

Matthew

Book 40

What is the Holy Bible?

The Holy Bible is a collection of writings that includes 66 books in English editions. The Bible consists of two parts, the Old Testament and New Testament. The word testament means covenant. The Old Testament includes 39 books, and the New Testament includes 27 books.

These 66 books were written over approximately 1,400 years by 40 different authors in Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek. The Old Testament writings were affirmed by Jewish leaders, and moreover, by Jesus Christ.¹ The New Testament writings were confirmed by early church leaders. The 66 books of the Bible are the inspired words of God that are used to make and mature disciples of the One true God through Jesus Christ, his Son ([Matthew 28:18-20](#), [2 Timothy 3:16-17](#)). The Bible was not created by mere human wisdom but was inspired by God ([2 Peter 1:20-21](#)), is interpreted by His Holy Spirit ([John 16:13](#), [Matthew 23:8-10](#)), and will last forever ([Matthew 24:35](#)).²

If you do a phrase search on the Bible you will find the phrase "the word of the Lord" and "Thus says the Lord" more than 700 times.³ In addition, this book has given reasonable evidence to the claim of being God's word by:

- providing answers that conform with the reality we see around us.
- being a reliable collection of historical documents.
- containing eyewitness accounts that were written during the lifetimes of other eyewitnesses.
- recording supernatural events that took place in fulfillment of specific prophecies.⁴

Notes:

¹ See Matthew 4:4-7, 12:3-5, Mark 7:6-7, 12:26-27, and Luke 19:46 for examples.

² ["What are the Books of the Bible", GotQuestions.org](#)

³ [Blue Letter Bible](#)

⁴ Paraphrased from Voddie Baucham

Our Goals in Studying the Bible

To better

- Understand the Only true God; the Author of the Bible. ([2 Timothy 3:16-17](#), [2 Peter 1:20-21](#), [1 John 5:20](#), [Jeremiah 9:23-24](#))
- Learn How He works in the World and in our Lives. ([Job 40:6-14](#), [Isaiah 45:6-7](#), [Isaiah 46:8-10](#), [Philippians 2:12-13](#))
- Understand Ourselves and the Hearts of Mankind. ([Jeremiah 17:9](#), [2 Timothy 3:13](#), [Ephesians 5:7-10](#))
- Come to Know What Pleases and Grieves God. ([1 Thessalonians 4:1](#), [Ephesians 4:26-31](#), [Hebrews 11:6](#), [1 Peter 1:14-19](#))
- To be Transformed into Fruitful Doers of God's Word and not just Hearers. ([Romans 12:2](#), [James 1:27](#), [Matthew 3:8](#))
- Tether Ourselves to God's Word for Our Wisdom, Discernment, and Safety. ([1 Corinthians 6:9-10](#), [Matthew 24:24](#), [Ephesians 4:11-14](#))

[Jeremiah 9:23-24](#) "Thus says the Lord: "Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the Lord."

How to Study the Bible

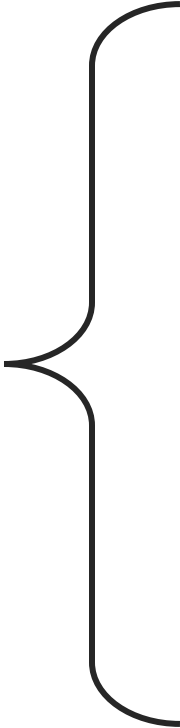
#1. Observation: What does the text say.



#2. Interpretation: What does the text mean in context with the passage, book, and whole counsel of God?

#3. Application: How is the Holy Spirit instructing me to apply this understanding at this time in my life?

Study Resources



- Opening Prayer
- Background and Setting
- Book Outline
- Geography Maps
- Key Verses
- Study Questions
- Major Event Timeline
- Book Summary
- Application and Closing Prayer
- Study Leader Support Slides

Opening Prayer Verse: Matthew

[Matthew 3:16-17](#), "And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."



Review of Malachi

Brief Summary: In the book of Malachi the Lord rebukes the priests and the people for their faithlessness and sin. He indicts the priests (Malachi 1:6–2:9) and people (Malachi 2:10–16) for repudiating his love and refusing to give him the honor and respect due him as Creator and Law giver. The people were offering blind and lame animals as sacrifices to the God of Heaven whose Law required unblemished animals that foreshadowed His coming Son, our Messiah. The Lord also impeaches the people for calling good that which is evil, and thereby, seeking to redefine what God has defined as righteousness. Lastly, God charges the people with robbing Him and despising the promised benefits to those who serve Him.

After the denunciation of Israel's sin, the Lord declares the coming judgment and blessing. In the day of His coming, he will be like a refiner's fire and fullers' soap purifying the sons of Levi (Malachi 3:2-4), destroying the arrogant and evildoers (Malachi 4:1), and strengthening those who fear Him enabling them to crush the wicked under their feet (Malachi 4:2-3). God promises to love and treasure those who fear Him and spare them from his wrath; thereby making a distinction between the righteous and the wicked (Malachi 3:16-18).

Foreshadowings: [Malachi 3:1-6](#) is a prophecy concerning John the Baptist. He was the Messenger of the Lord sent to prepare the way ([Matthew 11:10](#)) for the Messiah, Jesus Christ. John preached repentance and baptized in the name of the Lord, thus preparing the way for Jesus' first advent. But the Messenger who comes "suddenly to the Temple" is Christ Himself in His second advent when He comes in power and might ([Matthew 24](#)). At that time, He will "purify the sons of Levi" ([Malachi 3:3](#)), meaning that those who exemplified the Mosaic Law would themselves need purification from sin through the blood of the Savior. Only then will they be able to offer "an offering in righteousness" because it will be the righteousness of Christ imputed to them through faith ([2 Corinthians 5:21](#)).

New Testament Table of Contents (27 Books)

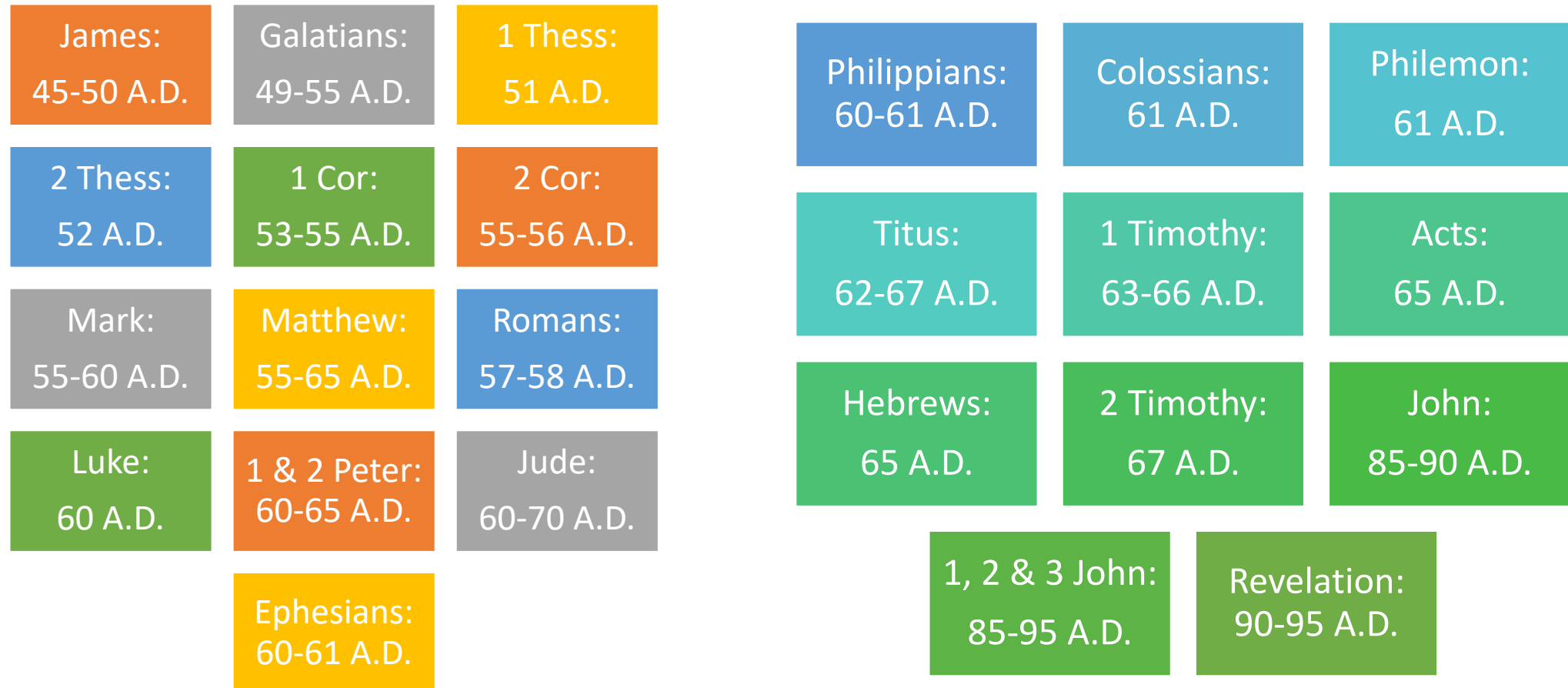
THE GOSPELS & ACTS - 5
MATTHEW
MARK
LUKE
JOHN
ACTS

PAUL'S LETTERS TO CHURCHES - 9
ROMANS
1 CORINTHIANS
2 CORINTHIANS
GALATIANS
EPHESIANS
PHILIPPIANS
COLOSSIANS
1 THESSALONIANS
2 THESSALONIANS

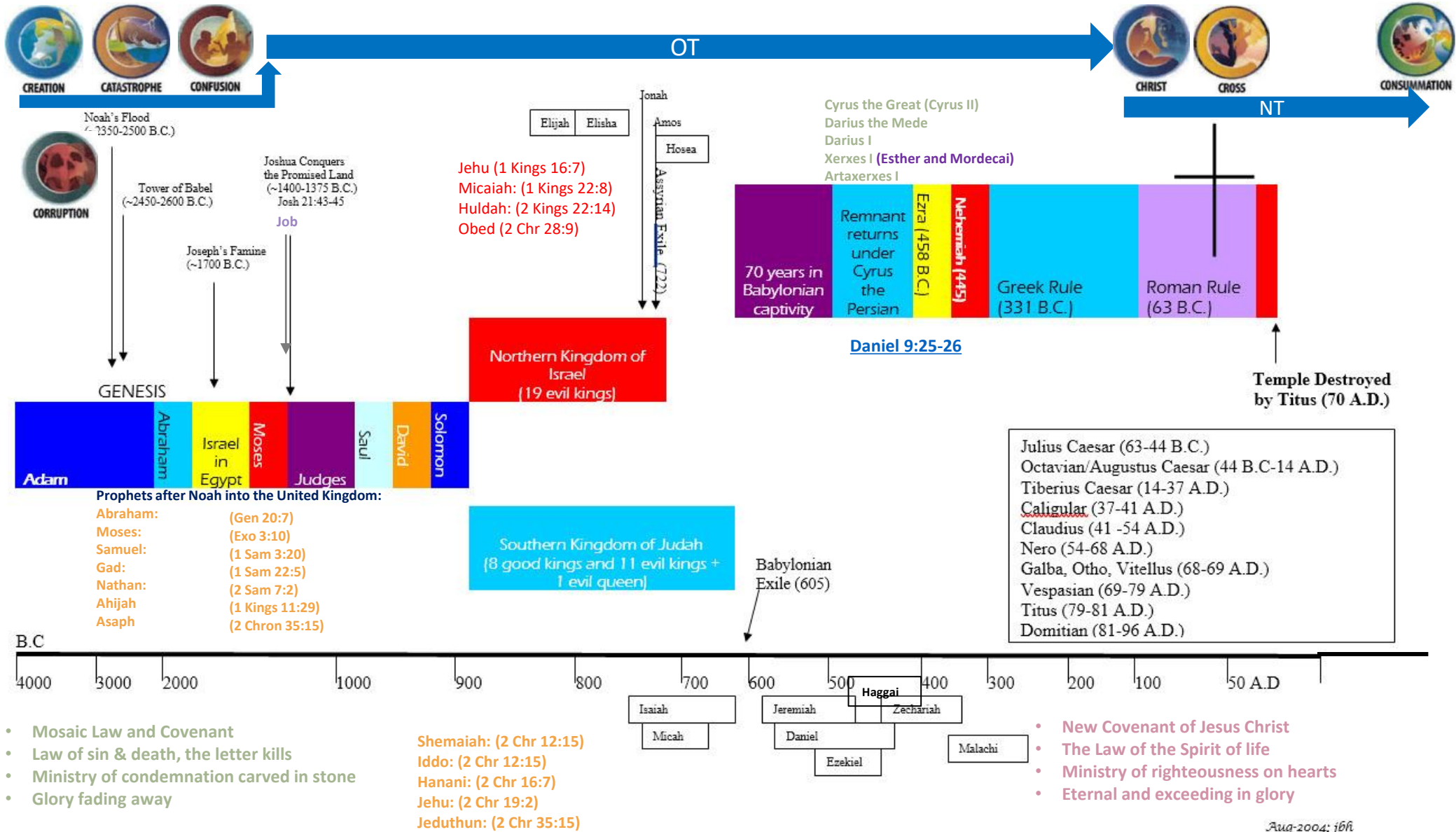
PAUL'S LETTERS TO INDIVIDUALS - 4
1 TIMOTHY
2 TIMOTHY
TITUS
PHILEMON

LETTERS BY OTHERS - 9
HEBREWS
JAMES
1 PETER
2 PETER
1 JOHN
2 JOHN
3 JOHN
JUDE
REVELATION

New Testament Books by Date Written



BIBLICAL CHRONOLOGICAL BACKGROUND



- Mosaic Law and Covenant
- Law of sin & death, the letter kills
- Ministry of condemnation carved in stone
- Glory fading away

- Shemaiah: (2 Chr 12:15)
- Iddo: (2 Chr 12:15)
- Hanani: (2 Chr 16:7)
- Jehu: (2 Chr 19:2)
- Jeduthun: (2 Chr 35:15)

- New Covenant of Jesus Christ
- The Law of the Spirit of life
- Ministry of righteousness on hearts
- Eternal and exceeding in glory

Timeline is not to scale
 Aug-2004; jbh
 Rev Jul-2020; jfw

Matthew

Author: Apostle Matthew

Date of Writing: c. 55-65 A.D.

About This Gospel and its Author

DATE: c. 55-65 A.D.

Although a few of the New Testament letters are dated earlier than the gospels, Matthew along with the other gospels bridge the ~400 years of silence between the close of the book of Malachi from the Old Testament and the historical events surrounding the New Testament. The gospels accomplish this by connecting back to pertinent Old Testament genealogies and fulfilled prophecies. John the Baptist will break the silence as the voice crying in the wilderness “Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.”¹

Matthew, meaning “gift of the Lord,” was the other name of Levi ([Matthew 9:9](#)), the tax collector who left everything to follow Christ ([Luke 5:27-28](#)). Matthew was one of the 12 apostles.² In his own list of the Twelve, he explicitly calls himself a “tax collector” ([Matthew 10:3](#)). Nowhere else in Scripture is the name Matthew associated with “tax collector”; the other evangelists always employ his former name, Levi, when speaking of his sinful past. This is evidence of humility on Matthew’s part. As with the other three Gospels, this work is known by the author’s name.

It is clear that this Gospel was written at a relatively early date—prior to the destruction of the temple in 70 A.D. Some scholars have proposed a date as early as 50 A.D. Mark was likely written between ad 55-65.³

Notes:

¹ Mark 1:1-3, Isaiah 40:3, Malachi 3:1

² Matt. 10:3; Mark 3:18; Luke 6:15; Acts 1:13

³ [“When was Mark Written”](#), by GotQuestions.org



Matthew Background and Setting

The Jewish flavor of Matthew's Gospel is remarkable. This is evident even in the opening genealogy, which Matthew traces back only as far as Abraham. In contrast, Luke, aiming to show Christ as the Redeemer of humanity, goes all the way back to Adam. Matthew's purpose is somewhat narrower: to demonstrate that Christ is the King and Messiah of Israel. This Gospel quotes more than 60 times from Old Testament prophetic passages, emphasizing how Christ is the fulfillment of all those promises.

The probability that Matthew's audience was predominantly Jewish is further evident from several facts: Matthew usually cites Jewish custom without explaining it, in contrast to the other Gospels.¹ He constantly refers to Christ as "the Son of David".² Matthew even guards Jewish sensibilities regarding the name of God, referring to "the kingdom of heaven" where the other evangelists speak of "the kingdom of God." All the book's major themes are rooted in the Old Testament and set in light of Israel's messianic expectations.

Matthew's use of Greek may suggest that he was writing as an Israeli Jew to Hellenistic Jews elsewhere. He wrote as an eyewitness of many of the events he described, giving firsthand testimony about the words and works of Jesus of Nazareth.

His purpose is clear: to demonstrate that Jesus is the Jewish nation's long-awaited Messiah. His voluminous quoting of the Old Testament is specifically designed to show the tie between the Messiah of promise and the Christ of history. This purpose is never out of focus for Matthew, and he even cites many incidental details from the Old Testament prophecies as proofs of Jesus' messianic claims (e.g., Matthew 2:17–18; 4:13–15; 13:35; 21:4–5; 27:9–10).³

Notes:

¹ cf. Mark 7:3; John 19:40

² Matthew 1:1; 9:27; 12:23; 15:22; 20:30; 21:9, 21:15; 22:42, 22:45

³ e.g., Matthew 2:17-18; 4:13-15; 13:35; 21:4-5; 27:9-10

Matthew: Outline

Prologue: The King's Advent

- **His Birth**
- His ancestry
- His arrival
- His adoration
- His adversaries
- **His Entry into Public Ministry**
- His forerunner
- His baptism
- His temptation
- His earliest ministry

The King's Agenda

- **Discourse 2: The Commissioning of the Twelve:**
- The Master's men
- The sending of the disciples
- Hallmarks of discipleship
- **Narrative 2: The Mission of the King:**
- Jesus' identity affirmed for John's disciples
- Woes pronounced on the impenitent
- Rest offered to the weary
- Lordship asserted over the Sabbath
- Opposition fomented by the Jewish leaders
- Eternal relationships defined by spiritual ancestry

The King's Administration

- **Discourse 4: The Childlikeness of the Believer:**
- A call for childlike faith
- A warning against offenses
- A parable about a lost sheep
- A pattern for church discipline
- A lesson about forgiveness
- **Narrative 4: The Jerusalem Ministry:**
- **Some kingly lessons:** on divorce, celibacy, salvation, his death
- **Some kingly deeds:** heals, receives adoration, cleanses the temple, curses a fig tree, answers a challenge
- **Some kingly parables:** two sons, the wicked tenants, the wedding feast
- **Some kingly answers:** paying taxes, the resurrection, the great commandment, the greater Son
- **Some kingly pronouncements:** woe to the scribes, Pharisees, and Jerusalem

Epilogue: The King's Assignment

- **The King's Pronouncement:** "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me."
- **The King's Decreed Plan:** "Make disciples of all nations."
- **The Kings Decreed Process**
- Go
- Baptize them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
- Teach them to observe all I have commanded you.
- **The King's Promise:** I am with you always, to the end of the age.



Matthew 1:1–4:25

Matthew 5:1–9:38

Matthew 10:1–12:50

Matthew 13:1–17:27

Matthew 18:1–23:39

Matthew 24:1–28:15

Matthew 28:16–20

The King's Authority

- **Discourse 1: The Sermon on the Mount:**
- Righteousness, happiness, and discipleship
- Righteousness and the Scriptures
- Righteousness, morality, and practical religion
- Righteousness and human relations
- Righteousness and salvation
- **Narrative 1: The Authenticating Miracles:**
- A leper cleansed and the centurion's servant healed
- Peter's mother-in-law healed; Multitudes healed
- The winds and sea rebuked
- Two demon-possessed men delivered
- A paralytic pardoned and healed ; a girl raised from the dead
- Two blind men given sight; a mute speaks

The King's Adversaries

- **Discourse 3: The Kingdom Parables:**
- The soils, the wheat and weeds, the mustard seed
- The leaven, the hidden treasure, and the pearl
- The master of a house
- **Narrative 3: The Kingdom Conflict:**
- Nazareth rejects the King
- Herod murders John the Baptist
- Jesus feeds the 5,000; Jesus walks on water
- The scribes and Pharisees challenge Jesus
- Jesus heals the multitudes and feeds 4,000
- Peter confesses Christ
- Jesus predicts his death; reveals his glory, foretells his betrayal

The King's Atonement

- **Discourse 5: The Olivet Discourse:**
- The destruction of the temple
- The signs of the times; the King's return
- The fig tree parable; the lesson of Noah
- The parables of the two servants, 10 virgins, talents
- The judgment of the nations
- **Narrative 5: The Crucifixion and Resurrection:**
- The plot to kill the King
- Mary's anointing
- Judas's betrayal
- The Passover, Jesus' agony, arrest, and trial
- Peter's denial; Judas's suicide
- The crucifixion, burial, and resurrection

Geography of the Gospels



Geography of the Gospels – a Secondary View



Repeated Words and/or Phrases in the Book of Matthew

Word/Phrase	Approx. No.	Comments
Jesus, Son of Man, Son of Abraham, Son of David, Son of God, Christ, Messiah	242	Son of Man identifies with humanity, Son of Abraham identifies Jesus with the Abrahamic covenant, Son of David identifies Jesus as King, Son of God identifies Jesus as Deity, Christ/Messiah identifies Jesus as Savior.
Pharisees, chief priests, scribes, Sadducees	75	<p>Pharisees: A sect that seems to have started after the Jewish exile. Believed in oral traditions and self-piety.</p> <p>Chief priests: Men of Aaron's line chosen by lot to hold office for one year. Duties included: A) once a year on the day of atonement to enter the Holy of Holies, B) offer sacrifices for his own sins and the sins of the people, C) to preside over the Sanhedrin, or Supreme Council, for judicial deliberations.</p> <p>Scribes: men who studied the Mosaic law and sacred writings and served as interpreters and teachers.</p> <p>Sadducees: " the righteous" 1) a religious party who deemed the written law alone to be obligatory on the nation, as the divine authority. They denied the following doctrines: 1a) resurrection of the body, 1b) immortality of the soul, 1c) existence of spirits and angels, and 1d) divine predestination. They affirmed free will.</p>
Disciples	68	Disciples of the Pharisees, Disciples of John the Baptist, Disciples of Jesus
Kingdom, Kingdom of God, Kingdom of Heaven	53	
Prophet/Prophets	37	Generally referenced as Jesus' life fulfills the words of the Old Testament prophets.
Slave or servant	27	
Teach(ing)/Preach(ing)	19	
Temple	18	The physical temple in Jerusalem or Jesus' body.
Blessed	17	Happy; prosperous in worldly affairs; enjoying spiritual happiness and the favor of God; enjoying heavenly joy.
Forgive, forgiven, forgave, forgiveness	14	
Life	14	

Matthew: Key Verses

[Matthew 1:1](#): The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

[Matthew 3:13-17](#): Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

[Matthew 5:17](#): "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them."

[Matthew 5:43-44](#): "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."

[Matthew 6:9-13](#): "This, then, is how you should pray: 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one.'"

[Matthew 11:27-30](#): All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

[Matthew 16:26](#): "What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?"

[Matthew 22:37-40](#): "Jesus replied, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.'" This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: "Love your neighbor as yourself." All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two.'"

[Matthew 24:29-31](#): "Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other."

[Matthew 27:31](#): "After they had mocked him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him."

[Matthew 28:5-6](#): "The angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.'"

[Matthew 28:18-20](#): "And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Matthew: Study Questions

1. Read [Matthew 1:20-23](#), [Matthew 3:13-17](#), and [Matthew 17:1-8](#). Answer the two items below.
 - a) Can you use these passages to answer the question Jesus posed to the Pharisees in [Matthew 22:41-45](#)?
 - b) What conclusions do these passages cause you to reasonably draw regarding the God of all creation?
2. Look back at the outline for Matthew on the section entitled “The Kings Authority”. What item from Jesus’ sermon on the mount impacted you the most and why?
3. At the end of Jesus’ first of five addresses recorded in Matthew, the people noted that Jesus taught as one who had authority (see [Matthew 7:28-29](#)). What did Jesus do after this first address to authenticate that He indeed was One with all authority?
4. Our King gave his life for our atonement. And praise God that it was impossible for death to hold him. After his resurrection He appeared with many convincing proofs and continued to teach his disciples until He was taken back into heaven where He sits until [Psalm 110:1](#) is fulfilled. In the meantime, Jesus left us with an assignment recorded in [Matthew 28:18-20](#). What about this assignment comforts you the most? What makes you the most uncomfortable?

BIBLE ESCHATOLOGY



MATTHEW



Major Eschatological Events
John the Baptist, the 1st Coming of Christ Jesus' Death, Burial and Resurrection First Fruits and Jesus' and Ascension (Gen 3:15, Lev 23:9-14, Psa. 16:8-11, Psa. 22, Isa. 7:14, Isa. 9:6, Isa. 53:5-6, Hos. 3:4-5, Jonah 1:15-17, Micah 5:1-2, Zech 9:9, Zech 13:7, Mal 3:1, Matt 27, Mark 16, Luke 24, Acts 1, Titus 2:11-13)
The Last Days Begin and the Church is Built Harvest of Weeks/Pentecost (Lev 23:15-21, Acts 2:17, Titus 2:11-13)
Birth Pangs Jerusalem and the Temple Again Destroyed (70 A.D.) (Matt 24:4-8, Mark 13:1-13, Luke 21:9-10a, 1 Thess 5:1-4, 2 Thess 2:5-7, 1 Tim 4:1-3, 2 Tim 3:1-7)
Great Tribulation (Lev 23:24, Num 29:1-6, Ezek. 38:14-23, Dan. 7:24-25, Dan. 9:24-27, Dan 12:11-12, Joel 2:1-2, Joel 2:10-13, Joel 3:12-16, Obad. 1:15-16, Hag. 2:6-9, Zech 14:1-5, Mal 3:2-4, Mal. 4:5, Matt 24:21-22, Mark 13:14-20, Luke 21:25-36, 1 Thess 5:1-4, 2 Thess 2:3-4, 8-12, Heb 12:26-29, Rev. 6-19)
Sun Darkened, Moon without Light, and Stars Falling from the Sky (Joel 2:30-31, Matt 24:29, Mark 13:24-25, Luke 21:20-24, Heb 12:26-29, Rev. 6:12, Rev. 8:12)
Christ in the Cloud and the last Trumpet to Gather the Elect (Matt 24:29-31, Mark 13:26-27, Luke 21:27, 1 Cor 15:53-56, 2 Cor 5:2-5, Phil 3:20-21, 1 Thess 4:13-17, 2 Thess 2:1-2, Titus 2:11-13, 1 Tim 6:13-16, James 5:7-8, Rev. 14:14-16)
Christ is Victorious in Great Tribulation Final War at Armageddon and all Israel Saved (Lev 23:26-32, Psa. 2:1-12, Dan. 11:44, Zech 12:10-14, Romans 11:25-27, 2 Thess 2:8, 1 Tim 6:13-16, Rev 19:11-21)
Ancient of Days holds Court (Dan 7:9-14, Dan. 7:21-22)
Jesus is Crowned King of Kings for the Millennial Kingdom Every knee will bow at the name of Jesus Christ to the Glory of God the Father (Psa. 89:3-37, Psa. 110:1-7, Isa. 45:23, Isa. 65:25, Jer. 3:14-18, Dan. 7:9-15, Dan. 7:26-27, Hos. 3:4-5, Joel 3:1, Amos 9:11-15, Obad. 1:17-18, Micah 4:1-2, Nah. 2:1-2, Hag. 2:21-23, Zech 14:9, Mal 1:1, Phil 2:10-11, 1 Tim 6:13-16, Heb 12:26-29, 1 Peter 5:2-4, Rev 20:4)
All Israel Saved (Romans 11:25-27) Trial of the Sheep & Goats (Matt 25) Satan is bound for 1,000 years (Rev 20:1-3)
Satan is released and gathers Gog and Magog for war against the saints and the Holy City (Rev 20:7-11)
Fire from heaven destroys the armies of Gog and Magog Satan is thrown into the Lake of Fire Christ on the white throne of Judgment/2nd Resurrection (Mal 4:1-2, Col 3:23-24, Rev 20:9-15)
New Heaven and New Earth (Lev 23:34-43, Isa 25:6-9, 1 Cor 15:22-28, Heb 12:26-29, 2 Peter 3:10-13, Rev 21-22)

[Matthew 24:4-8](#), "And Jesus answered them, "See that no one leads you astray. For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and they will lead many astray. And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are but the beginning of the birth pains."

[Matthew 24:21-22](#), "For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be. And if those days had not been cut short, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short."

[Matthew 24:29-31](#), "Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other."

[Matthew 25:31-46](#), "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.'"

Summary of Matthew

Brief Summary: In the book of Matthew, God reveals to us Jesus, the Christ, the son of Abraham, the Son of David, the beloved Son of the Living God ([Matthew 1](#)). This gospel is laid out in a series of five discourses and historical narratives. Jesus is the One who fulfills all the Law and the Prophets ([Matthew 5:17](#)) and of whom Moses and the Prophets wrote ([Luke 24:26-27](#)). All authority has been given to Jesus, and he demonstrated this authority in word and deeds as he healed the sick, cleansed the lepers, gave sight to the blind, caused the deaf to hear, the mute to speak, calmed the wind and the waves, and raised the dead. Jesus went throughout Israel calling his disciples to follow him and teaching the people to “repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand” ([Matthew 4:17](#)). Jesus taught that what defiles us before God are the things that come from our own hearts: evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, and slander ([Matthew 15:18-20](#)). He promised rest for the weary and that his yoke is easy ([Matthew 11:25-30](#)). When Jesus taught in parables to the crowds, privately he explained everything to his disciples, and to them he foretold the signs of His Second Coming ([Matthew 13:10-23](#), [Matthew 24-25](#)).

King Jesus upended his adversaries with their man-made traditions and denounced them for failing to shepherd God’s flock ([Matthew 23:15](#), [Ezekiel 34:1-3](#), [Zechariah 11:8-9](#)). At the conclusion of these conflicts, the false shepherds plotted to have the Son of God killed as Jesus predicted ([Matthew 26:3-4](#), [Acts 2:22-24](#)). But what men meant for evil, God worked for good in that Christ was struck for our transgressions and raised on the third day with all authority in heaven and earth ([Isaiah 53](#), [John 19:10-11](#), [Matthew 28:18](#)). Before ascending into heaven to sit at the Father’s right hand ([Acts 1:4-9](#), [Psalm 110:1](#)), Jesus left his followers with the assignment to make disciples of all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey all He commanded. This Jesus, with all authority, promised to be with us always to the end of the age ([Matthew 28:18-20](#)).

Connections: Matthew quotes more than 60 times from prophetic passages of the Old Testament, demonstrating how Jesus fulfilled them and is the King and Messiah of Israel. He begins his Gospel with the genealogy of Jesus, tracing Him back to Abraham, the progenitor of the Jews through Jacob. From there, Matthew quotes extensively from the prophets, frequently using the phrase “as was spoken through the prophet(s)”.¹ These verses refer to the Old Testament prophecies of His virgin birth ([Isaiah 7:14](#)) in Bethlehem ([Micah 5:2](#)), His return from Egypt after the death of Herod ([Hosea 11:1](#)), His ministry to the Gentiles ([Isaiah 9:1-2](#); [60:1-3](#)), His miraculous healings of both body and soul ([Isaiah 53:4](#)), His speaking in parables ([Psalm 78:2](#)), and His triumphal entry into Jerusalem ([Zechariah 9:9](#) and [Daniel 9:25-26](#)).

Notes:

¹ [Matthew 1:22-23](#), [2:5-6](#), [2:15](#), [4:13-16](#), [8:16-17](#), [13:35](#), [21:4-5](#)

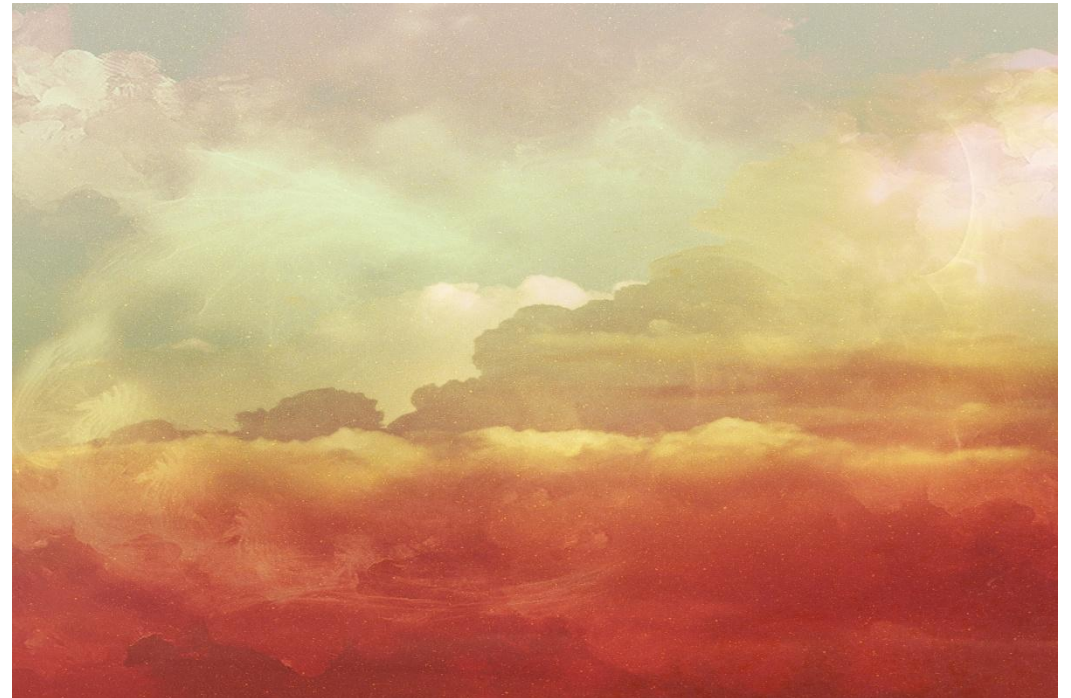
Matthew: Practical Application

Practical Application: The Gospel of Matthew is an excellent introduction to the core teachings of Christianity. The logical outline style makes it easy to locate discussions on various topics. Matthew is especially useful for understanding how the life of Christ was the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies.

Matthew's intended audience was his fellow Israelites, many of whom—especially the Pharisees and Sadducees—stubbornly refused to accept Jesus as their Messiah. Despite centuries of reading and studying the Old Testament, their eyes were blinded to the truth of who Jesus was. Jesus rebuked them for their hard hearts and their refusal to recognize the One they had supposedly been waiting for ([John 5:38-40](#)). They wanted a Messiah on their own terms, one who would fulfill their own desires and do what they wanted Him to do. How often do we seek God on our own terms? Don't we reject Him by ascribing to Him only those attributes we find acceptable, the ones that make us feel good—His love, mercy, grace—while rejecting those we find objectionable—His wrath, justice, and holy anger? We dare not make the mistake of the Pharisees, creating a god in our own image and then expecting him to live up to our standards. Such a god is nothing more than an idol. The Bible gives us more than enough information about the true nature and identity of God and Jesus Christ to warrant our worship and our obedience.

Closing Prayer Verse

[Matthew 28:18-20](#): "And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

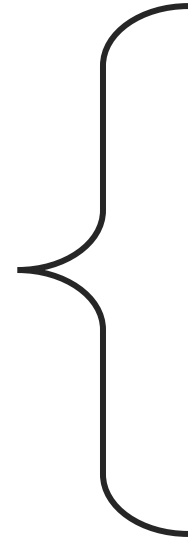




Acknowledgements

1. **Background, Setting, Outlines, some Study Question answers, interpretative challenges, and some Summaries:** Adapted from MacArthur Study Bible.
2. **Key verses, Practical Application, some Study Question answers, and some Summaries:** Adapted from GotQuestions.org.
3. **Creation – Consummation Icons:** Adapted from AnswersInGenesis.org.
4. **Definitions:** Adapted from Websters 1828 Dictionary.

Study Leader
Assistance



Sample Prayers

Study Question Answer Keys

Sample Opening Prayer Verse: Matthew

Matthew 3:16-17, "And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

Sample Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for your work throughout history until the fullness of time when you sent us your beloved Son. Thank you for the writings of Moses, the Prophets, and the New Testament apostles so that we may have certainty in the things we have been taught and in whom we have believed for our salvation and adoption into your family. Be at work in us so that we may let our lights shine so that men glorify You through Jesus Christ, our Lord. In His name we pray. Amen.



Matthew: Study Question Answers

1. Read [Matthew 1:20-23](#), [Matthew 3:13-17](#), and [Matthew 17:1-8](#). Answer the two items below.
 - a) Can you use these passages to answer the question Jesus posed to the Pharisees in [Matthew 22:41-45](#)? **Answer:** Matthew 1:20-23 teaches us Jesus was conceived by Mary through the Holy Spirit and not by human seed and is God with Us. In Matthew 3:13-17 and Matthew 17:1-8 we learn that Jesus came to fulfill all righteousness, something only God can do, and when he was baptized, the Holy Spirit came to rest on him, and the Heavenly Father declared him his beloved Son. Thus, we can conclude from these passages that Jesus is the Son of God; the one who has always existed with the same essence as the Father and the Spirit who took on human flesh. This makes him David's LORD; the one that sits at the right hand of the Father. In addition, in Jesus' human nature he is also a descendant and son of David.
 - b) What conclusions do these passages cause you to reasonably draw regarding the God of all creation? **Answer:** The God of creation, though He is One, declares himself to have always existed as three persons working in perfect harmony. In the Old Testament we see the plurality in Genesis 1:1 as the Spirit of God moves and the Word of God speaks creation into existence. God's identification in Genesis 1:26, "Let us", communicates this is a plurality of Persons and not pieces or modes. (See also Genesis 3:22 and Genesis 11:7). Further, in the Old Testament God makes himself known as "I AM WHO I AM", God almighty, the Everlasting God, the God who heals, provides, sees, sanctifies, the Holy Spirit (Isaiah 63:10), and the Angel of the Lord (Genesis 16:10). Then in these New Testament passages, in the fullness of time, God gave us a Son. Now, because the Word took on human flesh and gave his life to pay our sin debt, through Jesus we can know God as Abba Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. (See also John 1:14, Hebrews 2:17, Romans 3:21-25, 1 John 4:9-10.)
2. Look back at the outline for Matthew on the section entitled "The Kings Authority". What item from Jesus' sermon on the mount impacted you the most and why? **Answer:** This is an individual response. For me it is to let my light shine in a way that causes others to see my good works and give glory to God. In all that God commands I need his help to accomplish. But it is too easy to accept the thanks and praises of others without making the effort to let them know that I have nothing and can do no good apart from God working in and through me.
3. At the end of Jesus' first of five addresses recorded in Matthew the people noted that Jesus taught as one who had authority (see [Matthew 7:28-29](#)). What did Jesus do after this first address to authenticate that He indeed was One with all authority? **Answer:** Jesus cleansed a leper and then healed a centurion's servant, Peter's mother-in-law and multitudes of people. He calmed the winds and sea, delivered two demon-possessed men, forgave and healed a paralytic, raised a girl from the dead, gave sight to two blind men, and enabled a mute to speak. Jesus Christ demonstrated his authority over every area of life including life itself.
4. Our King Jesus gave his life for our atonement. And praise God that it was impossible for death to hold him. After his resurrection He appeared with many convincing proofs and continued to teach his disciples until He was taken back into heaven where He sits until [Psalm 110:1](#) is fulfilled. In the meantime, Jesus left us with an assignment recorded in [Matthew 28:18-20](#). What about this assignment comforts you the most? What makes you the most uncomfortable? **Answer:** This is an individual response. What comforts me the most is that Jesus has all authority, and He promises to be with me always. What makes me the most uncomfortable is the charge to teach others to obey all Jesus has commanded. All of us stumble in many ways, fall short, struggle with pride. So, we must rely on God to maintain teachable and humble spirits as we strive to rightly understand God's word and attempt to instruct others. To say this is a challenging task is a vast understatement (John 15:5).

Sample Closing Prayer Verse

[Matthew 28:18-20](#): “And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Sample Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, we thank you that all authority in heaven and earth has been given to our Lord Jesus Christ, who loved us and gave himself over to death so that we could be forgiven and brought into His kingdom. Lord Jesus thank you for showing us the Father and giving us the opportunity to help others know, love, and obey you. Thank you for giving us your Holy Spirit. Holy Spirit thank you for causing us to be born again. Please continue to guide us into all truth and produce in us works that glorify the Father, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

