



The Arrival of the King

MATTHEW 1 AND 2

Introduction to Matthew

Genesis opens with the generations of the heavens, earth and man. Matthew opens with the generations of the God-Man through whom there will be new heavens and a new earth. Sin appears at the outset in Genesis, and its course is traced onward. Salvation is presented at the outset in Matthew, and its marvels are unfolded. In Genesis a nation is founded. In Matthew a Church is predicted and the foundations are laid for it.

Matthew writes especially for the Jews. He uses more Old Testament references than the other Gospels put together. There are 120 quotations from 20 books of the Old Testament. The expression "that it might be fulfilled" occurs many times. Matthew presents Jesus to the Jews as the long-promised Redeemer of the Old Testament. He gives the facts necessary to establish the authority of Jesus with the Jews. His genealogy answers the question every Jew would be asking, "Is He of the house of David?" Matthew deals with His relations to Israel, so he goes back to the head of the race of Israel, to Abraham, and to Israel's great king, David. Luke deals with Jesus as the Son of man and goes back to Adam. John deals with Jesus as the Son of God and goes back into eternity.

Of what practical value, then, is Matthew's Gospel to the Church? It is the bridge between Judaism and Christianity. He presents Christ as the Mediator of a new covenant. There was really no new testament (covenant) until the blood was shed. Matthew shows how evangelical law takes the place of Levitical law; how

the high priesthood of Jesus takes the place of the Aaronic; how the temporal promises to Israel give place to the spiritual; how the Passover sacrament gives place to the Lord's Supper; how the Jewish Sabbath gives place to the Christian's resurrection first day.

Matthew shows how the foundations of the Church were laid. Acts and the epistles show us how the superstructure was raised. Matthew therefore goes into greater detail as to the foundation teachings of Jesus, and he is very careful to show that these teachings are meant not merely for the Jew but for the whole world.

Chapter 1 is the Birth Chapter

Matthew traces the ancestry of Jesus back to David, and then to Abraham. As the Son of David, Jesus is connected with the Davidic covenant and the throne rights (II SAMUEL 7:16, 17; I CHRONICLES 17:7-14). This would be the first question to be settled in the mind of a Jew. Is He of the royal line? Is He to be the King of Israel?

As the Son of Abraham, Jesus is connected with the Abrahamic covenant, which has to do with the promised land (GENESIS 12:2, 3; 13:14-17; 15:2-18). This would be the second consideration of a Jew.

It should be noted that while Matthew connects Jesus with the kingly line and proves Him God's appointed King, he nowhere indicates that it was Jesus' purpose in His first advent to overturn the governments of earth and set up His earthly kingdom. This could not occur until the sin question was settled, and the kingly aspect of Jesus' work is therefore always referred to as future, as being the purpose of His second advent.

It will be noted that the genealogy given in Luke (3:23-38) does not correspond with the one given in Matthew. Matthew gives the line from Joseph, the "supposed" father of Jesus, back through Solomon (a younger son of David) to David. Luke gives the line from Mary, the mother of Jesus, through Nathan (another son) back to David. It will be observed, however, that LUKE 3:23 says: "the son of Joseph, which was the son of Heli." The original here merely says "which was of Heli." Since Matthew tells us (1:16) that it was Jacob who begat Joseph, Heli was evidently connected with Joseph in some other way, probably as his father-in-law. Heli seems to have been Mary's father, as an ancient Jewish

writing indicates. Further, Matthew and Luke both indicate clearly that Jesus was not the natural son of Joseph. Hence, Jesus, through Mary His mother, was humanly descended from David through Nathan, while Joseph, His foster father, was descended from David through Solomon and the kings of Judah. It is worthy of notice that Jesus is the only person who can prove His descent from David. His genealogies in Matthew and Luke are the only ones from David that have been preserved in the entire world.

1. Who was the real father of the Child Jesus?

MATTHEW 1:20 _____

2. How should every Jew have known that the Saviour (Emmanuel) would be virgin-born?

MATTHEW 1:22, 23 _____

The kings of Judah were all descended from David through Solomon, right down to Jehoiachin (also known as Jeconiah, Coniah and Jechonias). Zedekiah followed Jehoiachin, but was the latter's uncle.

3. What curse was pronounced on Coniah?

JEREMIAH 22:28-30 _____

Many think this curse would have barred Jesus from the throne had He been the natural son of Joseph, who was actually descended from Coniah. Others believe this barrier was merely immediate, not affecting the distant future. It is a fact, however, that Joseph's line is traced through Coniah, and Mary's is not. Jesus was not *begotten* of natural generation. He was born of Mary—not Mary and Joseph. He was not the son of a man. He was *THE SON OF MAN*, begotten of the Holy Spirit.

4. Of whom was God's Son made?

GALATIANS 4:4 _____

5. Whose seed was to destroy Satan, according to the earliest prophecy of the Saviour?

GENESIS 3:15 _____

6. What prophecy, bearing this out, was later given by Isaiah?

ISAIAH 7:14 _____

7. With what special mission was Jesus born into the world?

MATTHEW 1:21 _____

8. How did John the Baptist point Jesus out to the first disciples?

JOHN 1:29 _____

9. In MATTHEW 1:18-25, how many times at the least, is the virgin birth of Jesus indicated?

MATTHEW 1:18, 18, 20, 23, 25 _____

10. What had one of the prophets said about Bethlehem centuries before?

MICAH 5:2 _____

“Bethlehem” means “House of Bread.”

11. By what striking name did Jesus refer to Himself in this connection?

JOHN 6:35 _____

12. What wish of David’s was fulfilled in Bethlehem?

II SAMUEL 23:15 _____

13. What is Christ’s promise to us?

JOHN 4:14; 7:37, 38 _____

Chapter 2 is the Bethlehem Chapter

The wise men from the East were Gentiles. This seems to be the first indication of the coming fulfillment of God’s purposes toward the Gentiles. It is significant that this star was manifested to strangers. Virgil and others say that there was at that time a general expectation of the advent of some great one.

14. What was the twofold purpose of Christ's coming?

LUKE 2:32 _____

15. To whom was an earlier revelation of the Saviour's birth made?

LUKE 2:8-11 _____

God spoke to the Jews through an angel, and to the Gentiles through a star—in the language each would best understand, perhaps.

16. What title did the wise men give Jesus?

MATTHEW 2:2 _____

"Born King" is unique. Ordinarily, men are born to be king, or else born and later made king though not born to be.

17. In what spirit did Pilate's soldiers apply the title "King of the Jews" to Jesus?

MATTHEW 27:29 _____

18. How was this title used in the writing above His head on the cross?

MATTHEW 27:37 _____

19. How did the wise men use it?

MATTHEW 2:2 (last clause) _____

20. How did Herod and the people of Jerusalem take the news of the birth of the King?

MATTHEW 2:3 _____

This is a summary of today's experience. Christ is either the source of keenest trouble or supreme joy.

There had been recent agitations, so the ancient historian Josephus tells us, and six thousand Pharisees had refused the oath of allegiance to

Herod. They had quoted prophecies of the coming of a King from heaven who would overthrow him. Perhaps this was why Herod was disturbed. Perhaps the people feared Herod's rage. Underneath all this fear was the mistaken notion that Christ's kingdom would then clash with the secular powers. The star itself intimated a heavenly kingdom. The heavenly kingdom was at hand.

21. Who understood Micah's prophecy (Micah 5:2) to refer to the birthplace of Israel's Messiah or Christ?

MATTHEW 2:4-6 _____

22. What did Herod pretend he too wanted to do?

MATTHEW 2:8 _____

23. What was the wise men's reaction when they saw the star again?

MATTHEW 2:10 _____

24. In telling of the finding of the right place, does Scripture mention the mother of the Child first?

MATTHEW 2:11 _____

25. When the wise men fell down, whom did they worship?

MATTHEW 2:11 _____

26. When the angel spoke to Joseph, who was mentioned first?

MATTHEW 2:13 _____

27. When the angel spoke to Joseph later in Egypt, who was mentioned first?

MATTHEW 2:20 _____

28. Whom does Matthew mention first?

MATTHEW 2:21 _____

This is no literary blunder. This Child is God, for God only is to be worshiped.

29. What titles are applied to this Child by Isaiah, in one verse?

ISAIAH 9:6 _____

As a man child, Jesus was “born”; as the eternal Son, He was “given,” for He was pre-existent.

Here is divine homage paid to an infant in arms, in an obscure house. It is unparalleled. If Jesus was not the divine Son of God, they were gross idolaters. Evidently the Babe Jesus, in all His obscurity, was thought to be greater than Solomon in all his glory, for Solomon was not worshiped.

30. What warning was given the wise men from God?

MATTHEW 2:12 _____

31. To whom does Matthew apply the prophet’s statement about Israel being called out of Egypt?

MATTHEW 2:15; HOSEA 11:1 _____

32. What did Herod, in his anger, cause to be done?

MATTHEW 2:16 _____

Ordinarily, Satan does not seem to be greatly concerned about babies, but how early he tried to kill Jesus! We wonder how God could permit such a slaughter. But remember that these babies were martyrs for Jesus’ sake. Surely they will have a martyr’s reward. Shall we call them the “infantry” of the army of martyrs?

33. What had God done to the murderer Herod meanwhile?

MATTHEW 2:19, 20 _____

This is the history of all assaults ever made on Christ and His kingdom—whether by infidels, critics, institutions or nations. They fade away. Those who seek His saving power never die.

34. In what city of Galilee was Jesus reared?

MATTHEW 2:23 _____

check-up time No. 1

You have concluded your study of chapters 1 and 2, dealing with the Arrival of the King. Review now by rereading the questions and your answers. If you are not sure of some answer, reread the Scripture portion given. Then take the following test to see how well you understand and remember the truths thus far studied.

In the right-hand margin write "True" or "False" after each of the following statements.

1. The angel of the Lord told Joseph that that which was conceived in Mary was of the Holy Ghost. _____
2. The Bible says God's Son was made of a woman. _____
3. John the Baptist pointed out Jesus as "the Light of the world." _____
4. The prophet who said Christ would be born in Bethlehem was Hosea. _____
5. It was David who longed for a drink from the well in Bethlehem. _____
6. The wise men referred to Jesus as "the Son of God." _____
7. The title "King of the Jews" was used above Jesus' cross to indicate the "crime" of which He was accused. _____
8. Herod and the people of Jerusalem were troubled at the report that a King was born. _____
9. The wise men worshiped the Child and His mother. _____
10. The prophet that said "Out of Egypt have I called my son" was Hosea. _____

Turn to page 96 and check your answers.