallel to Moses/Pharaoh. Temptation parallel 40 days and 40 years in wilderness.

c. Jesus called the “Son of David” (9 times on Matthew, only 3 times in Mark, Luke)

d. Jesus is the second Jonah as well Matthew 12:39-41.

e. Jesus fulfills all the covenants of God with his people.

The covenant with Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3 for example),

with Moses and

with David.(2 Sam 7:11-16)

f. But Jesus fulfills all the Old Testament messianic prefigures. He is

Son of God

Son of Man

Suffering Servant 16:21 The Messiah must suffer 20:24-28 The greatest is the servant of all.

2. Jesus is the fulfillment of salvation history and the inaugurator of the Kingdom of God.

3. Jesus is God-with-us. Matthew does not have Jesus claiming directly to be God, but it is implied in many places.

He is God-with-us 1:23

Jesus does not say “thus says the Lord” He says “but I say to you.”

Jesus is worshipped and accepts worship. 2:11 Magi 8:2 Leper kneels 9:18 a ruler kneels 14:33 apostles worship him 28:9 Women worshipped him 28:18 disciples worshipped him and more

4. Jesus the Son of God. The designation of Jesus as the Son of God appears at crucial points in the gospel. It is almost used as an outline of the book.

3:17 at his baptism 17:5 At his transfiguration Satan recognizes him as Son of God in the temptation. The disciples recognize him as Son of God 14:33, 16:16 (note Mark only has Christ, not Christ, the son of the living God). Jesus acknowledges he is the Son of God at his trial. At his crucifixion he is mockingly and ironically called the Son of God, and at his death the Centurion recognizes him as the Son of God.