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