

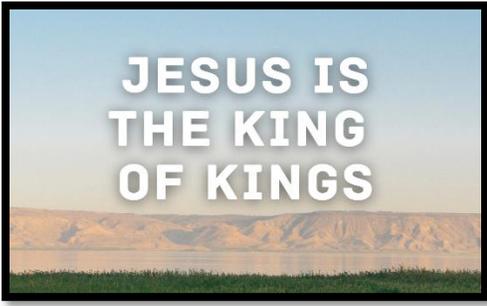
A Study of the Gospel of Matthew

JESUS IS THE KING OF KINGS

A Publication of Ray Reynolds Rap

BIBLE CLASS STUDY GUIDE

Workbook by Ray Reynolds, Ph.D.



The Gospel of Matthew Bible Class Study Guide

A Publication of Ray Reynold Rap
TABLE OF CONTENTS

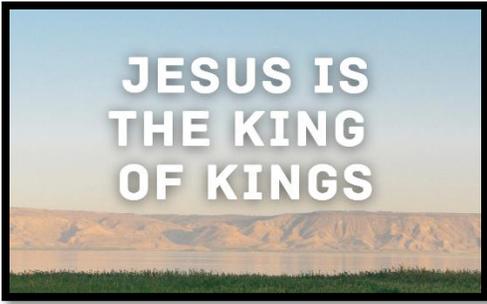
INTRODUCTION

<i>Author of the letter</i>	3
<i>Date of the letter</i>	3
<i>Theme of the letter</i>	4
<i>Audience for the letter</i>	4
<i>Key verses in the letter</i>	4
<i>Outline of the letter</i>	4

BIBLE STUDY OUTLINES

<i>I. Presentation of the King (1:1-4:11)</i>	5
<i>II. Proclamation of the King (4:12-7:29)</i>	8
<i>III. Power of the King (8:1-11:1)</i>	10
<i>IV. Progressive Rejection of the King (11:2-16:12)</i>	12
<i>V. Preparation of the King's Disciples (16:13-20:28)</i>	15
<i>VI. Persecution of the King (20:29-27:66)</i>	17
<i>VII. Proof of the King (28:1-20)</i>	20

This study guide was created in 2015 by Ray Reynolds. It was edited and copyrighted by Reynolds Rap Publications in 2020. The material presented in this class series will be gleaned from personal notes, the New King James Study Bible, Dr. Coy Roper, Dr. Steven Guy, Gleason L. Archer, Dennis Smith, H. Leo Boles, Robert H. Gundry, B.W. Johnson, and other various sources.



The Gospel of Matthew

Bible Class Study Guide

A Publication of Ray Reynold Rap

INTRODUCTION

Author:

The author does not identify himself, but the apostle Matthew, the son of Alphaeus (also called Levi) is universally accepted as writer of this gospel (**Matthew 9:9-13, 10:2-4, Mark 2:14, Luke 5:27-28**). History tells us that the early church consistently agreed to this as a fact and traditions to the contrary have not emerged. In fact, by the middle of the second century Matthew was already being quoted by the church fathers.

The name Matthew means "gift of the Lord." Matthew's name appears seventh in two lists of apostles (**Mark 3:18, Luke 6:15**), and eighth in two others (**Matthew 10:3, Acts 1:13**). The last time we hear about Matthew in the Bible is in **Acts 1:13** when he is listed among those in the upper room waiting for the Holy Spirit to come upon them with power. Matthew's life from that point on is surrounded by tradition. Foxe's Book of Martyrs says this of Matthew: "Whose occupation was that of a toll-gatherer, was born at Nazareth. He wrote his gospel in Hebrew, which was afterwards translated into Greek by James the Less. The scene of his labors was Parthia, and Ethiopia, in which latter country he suffered martyrdom, being slain with a halberd (*combination of a spear and a battle axe – long handle with an axe on the end – not always used for a beheading*) in the city of Nadabah, A.D. 60."

Matthew's profession was a tax collector in Capernaum for the Roman government before Jesus called him into the ministry. As a publican he was despised by his Jewish countrymen, maybe even among the disciples. Jesus called him from his tax booth, and his swift response tells us that he had been stirred by Jesus' public preaching ministry. Immediately after his calling into Jesus' leadership team, he held a large party for Jesus in his home. This was probably so that his associates could meet Jesus and learn from Him. Tax collectors are lumped together with harlots (**Matthew 21:31**), Gentiles (**Matthew 18:17**), and other sinners (**Matthew 9:10**). They were as offensive to Jews for their economic and social practices as lepers were for their uncleanness, both were excluded from the people of God.

Date:

The Gospels are difficult to date, but the consensus is that it was written between 40-140 AD. It was probably written around 60 AD, no later than 70 AD, in my opinion. Consider the expressions of **Matthew 27:8, Matthew 28:15** indicating that an extensive period of time has passed since Jesus' death, but prior to the destruction of Jerusalem (**Matthew 24-25**).

Theme:

The theme of Matthew is that Jesus is the King of Kings (**Matthew 1:23, 2:2-6, 3:17, 4:15-17, 21:5-9, 22:44-45, 26:64, 27:11-37**). The phrase "*kingdom of heaven*" appears 32 times in this book but nowhere else in the New Testament. Matthew also uses more Old Testament references than any other book, especially making references to the prophecies of the Messiah (**Matthew 12:39-40, 13:13-35, 17:5-13**).

Matthew documents Jesus' genealogy, baptism, messages, miracles, death, burial, and resurrection. All point to the same conclusion: Christ is King! Matthew also likes to refer to Jesus as the Son of Man and Son of David.

Audience:

The early church depended upon the preaching and teaching of the good news (**Acts 4:8-12**). Christians would meet often to hear the stories of Jesus told and longed to hear from those who could tell first-hand experiences. Therefore, the gospels became the source for these eyewitnesses (all will be covered in this series). He is the only gospel writer to mention the church (**Matthew 16:18, 18:17**). Matthew may have also used Mark's gospel as a source.

It is assumed that Matthew wrote this gospel specifically for the Greek speaking Jews in Palestine or Syrian Antioch. Due to the affluence and influence of that congregation (see the book of Acts) the book was copied and accepted quickly. In his Ecclesiastical History (323 AD), Eusebius quoted Papias (140 AD) who said that Matthew was also written in Aramaic (no Aramaic form has been found). However, it is possible that Matthew may have published an abbreviated version of Jesus' sayings in Aramaic before writing his gospel in Greek for a much larger audience.

Key Verses:

Matthew 5-7, 9:37-38, 10:32-33, 11:25-30, 16:13-19, 16:24-28, 18:15-20, 20:28, 21:1-11, 22:36-40, 24-25, 26:17-46, 27:37, 28:18-20

Outline:

- I. Presentation of the King (1:1-4:11)*
- II. Proclamation of the King (4:12-7:29)*
- III. Power of the King (8:1-11:1)*
- IV. Progressive Rejection of the King (11:2-16:12)*
- V. Preparation of the King's Disciples (16:13-20:28)*
- VI. Persecution of the King (20:29-27:66)*
- VII. Proof of the King (28:1-20)*



The Gospel of Matthew - Bible Class Study Guide

A Publication of Ray Reynold Rap

PART ONE: The Presentation of the King - Matthew 1:1-4:11

Introduction: In this first section the gospel writer wants to present Jesus as the King. He does that by referencing several Old Testament prophecies and chronicling the events of the birth and early life of Jesus. The reader cannot dismiss it as irony or coincidence. Several events are obviously scripted and part of God's eternal plan to save mankind. Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. The Advent of the King (1:1-2:23)

A. The Genealogy of Jesus (1:1-17)

1. The promise that God made to Abraham was, "*in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed*" (**Genesis 12:3**).
2. Jesus is the "*Son of Abraham*" (v.1), but He is also the "*Son of David*" and as David's direct descendant He is qualified to be Israel's King (v.1).
3. It is important to notice the divisions that Matthew makes in this genealogy.
4. Abraham to David (vs.1-6), Solomon to the Exile (vs.7-11), and the Exile to the birth of Jesus (vs.12-16).
5. It says that from each of these divisions there are fourteen generations (v.17).
6. It should be noted that there are a few missing from this genealogy but they can be seen in other lists (the Jews did not usually recognize evil men).
7. We should also notice the women listed in this genealogy.

B. The Birth of Jesus (1:18-25)

1. Jesus was born of a virgin named Mary (v.18). - **Isaiah 7:14, 49:5**
2. Mary was betrothed (engaged) to Joseph but she was found with child (v.18).
3. The child in her womb was conceived not by Joseph but the Holy Spirit (v.18).
4. Joseph was a just man, and did not want to make a public example of her, so he decided to put her away quietly (v.19).
5. Before he could the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream (v.20).
6. The angel told him what a special child this was: He was conceived of the Holy Spirit, and He will save His people from their sins (vs.20-21).
7. All of these things were prophecies from the Old Testament (vs.22-23).
8. He took Mary as his wife, as he was commanded, and they did not come together until after Jesus was born (vs.23-24)

C. The Visit of the Wise Men (2:1-12)

1. Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, King David's hometown, and some wise men from the East came to visit him (v.1). - **Micah 5:2**
2. The magi knew Jesus as "*the King of the Jews*" (v.2).
3. Notice the dialogue between the wise men and the king (vs.2-8).
4. The wise men sought Jesus, they followed the star that had led them from the East, and when they found him they rejoiced (vs.9-10).
5. These wise men were believers and they worshipped Him and gave Him gifts of "*gold, frankincense, and myrrh*" (v.11).
6. God warned them in a dream to not return to Herod, so they left (v.12).

D. The Flight Into Egypt (2:13-15)

1. After the wise men left Joseph was greeted by an angel of the Lord in a dream, and he warned them to flee to Egypt (v.13).
2. When he woke up from his dream he took his family to Egypt (v.14).
3. They stayed there until God called them (v.15). - **Numbers 24:8, Hosea 11:1**

E. Herod Kills The Children (2:16-18)

1. Herod realized that he was deceived by the wise men, so he called for all of the male children, two years and younger, to be put to death (v.16).
2. This means that it is possible that the wise men came a short time after the birth of Jesus (they were living in a house - v.11).
3. This was also another fulfilled prophecy (vs.17-18). - **Jeremiah 31:15**

F. Jesus Returns To Nazareth (2:19-23)

1. Finally, after some time, the evil king Herod died (v.19).
2. An angel of the Lord appeared again to Joseph and he told him that it was safe to take the child back to Israel (vs.19-20).
3. Therefore, he follows the angel and takes them back (v.21).
4. Although, before he gets back to Bethlehem or even Jerusalem, he hears that Archelaus, Herod's son inherited the throne, and he became afraid (v.22).
5. Again, God gives him a vision and he decides to settle in Galilee, specifically, the town they settled in was Nazareth (v.23).
6. This again is another fulfilled prophecy (v.23). - **Judges 13:5**

II. *The Announcer of the King (3:1-12)*

A. The Person of John the Baptist (3:1-6)

1. When Jesus was about 30 years old, John the Baptist began preaching in the wilderness of Judea (v.1).
2. His message was simple, "*Repent*" (v.2).
3. Jesus is not the only one that fulfilled prophecy (v.3). - **Isaiah 40:3**
4. **Malachi 3:1** says, "*Behold, I send My messenger, and he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple, even the Messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight. Behold, He is coming,' says the Lord of hosts.*"
5. John knew that Jesus was and is the King.
6. Notice his rough appearance, like Elijah (v.4).
7. He commanded men to be baptized and confess their sins (vs.5-6).

B. The Preaching of John the Baptist (3:7-12)

1. Among those who came to hear him were Pharisees and Sadducees (v.7).
2. Notice his message to them is harsh (vs.7-12).
3. Again, he sticks with a common theme, "*Repent,*" but he also mentions that there would be one coming, one that would be greater than him.
4. We cannot neglect to see the reference about baptism (v.11) and prepare for something to be discussed further in this gospel account (and others).
5. John knew that his baptism and ministry was inferior to that of Christ, and that it was temporary, until the kingdom could be established.

III. The Approval of the King (3:13-4:11)

A. The Baptism of Jesus (3:13-17)

1. Jesus came to John to be baptized (v.13).
2. John tried to prevent this baptism because he knew that Jesus was without sin and that He would soon offer baptism in His name (v.14).
3. Jesus informed him that it was to “*fulfill all righteousness*” (v.15).
4. After being baptized Jesus came out of the water, the heavens were opened, and the Holy Spirit descended on Him like a dove (v.16).
5. A voice came from heaven and notice what it said (v.17).

B. The Temptation of Jesus (4:1-11)

1. The first temptation of Jesus by Satan (vs.1-4).
2. The second temptation of Jesus by Satan (vs.5-7).
3. The third temptation of Jesus by Satan (vs.8-10).
4. The sinlessness of the King is proven when He overcomes Satan.
5. God also provided for His son by sending angels to minister to Him (v.11).

Conclusion: Mathew has presented Jesus as the King! What happens next? The king needs to prepare His kingdom and He must be proclaimed to the people. Also, it is obvious that Satan is going to do all he can to destroy both the King and the kingdom. Keep reading to see what God has planned next.



The Gospel of Matthew - Bible Class Study Guide

A Publication of Ray Reynold Rap

PART TWO: The Proclamation of the King - Matthew 4:12-7:29

Introduction: In this section the gospel writer wants to proclaim Jesus as the King. He does that by revealing the ministry of Jesus. This section also includes the greatest sermon ever preached on the earth. Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. The Background for the Sermon (4:12-7:29)

A. Jesus Begins His Ministry (4:12-17)

1. John the Baptist had been put into prison (v.12).
2. He went to Capernaum in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali (v.15-16).
3. Another prophesy was fulfilled here. - **Isaiah 9:1-2, 42:7**
4. Notice Jesus' message "*Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand*" (v.17).

B. Jesus Calls His First Disciples (4:18-22)

1. Jesus calls two brothers, Peter and Andrew (v.18).
2. Jesus calls two more brothers, James and John (v.21).
3. All of them left "*immediately*" and "*followed Him*" (vs.20,22)
4. These men were fishing and He simply said, "*Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men*" (v.19).

C. Jesus Begins Ministering in Galilee (4:23-25)

1. Jesus began His ministry by "*teaching in the synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people*" (v.23)
2. Notice all of the great things he did for the people (vs.24-25).

II. The Sermon on the Mount (5:1-7:29)

A. The Beatitudes (5:1-12)

1. There were multitudes of people gathered on a mountain (v.1).
2. Jesus decided to take advantage of this great opportunity.
3. He went up to them and His disciples came to Him.
4. It was at that time that He opened His mouth to preach (v.2)
5. The beatitudes are a model for discipleship (vs.3-12).

B. The Similitudes (5:13-16)

1. Jesus' disciples are the "*salt of the earth*" (v.13).
2. Jesus' disciples are the "*light of the world*" (vs.14, 16).
3. Jesus' disciples are a "*city on a hill*" (v.15).

C. The Relationship of Jesus to the Law (5:17-7:6).

1. Jesus did not come to destroy the law, but to fulfill it (vs.17-19).
 - a. Nothing can pass away until all is fulfilled (vs.17-18).
 - b. Breaking these commandments makes one the least in the kingdom (v.19).
 - c. Keeping these commandments makes one the greatest in the kingdom (v.19).

2. Jesus rejects the way that the Pharisees interpret the law (vs.20-48).
 - a. No murder vs. being angry towards a brother (vs.20-26).
 - b. No adultery vs. looking upon a women lustfully (vs.27-30).
 - c. Divorce vs. no divorce (vs.31-32).
 - d. Oaths vs. no swearing (vs.33-37).
 - e. Retaliation vs. turning the other cheek (vs.38-42).
 - f. Only love is allowed in the kingdom of God, because it is needed in order to be perfect like our Father in heaven (vs.43-48).
3. Jesus rejects the practices of the Pharisees (6:1-7:6).
 - a. Their open charitable deeds vs. those done in secret (6:1-4).
 - b. Their open prayers vs. those done in secret (6:5-15.)
 - c. Their open fasts vs. those done in secret (6:16-18).
 - d. Their collection of wealth vs. storing up treasures in heaven (6:19-34).
 - e. Their judgmental spirit vs. judging ourselves first (7:1-6).

D. Jesus Gives Instructions on How to Enter the Kingdom (7:7-27)

1. Disciples should ask, seek, and knock (vs.7-11).
2. Disciples should practice the golden rule (vs.7-12).
3. Disciples should recognize the two ways of life (vs.13-14).
4. Disciples should know false teaching from true teaching (vs.15-20).
5. Disciples should follow the true way into the kingdom (vs.21-23).
6. Jesus tells the parable of the two builders - wise man vs. foolish man (vs.24-27).

III. *The Response to the Sermon*

- A. The people were “*astonished at His teaching*” (v.28).
- B. He “*taught them as one having authority*” (v.29).
- C. He did not teach “*as the scribes*” were teaching (v.29).

Conclusion: It should be obvious from this lesson that Jesus is King! He has already, to this point, fulfilled several scriptures. Keep reading to see what God has planned next.



The Gospel of Matthew - Bible Class Study Guide

A Publication of Ray Reynold Rap

PART THREE: The Power of the King - Matthew 8:1-11:1

Introduction: In this section the gospel writer wants to talk about the power of Jesus as the King. He does that by revealing the miracles of Jesus. He also continues to emphasize the authoritative teaching of Jesus over the scribes and the teachers of the law. Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. The Demonstration of the King's Power (8:1-9:34)

A. The Miracles of Healing (8:1-17)

1. The leper is cleansed (vs.1-4).
2. The centurion's servant is healed (vs.5-13).
3. The mother-in-law of Peter is healed (vs.14-17).

B. The Demands of Discipleship (8:18-22)

1. Jesus had nowhere to "*lay His head*" (vs.18-20).
2. The dead should "*bury their own dead*" (vs.21-22).

C. The Miracles of Power (8:23-9:8)

1. Jesus stills the storm (8:23-27).
2. The demons are cast into swine (8:28-34)
3. The paralytic is forgiven of his sins (9:1-8).

D. Distinctions of Disciples (9:9-17)

1. The writer, and apostle, Matthew is called (v.9).
2. Jesus takes the disciples to "*eat with sinners*" (vs.10-13)
3. The disciples did not fast like the other men of God (vs.14-17)

E. The Miracles of Restoration (9:18-34)

1. Life is restored to the ruler's daughter (vs.18-26).
2. Sight is restored to a blind man (vs.27-31).
3. Speech is restored to a demon possessed mute man (vs.32-34).

F. Result of these miracles.

1. These things would represent the power He would give to the disciples.
2. It would also explain His answer to John the Baptist.

II. The Delegation of the King's Power (9:35-11:1)

A. The Need for Delegation (9:35-38)

1. Jesus went about "*all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom*" (v.35).
2. He also "*healed every sickness and every disease among the people*" (v.35).
3. Jesus saw the people and "*He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd*" (v.36).

4. Therefore, Jesus says, “*The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.*” (v.38)

B. The Twelve Apostles Are Sent (10:1-4)

1. When Jesus called His twelve disciples to Him, He gave them authority (v.1).
2. He gave them “*power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease*” (v.1).
3. Matthew now lists the twelve disciples (vs.2-4).

C. The Twelve Apostles Are Instructed (10:5-42)

1. The apostles were told to only go to the house of Israel (10:5-6).
2. The apostles were told to preach about the kingdom (10:7-8).
3. The apostles were told to live simply (10:9-11).
4. The apostles were told to only go to where they were welcomed (10:12-15).
5. The apostles were told to be wise (10:16).
6. The apostles were told to beware of men (10:17).
7. The apostles were told to accept persecution (10:18).
8. The apostles were told to not worry (10:19-20).
9. The apostles were told that families will persecute each other (10:21).
10. The apostles were told to endure (10:22).
11. The apostles were told to flee to one another (10:23).
12. The apostles were told to heed the advice of the teacher (10:24-26).
13. The apostles were told to be bold in public (10:27-33).
14. The apostles were told that faithful discipleship will bring strife (10:34-37).
15. The apostles were told to take up their cross (10:38-39).
16. The apostles were told that accepting them meant accepting Jesus (10:40-42).

D. The Twelve Apostles Departed to Teach and Preach (11:1)

1. Jesus concluded His commands and instruction for kingdom living.
2. The apostles were now told to teach and preach about the kingdom.

Conclusion: It should be obvious from this lesson that Jesus has the power to rule His kingdom! He has already, to this point, fulfilled several scriptures, preformed miracles and taught with great wisdom. Keep reading to see what God has planned next.



The Gospel of Matthew - Bible Class Study Guide

A Publication of Ray Reynold Rap

PART FOUR: The Progressive Rejection of the King - Matthew 11:2-16:12

Introduction: In this section the gospel writer wants to talk about the progressive rejection of Jesus as the King by the religious leaders. He does that by revealing the manipulation, constant questioning, and occasional traps by lawyers. The disciples have been trained, but what will they do when persecution comes? Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. The Commencement of Rejection Toward the King (11:2-30)

A. The Rejection of John the Baptist (vs.2-15)

1. The disciples of John come to Jesus (vs.2-6).
2. Jesus teaches the disciples about John's purpose (vs.7-15).
3. It was prophesied that Elijah would come before the Messiah (v.10). - **Malachi 3:1**

B. The Rejection by Jesus' Generation (vs.16-19)

1. Jesus tells the parable of the children in the marketplace (vs.16-17).
2. The people rejected both John and Jesus (vs.18-19).

C. The Rejection of Chorazin and Bethsaida (vs.20-22)

1. They had rejected Jesus and His works (vs.20).
2. They would be punished like Tyre and Sidon (vs.21-22).

D. The Rejection of Capernaum (vs.23-24)

1. They would face Hades for their rejection (vs.23).
2. The people of Sodom would have it easier in judgment (vs.24).

E. The Great Invitation (vs.25-30)

1. God chooses who will receive His revelation (vs.25-27).
2. Jesus offers rest to the weary (vs.28-30).

II. The Rejection of the King by the Pharisees (12:1-50)

A. The Controversy Over Sabbath Keeping (vs.1-13)

1. Laboring on the Sabbath day was not considered "*lawful*" (vs.1-8).
2. Healing on the Sabbath day was not considered "*lawful*" (vs.9-13).

B. The Pharisees Plotted To Kill Christ (vs.14-21)

1. Jesus discovered this plot and "*withdrew from there*" (vs.14-15)
2. Jesus was God's "*Servant*" (vs.16-21). - **Isaiah 42:1-2, 49:3**

C. The Pharisees Blasphemed Against the Holy Spirit (vs.22-30)

1. The Pharisees accuse Jesus of using the power of Satan to do miracles (vs.22-24).
2. Jesus reproves them for their ignorance (vs.25-30).

- D. The Pharisees Committed the Unpardonable Sin (vs.31-37)
 - 1. All sins “*will be forgiven,*” except for this one sin (vs.31-32).
 - 2. The difference between good and evil (vs.33-37).
- E. The Pharisees Demanded a Sign (vs.38-45)
 - 1. They really wanted more than a sign (vs.38-42).
 - 2. Jesus describes this generation (vs.43-45).
- F. The True Brethren of Jesus Christ (vs.46-50)
 - 1. They told Jesus that his family was “*seeking to speak with*” Him (vs.46-47).
 - 2. He asked them, “*Who is My mother and who are My brothers?*” (v.48).
 - 3. He said it is those who “*do the will of My Father in heaven*” (vs.49-50).

III. *The Consequences of the Rejection of the King (13:1-53)*

- A. The Parables Spoken to the Multitude (vs.1-35)
 - 1. Jesus tells the parable of the soils (vs.1-23).
 - 2. Jesus tells the parable of the wheat and the tares (vs.24-30).
 - 3. Jesus tells the parable of the mustard seed (vs.31-32).
 - 4. Jesus tells the parable of the leaven (vs.33-35).
 - 5. Prophecies are fulfilled through His teaching. - **Psalm 78:2**
- B. The Parables Spoken to the Disciples (vs.36-53)
 - 1. Jesus tells the parable of the tares explained (vs.36-43).
 - 2. Jesus tells the parable of the hidden treasure (v.44).
 - 3. Jesus tells the parable of the pearl of great price (vs.45-46).
 - 4. Jesus tells the parable of the dragnet (vs.47-50).
 - 5. Jesus tells the parable of the householder (vs.51-53).

IV. *The Rejection of the King Continues (13:54-16:12)*

- A. The Rejection of the King at Nazareth (13:54-58)
 - 1. Jesus was rejected in “*his own country*” and “*synagogue*” (vs.54-56).
 - 2. “*A prophet is not without honor except in his own country...in his own house*” (v.57).
 - 3. “*He did not do many mighty works there because of their unbelief*” (v.58).
- B. The Rejection of the King by Herod (14:1-36)
 - 1. Herod reacts and responds to John’s ministry (vs.1-2).
 - 2. John the Baptist is executed (vs.3-12).
 - 3. Jesus withdrew to the desert and feeds the 5,000 (vs.13-21).
 - 4. Jesus withdrew to the sea and walks on the water (vs.22-33).
 - 5. Jesus withdrew to Gennesaret and heals many (vs.34-36).
- C. The Rejection by the Scribes and Pharisees (15:1-39)
 - 1. The scribes and Pharisees debate with Jesus over traditions (vs.1-20).
 - 2. Jesus withdrew to Tyre, Sidon, and heals a Gentile woman (vs.21-28).
 - 3. Jesus withdrew to the Mountains and heals many (vs.29-31).
 - 4. Jesus withdrew to Decapolis and feeds the 4,000 (vs.32-39).

D. The Rejection by the Pharisees and Sadducees (16:1-12)

1. The debate over a sign from Heaven (vs.1-4).
2. Jesus withdrew again to teach His disciples (vs.5-12).

Conclusion: Jesus is not universally accepted as the King. He has fulfilled several scriptures, performed miracles, taught with great wisdom, and surrounded Himself with disciples that are ready to serve Him. Keep reading to see what God has planned next.



The Gospel of Matthew - Bible Class Study Guide

A Publication of Ray Reynold Rap

PART FIVE: The Preparation of the King's Disciples - Matthew 16:13-20:28

Introduction: In this section the gospel writer wants to talk about the preparation of the King's disciples. Jesus was rejected by Chorazin, Bethsaida, Capernaum, Herod, those in His home town, His family, the scribes, the Pharisees, the Sadducees, and most of those in His generation. What will the disciples do now? Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. The Revelation of Jesus Christ (16:13-17:13)

A. Jesus Reveals His Person (16:13-17)

1. Jesus asks, "*Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?*" (v.13).
2. They answer, "*John the Baptist...Elijah...Jeremiah or one of the prophets*" (v.14).
3. When asked for their opinion Peter states, "*You are the Christ, the Son of the living God,*" a great confession of faith (vs.15-16).
4. Jesus agrees and tells Peter that he will be blessed for making this confession because God revealed it to him (v.17).

B. Jesus Reveals His Program (16:18-20)

1. After the confession Jesus reveals that His purpose is to establish His church and that "*the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it*" (v.18).
2. He also promises to Peter "*the keys of the kingdom of heaven*" (v.19).
3. He also states to him, "*whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven*" (v.19).
4. Then Jesus "*commanded His disciples that they should tell no one that He was Jesus the Christ*" (v.20).

C. Jesus Reveals His Purpose (16:21-28)

1. Jesus reveals His death and Peter is rebuked (vs.21-23).
2. Jesus reveals the reward He will give his disciples for true discipleship (vs.24-26).
3. Jesus reveals that He will come again (v.27).
4. Jesus reveals the coming of the church (v.28).

D. God Reveals Jesus (17:1-13)

1. Six days later Jesus took His three closest disciples to a mountain (v.1).
2. Jesus was transfigured with Moses and Elijah (vs.2-4).
3. God spoke highly of Jesus (vs.5-8).
4. Jesus explained the events leading up to the kingdom (vs.9-13).

II. The Instruction of Jesus Christ (17:14-20:28)

A. Jesus Teaches About Faith (17:14-21)

1. Jesus is approached by the father of an epileptic boy (vs.14-16).
2. Jesus calls the demon out of the boy (vs.17-21).

- B. Jesus Teaches About His Death (17:22-23).
 - 1. Jesus will be betrayed by one of His own (v.22).
 - 2. Jesus will die and resurrect from the death (v.23).

- C. Jesus Teaches About Taxes (17:24-27).
 - 1. Jesus is challenged over temple taxes (v.24).
 - 2. Jesus teaches the disciples and tells Peter to go fishing (vs.25-27).

- D. Jesus Teaches About Humility (18:1-5).
 - 1. The disciples argue over who is the greatest in the kingdom (v.1).
 - 2. Jesus used a child as an object lesson for the disciples (vs.2-5).

- E. Jesus Teaches About Causing Offenses (18:6-20).
 - 1. The punishment given to offenders will be harsh (vs.6-10).
 - 2. Jesus tells the parable of the lost sheep (vs.11-14).
 - 3. The brother who is offended must seek reconciliation (vs.15-20).

- F. Jesus Teaches About Forgiveness (18:21-35).
 - 1. Jesus tells the parable of the unforgiving servant (vs.21-34).
 - 2. God will punish those who do not practice forgiveness (v.35).

- G. Jesus Corrects False Teaching (19:1-15).
 - 1. Jesus teaches about marriage, divorce, and remarriage (vs.1-10).
 - 2. Jesus teaches about eunuchs (vs.11-12).
 - 3. Jesus teaches about little children (vs.13-15).

- H. Jesus Teaches About Earthly Riches and Heavenly Rewards (19:16-20-16).
 - 1. Jesus encounters the rich young ruler (19:16-26).
 - 2. The apostle's reward will be great (19:27-30).
 - 3. Jesus tells the parable of the laborers (20:1-16).

- I. Jesus Teaches About His Death Again (20:17-19).
 - 1. Jesus speaks to His disciples in private (v.17).
 - 2. Jesus tells the disciples what to expect when they arrive in Jerusalem (vs.18-19).

- J. Jesus Teaches About Christian Living (20:20-28).
 - 1. The mother of James and John approaches Jesus with a request (vs.20-21).
 - 2. Jesus speaks to James and John about the request (vs.22-23).
 - 2. Jesus speaks to all the disciples about the request (vs.24-28).

Conclusion: Jesus has been preparing His disciples for kingdom work. He is teaching them how minister and teach after His death. Are they ready? Keep reading to see what God has planned next.



The Gospel of Matthew - Bible Class Study Guide

A Publication of Ray Reynold Rap

PART SIX: The Persecution of the King - Matthew 20:29-27:66

Introduction: In this section the gospel writer wants to talk about the persecution of the King and His disciples. He has tried to prepare the disciples for His death. These chapters deal with the last few weeks of the life of Jesus. Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. The Public Recognizes the King (20:29-2:17)

A. The Blind Men Reach Out to Jesus (20:29-34)

1. The blind men call out to the "*Son of David*" (vs.29-31).
2. Jesus healed the blind men out of compassion (vs.32-34).

B. The Triumphal Entry (21:1-11)

1. Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a colt (vs.1-6).
2. The crowd laid down their clothes, cut down branches, and cried out (vs.7-9).
3. The city was eager to know the identity of Jesus (vs.10-11).

C. The Cleansing of the Temple (21:12-17)

1. Jesus drove out the money changers (vs.12-13).
2. Jesus began healing and teaching in the temple (vs.14-17).

II. The Nation Respects the King (21:18-22:46)

A. The Cursing of the Fig Tree (21:18-22)

1. Jesus is hungry (vs.18).
2. The fig tree is cursed for being fruitless (vs.19-22).

B. The Conflict with the Priests and Elders (21:23-22:14)

1. The priests and elders question the authority of Jesus (21:23-27).
2. Jesus tells the parable of the two sons (21:28-32).
3. Jesus tells the parable of the landowner (21:33-46).
4. Jesus tells the parable of the marriage feast (22:1-14).

C. The Conflict with the Pharisees and Herodians (22:15-22)

1. The Pharisees and Herodians are plotting against Jesus (vs.15-17).
2. Jesus challenges their hypocrisy (vs.18-22).

D. The Conflict with the Sadducees (22:23-33)

1. The Sadducees did not believe in the resurrection (v.23).
2. The Sadducees challenge Jesus (vs.24-28).
3. Jesus teaches about marriage, heaven, and the resurrection (vs.29-33).

E. More Conflicts with the Pharisees (22:34-46)

1. Jesus teaches the lawyer about the "*greatest commandment*" (vs.34-40).
2. Jesus teaches them about the "*Son of David*" (vs.41-46).

III. *The King Rejects the Nation (23:1-39)*

A. Jesus Characterizes the Pharisees (vs.1-12)

1. Jesus describes the position of the scribes and the Pharisees (v.1).
2. Jesus describes the arrogance of the scribes and the Pharisees (vs.2-10).
3. Jesus teaches about humility (vs.11-12).

B. Jesus Condemns the Pharisees (vs.13-36)

1. Jesus first woe of the Pharisees (v.13).
2. Jesus second woe of the Pharisees (v.14).
3. Jesus third woe of the Pharisees (vs.15).
4. Jesus fourth woe of the Pharisees (vs.16-22).
5. Jesus fifth woe of the Pharisees (vs.23-24).
6. Jesus sixth woe of the Pharisees (vs.25-26).
7. Jesus seventh woe of the Pharisees (vs.27-28).
8. Jesus eighth woe of the Pharisees (vs.29-36).
9. Jesus reveals the evil works of the Pharisees through the woes.

C. Jesus Weeps Over Jerusalem (vs.37-39)

1. The people had killed their own prophets (v.37).
2. The people would eventually understand the significance of Jesus' work (vs.38-39).

IV. *The King Reveals The Future (24:1-25:46)*

A. The Prophecy of the Destruction of the Temple (24:1-2)

1. The disciples were impressed by the temple (v.1).
2. Jesus tells them that the temple will fall down (v.2).

B. The Prophecy of the Second Coming of Jesus (24:3-51)

1. The disciples ask two questions, "What?" and "When?" (v.3).
2. Jesus begins by answering the "What?" (vs.4-31).
 - a. Jesus vividly describes the destruction of Jerusalem (vs.4-22).
 - b. Jesus vividly describes His return (vs.23-31).
3. Jesus also answers the "When?" (vs.32-51).
 - a. Jesus uses the illustration of "*the fig tree*" (vs.32-35)
 - b. Jesus uses the illustration of "*the days of Noah*" (vs.36-44).
 - c. Jesus uses the illustration of "*the two servants*" (vs.45-51).

C. The Prophecy of the Final Judgment (25:1-46)

1. Jesus tells the parable of the ten virgins (vs.1-13).
2. Jesus tells the parable of the talents (vs.14-30).
3. Jesus describes the final judgment (vs.31-46).

V. *The Nation Rejects the King (26:1-27:66)*

A. Jesus is Accepted and Rejected (26:1-35)

1. The Religious Leaders Plot to Kill Jesus (vs.1-5)
2. The Anointing of Jesus (vs.6-13)
 - a. Mary poured a "*flask of very costly oil on His head*" (vs.6-9).
 - b. Jesus explains that she was preparing Him for burial (vs.10-13).

3. The Betrayal of Jesus (vs.14-16)
 - a. Judas agrees to betray Jesus for “*thirty pieces of silver*” (vs.14-16).
 - b. This is also a fulfillment of prophesy. - **Zechariah 11:12**
 4. The Disciples Celebrate the Passover (vs.17-35)
 - a. The Passover is prepared for the disciples (vs.17-19).
 - b. The Passover is celebrated by the disciples (vs.20-25).
 - c. The Lord’s Supper is instituted by Jesus (vs.26-29).
 - d. The denial of Peter is predicted by Jesus (vs.30-35).
- B. Jesus is Arrested in Gethsemane (26:36-56)
1. Jesus’ Three Prayers (vs.36-46)
 2. Jesus’ Betrayal and Arrest (vs.47-56)
- C. Jesus is Tried (26:57-27:25)
1. The Trial Before Caiaphas (26:57-75)
 - a. There were “*two false witnesses*” brought to this trial (vs.57-68).
 - b. Peter denied Jesus three times as it was predicted (vs.69-75).
 2. The Trial Before Pilate (27:1-25)
 - a. Jesus is delivered to Pilate (vs.1-2).
 - b. Judas repents of his sin (vs.3-10).
 - c. Jesus is questioned by Pilate (vs.11-14).
 - d. The crowd decides to free Barabbas instead of Jesus (vs.15-25).
- D. Jesus is Crucified (27:26-56)
1. Jesus is scourged by the soldiers (vs.26-28).
 2. Jesus is led to Galgotha to be killed (vs.29-33).
 3. Jesus is crucified (vs.34-44).
 4. Jesus dies on the cross (vs.45-50).
 5. There are several signs at the time of Jesus’ death (vs.51-56).
- E. Jesus is Buried (27:57-66)
1. Joseph of Arimethea has Jesus laid in his own tomb (vs.57-61).
 2. Pilate places guards around the tomb of Jesus (vs.62-66).

Conclusion: Jesus was arrested, tried, scourged, and then led to the cross. Jesus has been preparing His disciples for this event. He had already taught about His death and His resurrection. What will happen now? Keep reading to see what God has planned next.



The Gospel of Matthew - Bible Class Study Guide

A Publication of Ray Reynold Rap

PART SEVEN: The Proof of the King - Matthew 28:1-20

Introduction: In this section the gospel writer wants to conclude his message by sharing the greatest part of the story of the King. The return of the King! His enemies killed Him, but the grave could not hold Him! Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. The Completion of the Work (28:1-7)

A. The Third Day (v.1).

1. It was a Sunday, "*the first day of the week.*"
2. It was three days after Jesus died, the day He promised to be raised up.
3. It was after the Sabbath, the day of rest
4. It was dawn, the first thing in the morning
5. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were present, those closest to Jesus.
6. The story takes place at the tomb where Jesus was buried.

B. The Miraculous Events (vs.2-7).

1. There was "*a great earthquake*" (v.2).
2. Then "*an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat on it*" (v.2).
3. His countenance was "*like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow*" (v.3).
4. The guards "*shook for fear of him, and became like dead men*" (v.4).
5. The angel told the women, "*Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. And go quickly and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead, and indeed He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him. Behold, I have told you*" (vs.5-7).

II. The Communication to the Disciples (28:8-10)

A. Jesus Sends the Women to Share the Gospel Message (v.8)

1. The women went quickly with "*fear and great joy*" to tell His disciples (v.8).
2. The word of Jesus' resurrection comes to the disciples.

B. Jesus Meets the Disciples (v.9).

1. He told them to "Rejoice!"
2. They "*came and held Him by the feet and worshiped Him.*"

C. Jesus Talks to the Disciples (v.10).

1. Jesus gave them comfort, a mission, and then a promise.
2. After telling them to rejoice He said, "*Do not be afraid,*" and then he said, "*Go and tell My brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see Me.*"
3. The promise given is that the disciples would see Jesus again.

III. *The Corruption of the Soldiers (28:11-15)*

- A. The Soldiers Are Bribed to Conceal the Truth (v.11)
 - 1. Some of the guards that were at the tomb went into the city.
 - 2. They reported to the chief priests all the things that had happened.

- B. The Soldiers and the Elders Consult Together (vs.12-14)
 - 1. They gave “*a large sum of money to the soldiers*” (v.12).
 - 2. Then they told them to say, “*His disciples came at night and stole Him away while we slept*” (v.13).
 - 3. And then they promised that if it came to the “*governor’s ears*” would “*appease him*” and make them secure (v.14).

- C. The Soldiers Accept the Bribe (v.15)
 - 1. The soldiers “*took the money and did as they were instructed.*”
 - 2. This was “*commonly reported among the Jews*” until the day of this writing.

IV. *The Consecration of the Disciples (28:16-17)*

- A. The Eleven Re-unite With Jesus (v.16)
 - 1. The eleven disciples went away into Galilee, “*to the mountain which Jesus had appointed for them.*”
 - 2. This was a familiar place to both Jesus and the disciples.

- B. The Eleven Worship Jesus (v.17)
 - 1. When they saw Him “*they worshiped Him.*”
 - 2. Some of the disciples “*doubted.*”
 - 3. This was a wonderful this day for the disciples!

V. *The Commission of the Disciples (28:18-20)*

- A. Jesus Teaches His Disciples (v.18)
 - 1. Jesus told them about His authority.
 - 2. He said, “*All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.*”
 - 3. This authority is over everything! He is the King!

- B. Jesus Challenges His Disciples (vs.19-20)
 - 1. Jesus uses His authority to commission His disciples.
 - 2. He said, “*Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.*”
 - 3. This commission is found in the gospel accounts of Mark and Luke.

Conclusion: It should be obvious from this series of lessons that Jesus is King! Jesus fulfilled several prophecies in the Old Testament (333). What does the King expect from you? Do you believe that He is the King? The King is calling you, will you answer Him?