

## Sermon Outlines

### The Gospel of Matthew - The Historical Context and Developing Theme - for Study

#### Introduction

The Gospel of Matthew must be viewed in the nationalistic and religious of when it was written:

- a) Written against the political powers at the end of the Old Testament
- b) Written against the religious background of Israel at the end of the Old Testament in 2 Chronicles and Malachi
- c) Written against the background of the spiritual and political of Hebrews
- d) It must be read with the mindset of a first-century Jew

At the end of the Old Testament Israel was left with:

- a) The writings of Malachi
  - i) A remnant (Mal. 3:16; 4:2-4), could they be a blessing universally if they could not even keep themselves in fellowship with God but were like insolent children (Mal. 1:6-14)?
  - ii) A curse due to their rebellion (Mal. 3:5). How could they be a blessing to others?
  - iii) A hope (Mal. 1:9; 3:1-4; 9-12; 4:1-6).
- b) The writings, possibly of Ezra, but unknown for sure.
  - i) Till there was no remedy (2 Chron. 36:16)
  - ii) The king of Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar had no compassion (2 Chron. 36:17)
  - iii) Freedom to go up to Jerusalem but still under foreign kings (2 Chron. 36:23)
  - iv) Ends with a split people:
    1. Those who were God fearing
      - (a) i.e. Zachariah and Elizabeth
      - (b) Mary and Joseph
      - (c) Anna
    2. Those who stayed in Babylon
    3. Those who had been taken by the Assyrians

#### The Three 14's of Chapter One

- 1) From Abraham to David. A downward course from Theocracy to the Monarchy. The crisis was singular, the rejection of God as King.
- 2) From David to the carrying away downward, from Monarchy to subserviency. There was no single crisis in this time but a series of crises. When God sent His prophets to call the people to repentance. A part repentance but then a return to old ways.
- 3) From carrying away to Christ.
  - a) A continuing downward as in Malachi and 2 Chronicles and a hope.
  - b) Christ is born King and rejected by Gentiles as King and rejected by Israel.
  - c) Chapter 12 crisis point, the rejection of Israel as a nation, acceptance of the Gentiles by illustration.

How will it all end?

- a) Will the unconditional covenants to Abraham and David be brought to nought?
- b) What was the purpose of the countless ceremonies?

The three 14's indicate Israel's history, its theocracy, monarchy and dependency.

- a) Consider what were the crisis points in Israel's history in the 2nd and 3rd genealogy.

#### The Complex Jewish Spiritual Condition

It was written to Jews, but to a particular segment of Jews, or to Jews in a particular country (1 Pet. 1:1; Jam. 1:1).

- a) Hebrew and Matthew in the same time era and there were three Jewish thought lines:
  - i) Jesus was the Messiah and we trust in Him as the superior sacrifice etc

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- ii) Jesus was not the Messiah and our leaders were right in crucifying Him
- iii) Others who were swayed by the gospel but were not quite sure and were dallying back and forward
- b) The author of Hebrews wrote an apologetic to all three classes, which were the same three classes as Matthew wrote.
  - i) Both wrote to prove Jesus was the Christ, solidifying the believers; enlightening and convincing the waverers, and by using the scriptures proving His superiority to the unbelievers.

#### Specialized Miracles

- 1) Every miracle is to be viewed in its association with the Son of David or Abraham.
- 2) What three miracles in Matthew prove, not give evidence, Jesus was the Christ?
- 3) What is signified by the clause, "The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ"?

#### The Disciples' Ongoing Education

The fishermen need to be educated on men fishing, the need to learn how to present truths and to see them outlived.

- a) They need to see the power of God in effect and then be sent out on their own.
- b) Then when the Lord goes to Heaven they will have had an experience. The disciples were sent out without the Lord in chapter 11. He is training them without his physical presence for when He would be unseen, by then due to His being in Heaven.

The Lord's human relationship then the Lord's divine relationship.

- a) The attempt by Satan via human means to nullify the purposes of God through Christ physically, then the attempt by Satan personally to nullify the purpose of God spiritually.

#### Questions

1. After 3 years of public testimony, is the nations now under deeper demonic darkness than before?
2. Chapter 5 is part of a bigger section

#### The Goal of Matthew

His goal was to show:

- a) The covenant promises of God to Abraham and David would be fulfilled irrespective of man's sins and failures.
- b) The purposes of God would be brought to full fruition, therefore the gospel is finished with an open blessing to the whole world and the Lord having all authority and power.

#### His Development as a Drama

Scene one in 7 parts

- a) Make a statement that grasps attention Son of David, Son of Abraham.
- a) The non-chronological order as the rest of the chapter follows why the women were included? Is this associated with the Abrahamic covenant?
- b) Universal kingship is based not on political force but on moral Abrahamic character.
- b) Present the genealogical evidence for Jesus being a Son of David.
- c) Present the Abrahamic blessing being evident in His genealogy.
- d) Present the legal evidence for Jesus having a claim to the throne of David.

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- e) Present the prophetic pieces of evidence which were not worked by the Lord but by events.
- f) Present the evidence by the prophetic fulfilment of His forerunner.
- g) Present the evidence by His moral ability to defeat Satan.
- h) The gathering of disciples.

#### Scene 2 has two major parts

- a) At the beginning of the disciples' apprenticeship, learning what their character was and how to present the truth.
- b) The declaration of the features of those who have received Abraham's way of restoration to God and the subject of His kingdom.
- c) Their response to opposition and belittlement.
- d) Their fidelity in obscurity.
- e) Their moral, not traditional, man-made expansions of the law.
- f) Their foundation.

#### Scene 3 has 2 parts

- a) The further training of the disciples by demonstrated power over:
  - ii) Deformity - give references
  - iii) Death - give references
  - iv) Disease - give references
  - v) Distance - give references
- b) With blessing going to Gentiles, back to the promise to Abraham

#### Scene 4 has 3 parts

- a) The rejection by the Jews
- b) The declaration of a new relationship
- c) The question of how the promises to Abraham and David be fulfilled is answered in chapters 13-28.

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**May God grant us good understanding as He, by His Holy Spirit, deigns to guide us into all truth.  
John 16:13**

Rowan Jennings, Abbotsford, British Columbia