

# The End of the Gospel of Matthew

## Long Live the King Jesus

**Scripture:** Passage

**Sermon Series:** Matthew

**Topic:** Jesus, Matthew

### Introduction

Every weekday morning, starting at 6:00am, I and about 20 other people gather together virtually and listen to a Scripture reading for about 22 minutes. When I lead these sessions, at the conclusion of the Scripture reading, I typically ask the question, So what did you hear? Or What did you see? As we have now finished our journey through the gospel of Matthew, it is appropriate to step back and ask, what we have we seen?



This has been quite a journey. I preached the first sermon in this series on 18 September 2022. Here we are today three years, two months, and 140 sermons later.<sup>1</sup>

### What have we seen?

As we have moved through this glorious gospel, *what have seen and heard?* What is Matthew purpose in writing this gospel? Why did he write what he wrote?

Matthew's primary purpose has been to demonstrate that ***God's ancient promise to Abraham is now fulfilled in Jesus of Nazareth***, who is the Christ sent by God to save Israel from their sins.

His secondary purpose is to demonstrate that ***God's saving purpose is not limited to the Jews only, but also includes the Gentiles***. Christ the Son was sent by God the Father not to save only the Jews, but also to save any among the Gentiles who would trust in God through Jesus. Christ came to bless Israel, but also to bless *all nations* on earth.

**Genesis 12:2-3 (ESV)** <sup>2</sup> And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you,

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<sup>1</sup> I've preached about 130 of those with the other elders (and Ben Paulk and Randy Fairman) preaching about 10.

and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

God promised to bless Abraham so that through him blessing would flow to “*all families of the earth*.” He repeated that promise to him specifying that through his “*offspring all the nations of the earth shall be blessed*” (Gn 26:4; cf. Gn 18:18). God made a similar promise to Abraham’s son, king David.

**2 Samuel 7:11-16** (ESV) the LORD declares to you... I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish... ..the throne of his kingdom forever. <sup>14</sup> I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. ...my steadfast love will not depart from him. <sup>16</sup> And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.”

The Jews understood the *offspring of Abraham* through whom he would bless all nations, and the *offspring of David* who would establish God’s kingdom forever, to be one and the same person—the Messiah. This explains why Matthew began his gospel with a genealogy that traces Jesus’ lineage back through both David all the way to Abraham.

**Matthew 1:1** (ESV) The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

Thus, through his gospel, Matthew holds out Jesus before the mind’s eye of his readers, and shows Jesus to be this offspring of blessing, this son of David, the Messiah, and even the holy Son of God. He does this through four major themes. Jesus,

- 1) **fulfills** all the OT messianic hope,
- 2) 2) brings to earth the **kingdom of heaven**,
- 3) 3) manifests unparalleled divine **authority**, and
- 4) 4) shares the gospel with the **Gentiles** who along with believing Jews are called Christ’s **church**.

## 1) Fulfillment

The first messianic theme we see in Matthew’s gospel is that of **fulfillment**. Immediately after recording Jesus’ genealogy, Matthew begins telling the details of Jesus’ birth, in particular the fact that the mother of Jesus was a virgin when she conceived. Matthew explains this saying, “*all this took place to fulfill what he Lord had spoken by the prophet*,” he then quotes Isaiah 7:14. This particular language is called Matthew’s “fulfillment formula” and he uses this phrase ten times<sup>2</sup> throughout this gospel.

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<sup>2</sup> Matthew 1:22–23; 2:15, 17–18, 23; 4:14–16; 8:17; 12:17–21; 13:35; 21:4–5; 27:9–10.

Matthew will flesh out this fulfillment idea by quoting from the OT **60** times while alluding to various parts almost countless other times.<sup>3</sup> He references the OT more than any other gospel author. Matthew so clearly connects Jesus to the more than three-score specific messianic Prophecies that it's almost impossible to see Jesus as anything other than the incarnation of Israel's hope and expectation of the entire OT. Jesus himself declared from the beginning of his ministry that fulfillment was the very purpose for which he came.

**Matthew 5:17** (ESV) "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."

Jesus came to *fulfill all* the Law and the Prophets! He would leave "*not an iota, not a dot*"<sup>4</sup> undone. This is good news for me, and for you, because I and we have broken God's law countless times and therefore I have no hope of being righteous in ourselves. Unless, I put my faith in the perfect righteousness of Jesus—who *did* fulfill all of God's law! Thanks be to God, through Christ Jesus, there is hope!

## 2) Kingdom of Heaven

The second messianic theme that Matthew highlights is the fact that through Jesus, the *kingdom of heaven* has come! Matthew references the kingdom of heaven **52** times! More than any other gospel author. The very first sentence Matthew reports Jesus to have said as he began his public ministry is,

**Matthew 3:2** (ESV) "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

The kingdom of heaven is everywhere in Matthew. Through Jesus the power of the kingdom of heaven has broken into this world. Matthew on several occasions listed the evidence of the power of the kingdom of heaven, which is seen in several ways such as, the gospel being boldly proclaimed, diseases were healed, afflictions were relieved, demons were cast out, and the name of the Lord was honored and respected.

Jesus taught about the kingdom of heaven from the beginning to the end of his ministry. He began the Sermon on the Mount by talking about the kingdom of heaven (Mt 5:3) and he concluded the Sermon by explaining the kingdom of heaven (Mt 7:21). Jesus even sent out his disciples to demonstrate the reality of the kingdom power saying,

**Matthew 10:7-8** (ESV) <sup>7</sup> "And proclaim as you go, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' <sup>8</sup> Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons."

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<sup>3</sup> Grant R. Osborne, *Matthew*, vol. 1, Zondervan Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2010), 38.

<sup>4</sup> Matthew 5:18.

When we began this series, we began praying that His kingdom would come among us. We have seen little pockets of kingdom power spread around us. As I think back over the past three years, one particular Sunday comes to mind, 24 September 2023. The Lord moved among us in power that morning. Here are a few excerpts from email that I received thereafter.

- I believe that today's worship service was the most powerful that I've ever attended. The message was clearly guided by Jesus as was the call to self reflection was clear. Praise Jesus for giving this guidance... the feeling of love that I felt amongst the congregation today was overwhelming. The presence of God was overwhelming and I didn't want to leave.
- I really appreciated the sermon this morning and the format. I prayed with one of the volunteers. Also went home and found some Buddhist idols (gifts from well intentioned family members) and destroyed them. Anyway just wanted to say thank you.
- What an incredible morning! In all the years I've been attending Hope, I've never seen so many people queued up for prayer. There were small pockets of people praying with each other in the sanctuary for more than an hour after the service. All I can say is praise the Lord Jesus! May his kingdom keep coming among us.

Thanks be to God, through Christ Jesus, his kingdom has come among us and may it keep coming among us! Do not stop praying for his kingdom to come!

### 3) Authority

The third messianic theme that Matthew emphasizes is the **authority** of Jesus. One way to know that Jesus is the Messiah and the Christ of God is because in all that he did and in all he said, he manifested divine authority. This was noted by people from the beginning of his public ministry.

**Matthew 7:28-29 (ESV)** <sup>28</sup> And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, <sup>29</sup> for he was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes.

#### 1. Authority over disease.

And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people. Matthew 4:23 (ESV)

#### 2. Authority over demons.

That evening they brought to him many who were oppressed by demons, and he cast out the spirits with a word... Matthew 8:16 (ESV)

3. Authority over distance.

A centurion came to Jesus among the crowds and told him of his sick servant who laying dying at his house. He asked Jesus to heal him and Jesus said he would go to his house and heal him. But the centurion admitted that he was unworthy to have Jesus enter his house and besides, he confessed that he knew Jesus had authority to control sickness even from a distance and so he need only give the command standing where he was and the servant would be healed. Jesus marveled at the faith of this man and he spoke the word and that servant was healed (Mt 8:5-13).

4. Authority over death.

When the little daughter of Jairus died, Jesus went to her and took her by the hand and raised her from the dead (Mt 9:18-19, 23-25).

5. Authority over darkness.

<sup>27</sup> And as Jesus passed on from there, two blind men followed him, crying aloud, "Have mercy on us, Son of David." <sup>28</sup> When he entered the house, the blind men came to him, and Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to him, "Yes, Lord." <sup>29</sup> Then he touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith be it done to you." <sup>30</sup> And their eyes were opened. Matthew 9:27-30 (ESV)

6. Authority over sickness.

So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains... those having seizures, and paralytics, and he healed them. Matthew 4:24 (ESV)

<sup>34</sup> And when they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret. <sup>35</sup> And when the men of that place recognized him, they sent around to all that region and brought to him all who were sick <sup>36</sup> and implored him that they might only touch the fringe of his garment. And as many as touched it were made well. Matthew 14:34-36 (ESV)

7. Authority over silence.

<sup>32</sup> As they were going away, behold, a demon-oppressed man who was mute was brought to him. <sup>33</sup> And when the demon had been cast out, the mute man spoke. And

the crowds marveled, saying, "Never was anything like this seen in Israel." Matthew 9:32-33 (ESV)

#### 8. Authority over storms.

<sup>24</sup> And behold, there arose a great storm on the sea, so that the boat was being swamped by the waves; but he was asleep. <sup>25</sup> And they went and woke him, saying, "Save us, Lord; we are perishing." <sup>26</sup> And he said to them, "Why are you afraid, O you of little faith?" Then he rose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. <sup>27</sup> And the men marveled, saying, "What sort of man is this, that even winds and sea obey him?" Matthew 8:24-27 (ESV)

#### 9. Authority over Satan.

Jesus spent 40 days battling Satan in the wilderness with the devil tempting him every day and Jesus never gave in (Mt 4:1-11).

Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan!"  
And the devil left him...  
Matthew 4:10-11 (ESV)

#### 10. Authority over sin.

<sup>2</sup> And behold, some people brought to him a paralytic, lying on a bed. And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven." <sup>3</sup> And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves, "This man is blaspheming." <sup>4</sup> But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts? <sup>5</sup> For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise and walk'? <sup>6</sup> But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—he then said to the paralytic—"Rise, pick up your bed and go home." <sup>7</sup> And he rose and went home. <sup>8</sup> When the crowds saw it, they were afraid, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to men. Matthew 9:2-8 (ESV)

#### 11. Authority over Sabbath.

When the Pharisees criticized Jesus' disciples for plucking grain on the Sabbath, Jesus rebuked them saying.

"For the Son of Man is lord of the Sabbath."  
Matthew 12:8 (ESV)

#### 12. Authority over salvation.

"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." Matthew 11:27 (ESV)

<sup>28</sup> Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> 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. <sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." Matthew 11:28-30

Thanks be to God, through Christ Jesus, that there is nothing outside of his sovereign authority, and yet he says to everyone who has ears to hear, "Come to me... and find rest for your soul!"

Thanks be to God, through Jesus that he is sovereign over all things and yet he invites all to come to him!

## 4) Gentiles/Church

The final theme which Matthew emphasizes to show that Jesus is Messiah, is his openness to the Gentiles to be included in his church. When Jesus began his public ministry, he did so in a predominantly Gentile region of Galilee.

<sup>13</sup> And leaving Nazareth he went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, <sup>14</sup> so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

<sup>15</sup> "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali,  
the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—  
Matthew 4:13-15 (ESV)

Galilee of the Gentiles! Jesus spent about 80% of his public ministry in Galilee, which was a region predominantly populated by Gentiles. There were many Jews in Galilee, but it was a majority Gentile area. Jesus took the gospel of God into Gentile regions. His miraculous ministry drew "**great crowds... from the Decapolis**" and "**from beyond the Jordan**," both of which were Gentile areas (Mt 4:25). The Gentile Centurion professed his faith in Jesus—the only faith that made Jesus marvel—Jesus responded saying,

<sup>11</sup> I tell you, many will come from east and west and recline at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, <sup>12</sup> while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness.  
Matthew 8:11-12 (ESV)

Then, consider the last words that Matthew records Jesus as saying.

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of

the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”  
Matthew 28:18-20 (ESV)

Jesus is not merely a Jewish teacher. He is not merely a Jewish savior. He is the Savior who calls to himself those from all nations!

## Conclusion

What have we seen? Why did Matthew write this gospel?

- 1) We have seen that Jesus **fulfilled** all messianic hopes and expectation of the OT. Matthew wrote to convince you that Jesus of Nazareth is Messiah.
- 2) We have seen that through Jesus the **kingdom of heaven** broke into this world in ways that had never previously happened. Matthew wrote this gospel to further bring in the kingdom of heaven.
- 3) We have seen that Jesus possessed divine **authority**. Matthew wrote to help us see and delight in the sovereign, soul-saving authority of Jesus.
- 4) We have seen that **Gentiles** are included in God’s redemptive plan. Matthew wrote to convince Jews and Gentiles that all nations can be saved through Jesus.

Matthew began his gospel telling us that the angel told Joseph that a holy child would be miraculously conceived within Mary and his name was to be called “**Immanuel, which means God with us**” (Mt 1:20-23). He concludes this gospel with the words of Jesus telling us, “**I will be with you to the end!**”

Matthew began his gospel telling us of Satan who repeatedly tempted and doubted Jesus saying, “**If you are the Son of God...**”<sup>5</sup> and he ended this gospel with a Gentile centurion declaring, “**Truly this is the Son of God**” (Mt 27:54).

Matthew began his gospel telling us of Gentile wise men from the east who came to Jerusalem asking, “**where is he who was born king of the Jews?**” (Mt 2:1-2). He concludes his gospel with Pilate placing a plaque above Jesus’ head declaring in three languages, “**This is Jesus, King of the Jews**” (Mt 27:37).

What have we seen? Why did Matthew write this glorious gospel? To convince the world that Jesus is the one and only Christ, the Son of Man, the Son of David, the son of Abraham, the Son of God, the King of the Jews, and truly, the King of all kings, king of heaven and earth, and King of all things seen and unseen! **Long live King Jesus!**

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<sup>5</sup> Matthew 4:3, 6.



## Discussion Questions

1. Why did Matthew write this gospel?
2. What have you learned about Matthew himself through this series?
3. What is the gospel?
4. What four themes were presented as reasons to believe Jesus is Messiah?
5. Which of them do you find most meaningful to your understanding of who Jesus is?
6. Has your understanding of Jesus changed in any way over the course of the series in Matthew? If so, explain how.
7. Share one memory or fact you've learned from the Matthew series.
8. What do you admire most about Jesus?
9. How would you summarize the purpose of the Gospel of Matthew?