

# **Behold Your King!**

*Studies in the Gospel of Matthew*

## **Preparation of the King**

**Matthew 3-4**

**Lesson 2**

*Trinity Bible Church Sunday School*  
*January 8, 2012*

# Matthew: a transitional Gospel

- ▶ A new era – a radical change
  - Law of Moses, the standard for 1400 years
  - Law of Moses replaced by the New Covenant
- ▶ A unity of the Old and New Covenant eras
- ▶ The key figure: Jesus Christ
- ▶ The message from the road to Emmaus
  - Luke 24:27, 44-49

# Christ Presented in Matthew 1-2

- ▶ Son of Abraham – the Promise
- ▶ Son of David – King of the Kingdom of Heaven
- ▶ Jesus – Immanuel – Savior/God with us
- ▶ Ruler/Shepherd – Dominion and Pastor
- ▶ Out of Egypt – tested
- ▶ Weeping in Ramah – Lamech's hope
- ▶ A Nazarene – no natural beauty

# Preparation and Beginning

- ▶ The role of John the Baptist (3:1-12)
- ▶ The baptism of Jesus (3:13-17)
- ▶ The temptation of Jesus (4:1-11)
- ▶ The ministry begins (4:12-25)

# John the Baptist prepares the way (3:1-12)

- ▶ Old Testament expectation of a forerunner
- ▶ Mal. 3:1; 4:5 – *My messenger . . . Elijah the prophet*
- ▶ John the Baptist is Elijah - Mt. 11:13-15; Luke 1:13–17
- ▶ John's attire – a reference to the ministry of Elijah
- ▶ Elijah preached repentance - 1 Kings 18:36-37
- ▶ The message of the Old Testament Prophets
  - Ezekiel, 18:30-31; 33:11
  - Isaiah 35:8 – the highway of holiness

# John preaches in the wilderness of Judea

- ▶ Preparing – Isaiah 40:1-5
- ▶ Preaching repentance
- ▶ Preaching the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand
- ▶ Straight paths – Psalm 23:3; Proverbs 3:6

# John's Baptism

- ▶ New in Biblical history
- ▶ Confession of sins and repentance
- ▶ Pictures death with resurrection to new life
- ▶ Cries out for an effective baptism
- ▶ Baptism with the Holy Spirit and fire
- ▶ Deliverance from “unquenchable fire”
- ▶ “Prepare the way of the Lord.”

# The baptism of Jesus (3:13-17)

- ▶ Identify Jesus (John 1:31-34)
- ▶ John's reluctance – personal need for baptism
- ▶ “It is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness”
- ▶ John's baptism was a picture
- ▶ Jesus is the “representative sinner”



# Baptism of Jesus

- ▶ Much more than John's baptism
- ▶ Holy Spirit descended
- ▶ Voice from heaven – “This is *My* beloved Son, with Whom I am well pleased.”
- ▶ Presents Jesus as the Righteous One with Divine power and Divine approval

# The temptation of Jesus (4:1-11)

- ▶ Led by the Spirit into the wilderness
- ▶ Turn stones into bread
- ▶ Jump off the pinnacle of the temple
- ▶ Worship Satan to gain the world and its glory
- ▶ Unique to Jesus but common temptations
- ▶ Meaning comes from Jesus' responses

# 1. **Make stones into bread**

- ▶ Deuteronomy 8:1-3
- ▶ God's purpose is to test the heart
- ▶ A trial of faith
- ▶ Value the unseen (Word) more than the seen (food)
- ▶ The test: What does the Word of God mean to me?

## 2. Throw Yourself down . . .

- ▶ Psalm 91:11-12 – a Biblical base?
- ▶ Deuteronomy 6:16-19
- ▶ Is God among us? (Exodus 17:7)
- ▶ Judge God by my understanding
- ▶ Reject God because he fails my understanding

### **3. Worship the devil to gain the world**

- ▶ Deuteronomy 6:10-15
- ▶ Seek the kingdoms of this world and their glory
- ▶ Seek first the Kingdom of Heaven (Rev. 11:15)
- ▶ Worship God only – First Commandment
- ▶ The alternative is Satan worship or idolatry

# **Straight Paths**

- ▶ Love God's Word
- ▶ Trust God – In all your ways acknowledge Him
- ▶ Worship the LORD – love not the world

# The ministry begins (4:12-25)

- ▶ In Galilee – Isaiah 9:1-7
  - Galilee of the Gentiles
  - A great light – the Light of the world
- ▶ Preaching
  - Repent
  - The Kingdom of heaven is at hand
  - The faith of Abraham

# The ministry begins (4:12-25)

## ▶ Calling disciples

- Looks forward to the great commission and a new era
- The effectual call – Immediately, they left all and followed Him.

## ▶ The ministry begins

- Teaching and preaching
- Healing – Isaiah 35:5-6



# Preparation and Beginning

## ▶ Preparation for Jesus

- Repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand
- The baptism with the Holy Spirit and fire

## ▶ Preparation of Jesus

- Baptism – the Beloved Son
- Temptation – The Righteous One
  - Live by the Word
  - Do not tempt God
  - Worship the LORD alone

## ▶ The ministry begins

- The Gospel of the Kingdom – a great light – for the world