



The King and His Kingdom *Matthew 1*

Introductory Notes about the Book of Matthew:¹

Structure and Message

1:1-4:16 Presentation of Jesus as the fulfillment of OT Messianic prophecy.

4:17-16:20 Narrative of Jesus' eschatological ministry of Word and deed in Israel and the contrast between those who confess his true identity (imperfectly) and those who increasingly oppose him.

16:21-28:20 Achievement of the goal of the Gospel: Jesus' death and resurrection and his provision for making disciples of all nations.

The reader of Matthew will notice how the Gospel extends the Old Testament scripture and brings the Biblical narrative to its goal. The book opens with a genealogy of God's chosen nation, starting with Abraham (1:1-2) and concludes by extending this genealogy to include "all nations" until the end of the age (28:19-20).

Matthew identifies Jesus as the promised Messiah in the first sentence of his Gospel and supports this statement throughout. A common phrase found in the book is this: "...in order that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled..." There is no doubt that Jesus of Nazareth is the Messiah promised by God.

¹ Introduction Notes rely heavily on the work of Prof. Jeff Gibbs' Concordia Commentary, Matthew 1:1-11:1, 2006, CPH, St. Louis

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To summarize the content of this Gospel, Matthew "authoritatively narrates how the end-time reign of God had broken into the world through the historical deeds and the words of Jesus of Nazareth, God's Son and God's Christ."²

The Genealogy of Jesus

- Shows Jesus is descended from Abraham, David
- Climax of God's history with his chosen people
- Sin infests his family tree
- No question about his humanity

The Birth of Jesus

- Miraculous conception by the Holy Spirit
- Miraculous intervention by an angel
- Fulfillment of OT prophecy
- No question about his divinity

Further Study: Jewish genealogies normally did not include the names of women. Jesus' record is different.

Tamar (Genesis 38) _____

Rahab (Joshua 2 & 6) _____

Ruth (Ruth) _____

Bathsheba (2 Samuel 11) _____

Matthew included all of the people in the genealogy for a purpose. What was it? _____

² The Lutheran Study Bible, 2009, CPH, St. Louis, pg. 1575