

PRECEPT
UPON
PRECEPT®

Matthew

PART 1

THE KING AND
THE KINGDOM
OF HEAVEN
(CHAPTERS 1–13)

PRECEPT UPON PRECEPT®
MATTHEW PART 1
THE KING AND THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
(CHAPTERS 1-13)

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HELPFUL STUDY TOOLS

ARTHUR, KAY; ARTHUR, DAVID; DE LACY, PETE

The New How to Study Your Bible

Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 2010

The New Inductive Study Bible

Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 2000

Word Study Tools

(The following is a list of helpful Word Study Tools:)

VINE, W. E.; UNGER, MERRILL F.; AND WHITE, WILLIAM, JR.

Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words

Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1985

RICHARDS, LAWRENCE O.

Expository Dictionary of Bible Words

Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 1985

RECOMMENDED COMMENTARIES

CARSON, D. A.

The Expositor's Bible Commentary: Matthew Vol I

Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 1995

WENHAM, G. J.; MOTYER, J. A.; CARSON, D. A.; FRANCE, R. T

New Bible Commentary

Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 1994

WALVOORD, JOHN F.; ZUCK, ROY B., EDS.

The Bible Knowledge Commentary, New Testament

Colorado Springs, Colorado: David C. Cook, 1983

RECOMMENDED SOFTWARE

Logos Bible Software

Powerful search engines and up to 4,000 electronic Bible study resources (commentaries, lexicons, Bible dictionaries etc.) make it fast and easy to do simple and complex searches of multiple sources, then pull materials together for orderly presentation—excellent for word and topical studies based on English or original Hebrew and Greek. Available at www.logos.com.

LESSON ONE

Chapters One and Two

THIS LESSON INCORPORATES The following located in the Appendix:
Observation Worksheets of Matthew 1–4
“Matthew at a Glance” chart
Herod’s Family Tree
Map
Cross-references

As you finish reading the Old Testament, you are left with a sense of expectancy. There’s a mediator of a new covenant on the horizon. Messiah is coming suddenly to His temple. The kingdom of God will be inaugurated on earth.

Yet the promises are followed by silence. No word from God for about four hundred years until angels bring God’s message to Zacharias the father of John the Baptist, a young virgin by the name of Mary, a troubled man named Joseph who finds his wife-to-be with child, and shepherds watching their flocks, and until wise men see His star in the east.

The promise through the prophet Isaiah of a Child who is to be born, the Son who is to be given, is about to come to pass.

And when the account of it all is written down in the Gospels which will begin a collection of what will someday comprise the rest of the Scriptures, the New Testament, how important are those first recorded words in Matthew? Why was this Gospel the first to open this second and final portion of the Scriptures? What is its message? What does God want His people to know as He transitions from the Old Covenant to the New? What is on His heart for you, for us, for all who will take up the book and read His message? What are we to understand? How are we to live?

This, beloved of God, is what you will discover in this pivotal book breathed by God.

DAY
ONE

Matthew is believed by many to be the first of the Gospels. However, whether it was written first or not, it does hold first place in the canon of the New Testament books.

Assuming God's sovereignty over the selection and order of the books of the Bible, how does our Father introduce the mediator of the New Covenant? As you are about to see for yourself, it is *not* without purpose, nor Divine design.

Take your study time today to read through the first four chapters of Matthew. These set the stage for the classic Sermon on the Mount found in Matthew 5, 6 and 7, a stunning teaching that even captured the mind of Gandhi, a devout Hindu who played a historically significant role in the independence and restructuring of India.

1. Read Matthew 1-4 and summarize the general content of each chapter below.

Matthew 1

Matthew 2

Matthew 3

Matthew 4

2. Did you see any common theme that ties these four chapters together? If you aren't prepared to answer this question yet, then leave it until later in this week's study and then come back to it.

DAY
TWO

Our objective this week is to study Matthew 1 and 2. As you may have observed, they have a common theme.

1. Let's see what Matthew 1 is about. Do your Observation Worksheet on Matthew 1. Observation Worksheets, the text of Matthew chapter by chapter, are found in the Appendix of this notebook.

- a. Note how the chapter begins. Color-code or mark *Messiah* and *David* throughout this chapter, each in its own way; however, do not mark any pronouns or synonyms. You'll want to see where Matthew uses these **key words** throughout his Gospel.

Key words are important words the author uses throughout a chapter, a segment of scripture, or an entire book. They help unlock the meaning of the text. Color-coding them and/or marking them in a distinctive way helps you see how often and when they are used.

It is helpful to list these important words on what we call a **Key Word Bookmark** and mark them as you will do throughout the book or the Bible. You can use the back of the perforated card on the back cover of your Precept book. Marking suggestions for some frequently used words in the Bible are on the front of the card.

Once you mark keywords, it is helpful to **list** what you learn from the use of the word in the text to glean insight into the 5 Ws and an H: who, what, when, where, why and how.

- Who is the central person in this chapter?
- Who are the other key players in the events in this chapter?
- What is this chapter about?
- When is it happening?
- Where?
- Why is it happening? Or why is the author telling you what he is telling you? Giving you the information he does?
- How is it taking place?

Add *David* and *Messiah (Christ)* to your **bookmark**.

- b. Mark **references to time**. Some of us draw a green circle around words that tell you when and/or give you a sequence of time such as *then, when, until, after*, etc.
- c. Mark all **geographical locations** in a distinctive way as this will help you greatly in this study. Some double underline references to **where** in green.
- d. Other key words which you will want to list on your Key Word Bookmark and mark in Matthew are:
- 1) *Holy Spirit*
 - 2) *angel*
 - 3) *righteous (just)*
 - 4) *prophet* (You may want to mark the phrase *written or spoken of through the prophet(s)* or anything similar to it.)

DAY
THREE

The New Testament was originally written in Koine (common) Greek without chapter and verse divisions. Chapters and verses were added later for the sake of being able to reference the Word of God with greater ease.

1. Since you might have already seen how Matthew 1 and 2 relate to one another and then the change in Matthew 3 and maybe even its connection with Matthew 4, let's observe chapter 2 before you go any further.
 - a. Add *king (ruler)* to your key word bookmark and then mark the text.
 - b. The term *Child* is used throughout Matthew 2. Mark all references to *the Child* including synonyms and pronouns; however, do not put this on your keyword bookmark.
 - c. Add *written* to your bookmark. It is not used a lot, but when it is, it is significant, so give it the attention it deserves.
 - d. Don't miss marking one single geographical reference. **Where** is very important in this chapter as are the references to time. There is a map in the Appendix that you need to consult as you read so you will become familiar with the geographical locations mentioned in Matthew.

2. Record what happens in each paragraph of Matthew 2.
 - a. 2:1-6

 - b. 2:7-12

 - c. 2:13-15

 - d. 2:16-18

 - e. 2:19-23

3. When are these events taking place? Look at the references you marked to time.

And what is He telling us about His Son in this first Gospel? He begins with words that are key to his Gospel! Read verse 1 and list your observations.

2. What does Messiah mean?
 - a. Although written after Matthew, John 1:41 nails it. Write down what you learn.
 - b. The John 1:41 marginal note in the NASB says that *Christ* means “Anointed One.”
3. “The son of David” (Matthew 1:1). What does this mean? Why is it important? Let’s do some research. Look up the following verses and record any insights you get into the term “son of David.” We are not going to give you any scriptures that were written *after* the birth of Jesus; we simply want you to see what the people of Israel would have known.
 - a. 2 Samuel 7:8-13, 16
 - b. 2 Chronicles 13:5; 21:7 (Watch for the word *covenant*. A covenant is a solemn binding agreement. Thus what transpired in 2 Samuel is referred to as the Davidic Covenant—God’s agreement with David.)
 - c. Psalm 89:3-4, 29

- d. Isaiah 9:6-7

- e. Jeremiah 23:5-6

- 4. Matthew also calls Jesus “the son of Abraham” in Matthew 1:1. Let’s look up three important passages just in case you are not familiar with them. Record what you learn about Abram (Abraham) from these verses and God’s promise to him, His *covenant* with Abraham.
 - a. Genesis 12:1-3

 - b. Genesis 15:1-6, 18

 - c. Galatians 3:16

How are you doing, Beloved of God? “Beloved” is a way God often has the writers address the recipients of the New Testament Epistles because He wants them to remember who they are not only in God’s eyes but also in their eyes. This is how we as a team feel about you. You are greatly valued by God and by us. Thank you for the great privilege of studying His Word with you. We appreciate your diligence and discipline—and the heart that motivates it.

- a. Matthew 1:23 with Isaiah 7:14
- b. Matthew 2:5-6 with Micah 5:2
- c. Matthew 2:15 with Hosea 11:1
- d. Matthew 2:17-18 with Jeremiah 31:15

DAY FIVE

Our focus in this study is the Gospel of Matthew rather than the life of Christ in its totality as recorded in all four Gospels. We really want you to understand Matthew, its distinctive purpose and place among the four Gospels. For this reason we will not study the other Gospels a lot. Nor are we going to tell you what we believe you can discover on your own through this inductive method—we want you to discover truth for yourself.

So in our final day of study of Matthew 1 and 2, let's hit some highlights of these two chapters.

1. First, according to Matthew 1:15-25:
 - a. Whose genealogy is this? Joseph's or Mary's?
 - b. Who will Joseph be to Jesus?
 - c. What role does Mary play in this?
 - d. What do you learn about Mary in Matthew 1? What does Matthew stress about her; what kind of a woman was she morally?
 - e. Who gets the instructions from God in dreams with respect to Jesus? Joseph or Mary?
 - f. Would Mary's or Joseph's genealogy show the "legal" right to the throne of David?

- g. According to **Jewish custom**, a betrothal preceded the actual consummation of a marriage. Marriage was a contract, a covenant agreement, for a man and woman to become husband and wife. This was unbreakable except for evidence of immorality, a lack of virginity on the woman's part. Therefore the agreement was made at least a year before the marriage was consummated when the bridegroom would go with his friends in a celebration of great joy to the house of his betrothed and take her to his home and his bed. The waiting period assured the woman was not pregnant with the child of another man. A woman's virginity was a sacred gift to be guarded. The laws with respect to virgins given in Deuteronomy make that very clear. In fact, if a woman was immoral or a man took a virgin who was betrothed to another, one or both would be put to death depending on the circumstances. Sobering, isn't it?—especially in comparison to the times in which we live!
2. It is very unusual to include women in a genealogy. Yet four women are included in Matthew 1. What do you know about these women? Read the following passages and note briefly what you learn about them.
- a. **Tamar**—Genesis 38:1-30. It will only take a few minutes to read through the chapter. Don't get bogged down. It's an interesting read.
- b. **Rahab**—Joshua 2:1-14; 6:22-25
- c. **Ruth** 1:1-4; 4:13-22
- d. **Bathsheba** (You probably know her—even Hollywood does!) 2 Samuel 11:3-5, 26-27 and 2 Samuel 12:24.

- d. Hebrews 10:10-18 (In this passage you'll find a quote from Jeremiah 31 where God promises a New Covenant. The Old Covenant, the Law, could not be kept by mankind because of their inherent sin; therefore, they needed another covenant that through grace (unearned favor) would bring forgiveness of sins. The New Testament is an account of how this was made possible and how those under the New Covenant are to live until God has Jesus reign upon the earth as King of kings and puts all things in rightful subjection under the feet of Almighty God.)
5. Now let's look at Herod. Why does Matthew give us this account? What's its purpose?
- How is Herod described in Matthew 2? What position does he hold?
 - According to Matthew 2, what would Herod and Jesus have in common?
 - According to Matthew 1:1, which title or description of Jesus would bring conflict with Herod, and why?
 - Matthew does not tell us **Herod's genealogy**; only that of Jesus. Herod was an Edomite who bore the title, "King of the Jews." Edomites were the descendents of Esau, the brother of Jacob. Jacob and Esau were sons of Isaac, the son of Abraham.

In the Appendix is a chart taken from the *New Inductive Study Bible* (NISB), "Herod's Family Tree." Herod the Great at the head of this tree is the Herod in Matthew 2. This chart is a great tool to have so you can keep your "Herods" straight. You will find it fascinating when you have time to learn what you can about Herod the Great and why he was called great.
 - Did Herod know about Messiah? What did he know? And what did he learn? As you answer these questions, give the verse number in Matthew 2 that gives you the answer.

MATTHEW 1

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

THE record of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham:

- 2 Abraham was the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers.
- 3 Judah was the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, Perez was the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram.
- 4 Ram was the father of Amminadab, Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon.
- 5 Salmon was the father of Boaz by Rahab, Boaz was the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse.
- 6 Jesse was the father of David the king.
David was the father of Solomon by Bathsheba who had been the wife of Uriah.
- 7 Solomon was the father of Rehoboam, Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asa.
- 8 Asa was the father of Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah.
- 9 Uzziah was the father of Jotham, Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah.
- 10 Hezekiah was the father of Manasseh, Manasseh the father of Amon, and Amon the father of Josiah.
- 11 Josiah became the father of Jeconiah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.
- 12 After the deportation to Babylon: Jeconiah became the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel.

- 13 Zerubbabel was the father of Abihud, Abihud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor.
- 14 Azor was the father of Zadok, Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud.
- 15 Eliud was the father of Eleazar, Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob.
- 16 Jacob was the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, by whom Jesus was born, who is called the Messiah.
- 17 So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; from David to the deportation to Babylon, fourteen generations; and from the deportation to Babylon to the Messiah, fourteen generations.
- 18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: when His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit.
- 19 And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man and not wanting to disgrace her, planned to send her away secretly.
- 20 But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.
- 21 “She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.”
- 22 Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet:
- 23 “BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD AND SHALL BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL,” which translated means, “GOD WITH US.”
- 24 And Joseph awoke from his sleep and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him, and took *Mary* as his wife,
- 25 but kept her a virgin until she gave birth to a Son; and he called His name Jesus.

MATTHEW 2

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

NOW after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying,

2 “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him.”

3 When Herod the king heard *this*, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

4 Gathering together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.

5 They said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for this is what has been written by the prophet:

6 ‘AND YOU, BETHLEHEM, LAND OF JUDAH,
ARE BY NO MEANS LEAST AMONG THE LEADERS OF JUDAH;
FOR OUT OF YOU SHALL COME FORTH A RULER
WHO WILL SHEPHERD MY PEOPLE ISRAEL.’ ”

7 Then Herod secretly called the magi and determined from them the exact time the star appeared.

8 And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the Child; and when you have found *Him*, report to me, so that I too may come and worship Him.”

9 After hearing the king, they went their way; and the star, which they had seen in the east, went on before them until it came and stood over *the place* where the Child was.

10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.

- 11 After coming into the house they saw the Child with Mary His mother; and they fell to the ground and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they presented to Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.
- 12 And having been warned *by God* in a dream not to return to Herod, the magi left for their own country by another way.
- 13 Now when they had gone, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up! Take the Child and His mother and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is going to search for the Child to destroy Him.”
- 14 So Joseph got up and took the Child and His mother while it was still night, and left for Egypt.
- 15 He remained there until the death of Herod. *This was* to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: “OUT OF EGYPT I CALLED MY SON.”
- 16 Then when Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he became very enraged, and sent and slew all the male children who were in Bethlehem and all its vicinity, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the magi.
- 17 Then what had been spoken through Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled:
- 18 “A VOICE WAS HEARD IN RAMAH,
WEEPING AND GREAT MOURNING,
RACHEL WEEPING FOR HER CHILDREN;
AND SHE REFUSED TO BE COMFORTED,
BECAUSE THEY WERE NO MORE.”
- 19 But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, and said,
- 20 “Get up, take the Child and His mother, and go into the land of Israel; for those who sought the Child’s life are dead.”

- 21 So Joseph got up, took the Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel.
- 22 But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Then after being warned *by God* in a dream, he left for the regions of Galilee,
- 23 and came and lived in a city called Nazareth. *This was* to fulfill what was spoken through the prophets: “He shall be called a Nazarene.”

MATTHEW 3
Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

NOW in those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of

Judea, saying,

2 “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

3 For this is the one referred to by Isaiah the prophet when he said,

“THE VOICE OF ONE CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS,

‘MAKE READY THE WAY OF THE LORD,

MAKE HIS PATHS STRAIGHT!’ ”

4 Now John himself had a garment of camel’s hair and a leather belt around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey.

5 Then Jerusalem was going out to him, and all Judea and all the district around the Jordan;

6 and they were being baptized by him in the Jordan River, as they confessed their sins.

7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?

8 “Therefore bear fruit in keeping with repentance;

9 and do not suppose that you can say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham for our father’; for I say to you that from these stones God is able to raise up children to Abraham.

10 “The axe is already laid at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

- 11 “As for me, I baptize you with water for repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, and I am not fit to remove His sandals; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.
- 12 “His winnowing fork is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clear His threshing floor; and He will gather His wheat into the barn, but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”
- 13 Then Jesus arrived from Galilee at the Jordan *coming* to John, to be baptized by him.
- 14 But John tried to prevent Him, saying, “I have need to be baptized by You, and do You come to me?”
- 15 But Jesus answering said to him, “Permit *it* at this time; for in this way it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he permitted Him.
- 16 After being baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove *and* lighting on Him,
- 17 and behold, a voice out of the heavens said, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased.”

MATTHEW 4
Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

THEN Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

2 And after He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He then became hungry.

3 And the tempter came and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.”

4 But He answered and said, “It is written, ‘MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.’ ”

5 Then the devil took Him into the holy city and had Him stand on the pinnacle of the temple,

6 and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down; for it is written,

‘HE WILL COMMAND HIS ANGELS CONCERNING YOU’;

and

‘ON *their* HANDS THEY WILL BEAR YOU UP,

SO THAT YOU WILL NOT STRIKE YOUR FOOT AGAINST A STONE.’ ”

7 Jesus said to him, “On the other hand, it is written, ‘YOU SHALL NOT PUT THE LORD YOUR GOD TO THE TEST.’ ”

8 Again, the devil took Him to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory;

9 and he said to Him, “All these things I will give You, if You fall down and worship me.”

- 10 Then Jesus said to him, “Go, Satan! For it is written, ‘YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD, AND SERVE HIM ONLY.’ ”
- 11 Then the devil left Him; and behold, angels came and *began* to minister to Him.
- 12 Now when Jesus heard that John had been taken into custody, He withdrew into Galilee;
- 13 and leaving Nazareth, He came and settled in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali.
- 14 *This was* to fulfill what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet:
- 15 “THE LAND OF ZEBULUN AND THE LAND OF NAPHTALI,
BY THE WAY OF THE SEA, BEYOND THE JORDAN, GALILEE OF THE
GENTILES—
- 16 “THE PEOPLE WHO WERE SITTING IN DARKNESS SAW A GREAT
LIGHT,
AND THOSE WHO WERE SITTING IN THE LAND AND SHADOW OF
DEATH,
UPON THEM A LIGHT DAWNED.”
- 17 From that time Jesus began to preach and say, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”
- 18 Now as Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers, Simon who was called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen.
- 19 And He said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.”
- 20 Immediately they left their nets and followed Him.
- 21 Going on from there He saw two other brothers, James the *son* of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and He called them.
- 22 Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him.

- 23 Jesus was going throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness among the people.
- 24 The news about Him spread throughout all Syria; and they brought to Him all who were ill, those suffering with various diseases and pains, demoniacs, epileptics, paralytics; and He healed them.
- 25 Large crowds followed Him from Galilee and *the* Decapolis and Jerusalem and Judea and *from* beyond the Jordan.

MATTHEW AT A GLANCE

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Matthew, Part 1
Matthew at a Glance

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