

## I. The Unique Placement and Purpose of Matthew

If you have your Bible this morning, let's turn to the book of Matthew. We have been coming through the Bible. Last week, we finished the book of Malachi, and I told you how absolutely crucial it was to get the book of Malachi down. It is absolutely imperative that you see how Malachi, the last book of your King James Bible, is the last book. The last book in the Jewish Old Testament is not Malachi, but rather it is Second Chronicles. I went through all that and showed you why, and showed you how the last thing that God fixed in your Bible that you would read before you move into Matthew would be about the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Now, that is very crucial because the importance of Matthew in its placement in the Bible is no accident. It is no accident that Matthew was the first book in your New Testament after the 400 silent years, no more than how important, not by accident, Malachi was. Malachi does for us by being the last book in the Old Testament what Matthew does by being the first book in the New Testament, and it presents us now with the first coming of Christ. As far as understanding your Bible, Matthew being placed where it is, is absolutely totally unique and something that you need to understand.

I know that for those of you who have been around here for a while, we have talked about Matthew a lot, and you will see why here. Obviously, we have a day's work done, but I have some other stuff that we want to talk about that will help you understand Matthew even better. Each Gospel—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John—most people do not know this because Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John are in your New Testament. You go from the Old Testament to the big page, the New Testament of Jesus Christ, and then the first book is Matthew, the second book is Mark, then Luke, then John. Most people think that because it is in your New Testament in your Bible, the New Testament is already in effect. I think that is a big mistake that a lot of people make that causes them a lot of problems because, technically speaking, as far as the Bible is concerned, the New Testament does not come into effect. The New Testament does not start until the death of Christ.

The Bible says in the book of Hebrews that no testament goes into effect as long as the testator is alive, but rather a testament, in this case the New Testament, only goes into effect at the death of the testator, and that, of course, will be the Lord Jesus Christ. So, as far as understanding the scope of our Bible and how it all works, plays, and goes together, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, up to the death of Christ, technically speaking, are still in the Old Testament, still dealing with the nation of Israel. You have a lot of people today that teach the Bible wrong, and the reason why they teach it wrong is because they get Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John in the wrong place. They think that because it is in the New Testament in your Bible, and it is there for a reason, that the church is in effect and all this stuff.

## II. Diverse Portrayals of Christ in the Gospels

Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, first and foremost—we are going to come to Matthew specifically—but Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John basically are four different introductions of the first coming of Christ and how the Lord Jesus Christ came to the nation of Israel, and you have got to remember that; it is absolutely crucial. Each Gospel plays its own role in presenting the Lord Jesus Christ from a different standpoint.

In Mark, when Mark writes, he portrays the Lord Jesus Christ as the servant of the Lord. So, when you come through Luke, you find a genealogy. When you come through Matthew, you find a genealogy. But when you come through Luke or Mark, there is no genealogy. Do you know why that is? Because he is presented as a servant, and a servant has no genealogy that anyone cares about. He is born as a slave, born as a servant, stays as a servant. Every genealogy is unknown or means nothing. So, when he portrays the Lord Jesus Christ in Mark, he portrays Him as a servant, so there is no genealogy because that is the aspect that you get.

You are going to find that when Luke is written, Luke is an interesting character. Luke, whether you know it or not, is a medical doctor. He is a physician. In fact, in Colossians 4:14, Paul calls him the beloved physician. Luke is a doctor; he is a medical doctor. You will find that when he writes his Gospel, he writes it from Jesus Christ being portrayed as the Son of Man, His human standpoint. You are going to find that the genealogy in Luke chapter 3, when it works its way back, is Christ's human genealogy, not through Joseph. It cannot happen through Joseph, can it? But it goes back through Mary. It goes back to a relationship with David and Nathan. One line, Joseph's line, goes through David, and then Mary's line goes through Nathan. That is the connecting point that puts Christ in a line without having a human line or a father connected with it whatsoever because He did not get His blood from a human man. We know that. He got His blood from God, and that is why there is no human being connected with His birth other than Mary being the vessel by which God brought it through. So Luke writes, and he gives all that aspect.

The real question today and the real issue today, and this is just a side note, but the real question and the real issue today is the issue of when life begins. There are people that think that life begins at conception. There are people that believe that life begins at birth. There are people that believe that somewhere in that nine-month process, that is when that life comes in. There is a great debate about it today, and it will go on forever. But what most people do not understand is that in this book, if you are paying attention and you are a Bible believer, Luke puts it together for you and gives you God's opinion when life starts and really when life starts. All he does is take what is found in Genesis. Genesis is called the book of the beginning. In Genesis 2:7, the Bible tells you what God constitutes as life starting. In Genesis 35:18, you find God's opinion on when life ends or a person is dead. There are controversies on both sides. You have people on life support systems, and people do not know whether to pull the plug or should they not, or when they die, or how that. That makes life complicated unless you have the Bible. The Bible tells you very clearly when life begins, and the Bible tells you very clearly when life ends. What Luke does is take that and put it into the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ and all of the things that go along with it, and you come up with God's opinion on it. It is given by a medical physician who was saved, an apostle, was one of the twelve, and God uses him in many, many ways to help

many, many people. His writings are unique because it always carries that human side but from a medical standpoint of birth and life. Quite incredible.

The Gospel of John. In the Gospel of John, and we have talked about this before, it is absolutely unique in the Bible. Absolutely unique. I think it is probably the greatest Gospel in the sense of how it portrays Christ because in the Gospel of John, John writes and portrays the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God. Matthew gives one genealogy; we will talk about it in a moment. Mark does not have a genealogy. Luke has a human genealogy. But when it comes to John, John portrays Christ as the Son of God. So the genealogy is in the beginning. In the beginning, he runs it right back to God and asks the spiritual genealogy because he presents Him as the Son of God.

*John 1:1-3*

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

*The same was in the beginning with God.*

*All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.*

It goes right back to what it is in Genesis and shows and portrays Christ as the Son of God. From the Old Testament, this is where John is so unique. There are five wisdom books in your Old Testament, are there not? We talked about it on Thursday night. Five wisdom books: Job, Proverbs, Song of Solomon, Psalms, Ecclesiastes. I have showed you how, from our Thursday night Bible studies, those five books have all the collective wisdom of God in them. All the other books of the Bible will always point back to these books, simplifying it. I have given you this before:

1. Job represents for you and for me a sad man.
2. Proverbs represents a wise man.
3. Psalms represents a blessed man.
4. Song of Solomon represents a heavenly man.
5. Ecclesiastes represents a worldly man.

You have it all fit in right there. What most people do not know is that John writes five books, and John's five books in the New Testament form for us the five wisdom books of the New Testament that Solomon's five books represent in the Old Testament, though Solomon did not write them all. Of course, we have the Gospel of John, 1 John, 2 John, 3 John, and then, of course, the Book of Revelation. Believe it or not, we took the time, which we will not do this morning, but they all match. Each one of them in the New Testament matches one of the five in the Old Testament.

### III. Matthew's Political Theme and God's Theocracy

Now Matthew is completely different. I have given you Christ portrayed in Mark, Luke, and John. Now we are looking at Matthew today. Matthew is unique, and this is why it is the first book in your Bible. It is the first book in your Bible because what has happened so far is we have come to the place at the end of Malachi that we have seen now the day of the Lord is going to

come. What happens in Matthew, which I know it is just a flip of your page in your Bible, but in time it is 400 years later. That prophecy is fulfilled, and the Lord Jesus Christ shows up.

Matthew is not about, in any aspect, His life being like God. Matthew is a political book. You portray Jesus Christ as a king, and everything in Matthew, everything in Matthew, is built around the kingdom of heaven. We have talked about this before. We will not get into it at length today, but if you have been around here any length of time, you know that one of the major keys in the Bible for you to understand your Bible is to know the difference between the kingdom of God and the kingdom of heaven. We spent a lot of time around here dealing with that, and if you have been around any length of time at all, you should know that by now.

Matthew is about a political kingdom. Matthew is about a king coming to this earth and the kingdom He will set up, and it is a hundred percent book based on a political side of things from God's standpoint. The book of Ecclesiastes lays out all forms of government. It is an incredible book in the Old Testament. When you come through the book of Ecclesiastes, you should know that you are told, I do not know how many times, that Ecclesiastes is written by Solomon, and he writes about things that are "under the sun." What does that mean? You see that a lot. What does that mean "under the sun"? He means we are on planet Earth, and we are under the sun. The sun is above us. Ecclesiastes is written in a worldly configuration. What God allowed Solomon to do is to look and view and experience everything in life, good and bad, and then he writes the wisdom books that portray that. The book of Ecclesiastes is a book that he writes after he has viewed everything in his life in this world, and he comes to the conclusion that it is vanity, and then he writes a book telling you why it is. In doing that, he goes through all the "ologies" of life. I call them "ologies." He goes through sociology. He goes through all the philosophies that man comes up with: existentialism, pragmatism, fatalism, paganism. They are all listed out in there. Along with that, what he does is he lays out all forms of government. He talks about socialism. He talks about communism. He talks about liberalism. He talks about the democracy form of government, democratic form of government, not Democrat party, but a democracy. He talks about fascism, capitalism. He talks about Nazism. He talks about totalitarianism. He lays all of those things out, and obviously, he comes to the conclusion of saying that all forms of man's government are vanity. The reason why he does that is because he also, in all the Bible, is going in one direction, and it all just starts very broad and then narrows up, and that narrowing up is in Matthew because God's form of government is a theocracy. God's form of government is a monarchy.

England for 400 and some years was a great model of what God's theocracy was going to be. Most people do not understand English history. English history is very complicated. It is something that they go from Edward I to Edward VI to Mary III to Edward III. It just bounces all back and forth. But the history of England is a very incredible history to study. I studied it many, many years ago simply because it was in the path of my learning where the Bible came from, and England was a key player. You are going to find that from its inception, England, because of their association with the Bible and God using that nation to take the Gospel around the world in the Philadelphia Church age, you are going to find that England's form of government mirrors to some degree what God's form of government is. That is why they have always had a king. Now, I

know they have had queens, but my point is it is a monarchy. England at one time, I mean, we are shooting now, but England at one time was very biblical in their approach to things. If you would go to Parliament today or you would go to court in England for something, have you ever noticed that even today in those places all the guys wear those white powdered wigs? Have you ever seen that? People look at that and they think, "Oh, that is cute," or "What does that mean?" or "That is goofy," or whatever. But the reason why they wear those white powdered wigs when they are in a position of leadership or in a court system is because somewhere in the past, years and years and hundreds of years ago, they understood that in Revelation chapter 19 and in Revelation chapter 1 and in Matthew chapter 17, when Christ was portrayed as the ultimate judge, the Bible says His hair is as white as wool. That is a throwback to them reverencing the sovereignty of Almighty God in a monarchy and then trying in some way to inform it into their form of government. Now, their government is messed up today, and I am not even remotely connected with anything in the Bible, but I am telling you, they saw at some point in their years ago this concept of a theocracy, a monarchy. God's form of government is a king, and nations on this Earth will mimic that in a good sense. But when He comes back as King, it is going to be a righteous reign, and that is where they all fail because as best as we try, we are unrighteous, even us who are Christians.

God's form of government is a theocracy, and that forms the theme of the Bible if you do not know that. Many people, I mean, you are going to get today Matthew laid out, worked out for you in a way that you have never had it, even if you know all this. You are going to be able to put this Bible under your belt if you just follow through with some things and see where we are going with this. Because that theocracy, that second coming of Christ and the establishment of that monarchy, that is the theme of your Bible. That is another mistake people make. They think that the theme of the Bible is salvation. They think the theme of the Bible is Jesus Christ. Of course, I can see and understand totally why we as Christians would think that the theme of the Bible would be salvation because we all got saved, we are thankful we are saved, and so we relate that to ourselves, and we think because that is our greatest day, that must be God's greatest day. Well, let me give you a headline: The greatest day on God's calendar is not the greatest day on my calendar. The greatest day on my calendar is the day I got saved and Jesus Christ washed away my sins. That is the greatest day on my calendar in my life, and it should be the greatest day on your calendar: the day that Jesus Christ came down, God gave you enough sense to see that you were a sinner, and that you trusted Christ, and then God changed your life. No question about it.

But God's calendar is different than my calendar. If you think for a moment that God's greatest day on the calendar is when He allowed His Son to come down to this planet, and they spit in His face, and they beat Him, and they hung Him on a cross, and they ripped His beard out, and they slapped Him, and they made fun of Him, and they ridiculed Him, and then they killed Him—if you think that is God's greatest day, you do not know much about your Bible. No, no, no, no. The greatest day is not the day that His Son came down and the world slapped Him, betrayed Him, and killed Him. No, no, no. The greatest day in God's calendar is the day His Son comes back, goes through that eastern gate in Jerusalem, and sits down on the throne and is crowned

King of Kings and Lord of Lords. That is God's day. That is His day. That is the theme of the Bible: the day God establishes His monarchy.

When Christ came the first time, Matthew, this political book we are going to look at, God was sending Him down to be Israel's King. He was sending Him to the nation of Israel, saying, "You are going to see it here tomorrow." I am going to walk you through Matthew like we have never walked through it before. I do not care how many years you have been with me. I am going to show you a thing. You cannot teach it all at one time, so every time we go through it, you get a little bit more. But it is something that when Christ showed up the first time, God is giving the King to the nation of Israel. He wanted them to embrace His King, and of course, they rejected the King, and then they killed Him. That was not God's plan. God lets man do what he is going to do, and God will work it out later, as you know He will. So when God writes this book, Matthew, Mark is a servant. John is the one who sees all the revelations, so he gets to write about the Son of God. Luke is a doctor, so he gets to write about the physical things. But when Matthew is written, a political book about a King and a Kingdom, He picks a civil servant, someone that was employed as a tax collector by the Roman government who understood government and how they operate, and allows him to write the book of Matthew about a coming political kingdom. Those kinds of things, when you see them in the Bible, are absolutely invaluable. God has a purpose and a thing and something that He does in everything that He does.

#### IV. Matthew, Acts, and Hebrews: God's Defensive Perimeter

Let me also say this: Matthew is also one of the books in your Bible that forms a defensive perimeter around the Bible to keep people out that God does not want in, kind of like a minefield. In Vietnam, back in the late 60s and 70s, we were building what they called base camps in Vietnam. You take a group out, and they are out in the boonies someplace, and they would build a base camp. They would be way out in enemy territory, and there would be like maybe 100, 200 guys that operated this base camp, and they could use that. Sometimes they put artillery there that they could fire forward or whatever they want to do. Sometimes they were staging areas for going other places. But they put these base camps all throughout Vietnam, and they called them fire bases sometimes. What they did is they carved out of a jungle virtually a little city, and they would try to win hearts and minds by going out to the tribe. They would run patrols and they would run ambushes and all that stuff. But they were pretty much on their own. So what they did is they built these fire bases, these base camps, and then they cut out about a 200, 300-yard area they called a kill zone all around it. They just cut out the jungle. They would ring themselves with barbed wire and concertina wire, and then what they would do is they would place in that kill zone area five, six thousand anti-personnel mines. When Charlie probed at night, and he always did, he would not get very far before he hit a trip wire and he blew himself up. If there was a full frontal assault and they were coming over the wire or trying to get over the wire, the minefield would certainly slow them up. You are just not going to, I mean, guys would be blown up, and when a guy blows this one up, the shock would blow this guy up. What it did was it protected the people who were on the inside. It gave them a defensive perimeter that the enemy could not get in because they could not get through the minefield.

I thought about that years and years and years later once I got into the Bible. I thought to myself, "You know, the Bible is a lot the same way." When the good guys, the Americans, when they sent all those mines out there, the commander and probably the top echelon, they had a map of the minefield. If Charlie would get over the wire, then you could evade through that minefield without getting your legs blown off because you had the map, so to speak, to get through that minefield that shows you where the mines were and where they were not. It was kind of a configured trail where you could get out of it without getting killed while everybody is getting overrun and they are getting blown up. It was something that psyops came up with, and even the placement of the mines was quite unique, and all that stuff. But I looked at that many, many years later, and I thought, "You know, the Bible is the same way because God does not want, just will not allow unsaved people to get into His Bible."

*John 8:44*

*Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.*

God will not permit unsaved people who do not trust His Son and do it the way God said it needs to be done. He will not allow them into His Bible. So, do you know what He has done? He has taken three books of the Bible: Matthew, Acts, and Hebrews. These three books represent, you know, a little story here, the minefield that God built around the Bible. A man who tries to get into the Bible without coming the right way will always use one of these three books: Matthew, Acts, and Hebrews. When he tries to come in there and use, and you will see it in a moment when we talk about it, when he tries to come into the Bible and get into a started church or get into ministry or form some kind of religion using Matthew, Acts, and Hebrews as his primary book, do you know what he does? He blows his legs off because those three books are the defensive perimeter that God has set up.

Now, there are not many guarantees in life. I can guarantee you that. But I will guarantee you this: you try to get to heaven or you try to build your church on Bible doctrine or take the plan of salvation out of Matthew, Acts, or Hebrews, and you are going to wind up in a lake of fire. Because, one, church doctrine of how we conduct our church is not found in Matthew, Mark, Luke, or found in Matthew, Acts, or Hebrews. The plan of salvation that you and I follow to get to heaven is not in those books either because those books, as I already told you, are primarily dealing with the nation of Israel and God coming to the first coming of Christ to them and dealing with them.

Every heresy on this planet, you saw it Thursday night. We laid it out and saw how close it really is, how the things that they had in there that they were talking about lined up to the Bible, they were in the Bible, but they are taken out of context and they are used in a different way. I showed you that the Bible has one way that it lays itself out, and that is the way. Jesus Himself said, "Narrow is the way." He said, if you want to get to heaven, you can only get to that through Him. But I tell you this, and you saw this, every heresy on this planet is a basic Bible truth that has been taken and twisted. I guarantee you this, and you will see it before we are done here today,

and most of you already know it, you are going to find that every heresy you deal with will take and run its base back to Matthew, Acts, or Hebrews. That is the minefield.

Simply put, I will just give you a general scenario. The Book of Acts, that is a minefield. When somebody comes in there like the Church of Christ, who are unsaved, or the Charismatic Movement, who are saved, when they try to build what they do or how they get to heaven or how they get all that they get, when they try to do that based on the Book of Acts, it blows their legs off. God fixed that book so that you cannot get into those books and get anywhere in the Bible. I have been saved now since 1972, I guess. I will tell you, the longer I am saved and the more I am in that Bible, the more I see that that Bible truly is the mind of God. I will tell you something else, the more I see that when you do not come to that book and accept it the way it is, the way God gave it to you, and you try to rattle your way in some other way, I am going to tell you something: you start messing with that book, which is the mind of God, God messes with your mind, and He will give you what you want.

For instance, and people do not think about this, there is a whole bunch of people around the world today that believe that baptism is part of your salvation. That for you to get your sins washed away, you get them washed away into baptism where the water washes the sin off of you, you see. A lot of people teach that today. But yet, did you ever notice how the Bible clearly tells you that when Jesus was here and He was going to people, the woman at the well and all those places where He actually saved people? Do you realize that if salvation is by baptism and Jesus really saved people, do you know that Jesus never baptized anybody? The Bible tells you that Jesus never baptized, but His disciples baptized. Well, if He is the Savior and He came to save the world and baptism is the mode of salvation, then why was He not baptizing people? The answer to that is because that is not how you get to heaven. You have examples like the thief on the cross that Jesus looked to him. Now this guy is nailed to the cross. He is hanging there. He is not going anywhere but dying. He looks over to Jesus and he says, "Father, remember me when I will come as to the kingdom." Jesus looked back at him and said, "Today, today, not tomorrow, today, thou shalt be with me in paradise." Really? When he gets baptized? You see, the Bible is such a book that you have got to pay attention to it because if you do not, you will get off in Acts. You will see Acts 2:38 where it says, "Repent, be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for remission of sins." If you are not careful, you will go stomping into that minefield with snowshoes on, and you will blow your legs off. Blow your legs off. Of course, you know, it is just the way that it is.

I just cannot comprehend the charismatic today who goes around saying that you have got to have the Holy Ghost to speak in tongues, and yet, is faced with the reality that Jesus never spoke in tongues. What? Did He not have the Holy Ghost? If anybody needed to speak in tongues to all the different places He is going to, it should have been Him. He never did. There is a reason for that. But boy, you just march into Acts from Matthew and start stepping around in there saying, "Here is what you have got." Bam, man, there goes your legs.

Now Hebrews will mess up a Baptist. It will mess up the fundamentalist. It will mess up the evangelicals. I get a kick out of listening to these guys on the radio or reading their books and their sermons when they get into the book of Hebrews. They do not have a clue where Hebrews

fits in. Why anybody would think that Hebrews is directed to you and me as Christians when the name of the book is Hebrews? I have neighbors on both sides. On our block, we have names on the houses. On one side is Jones, the other side is Smith, and the other side over here is somebody else. When I go home at night, I do not walk into Mr. Smith's house and just walk in the front door and say, "Hey, I am home." I do not walk into Joe's house over here or Jones, and I walk in here and I say, "Hey," and just walk in like this is my house. Do you know why? No, I do not do that. Do you know why I do not think their house is my house? Because my name is not on their house. I go to a house that says Alexander on it. Going into a book in the Bible that is to the Jews that says Hebrews when it has nothing to do with Christians is like me walking into Harry's house and saying, "Hey, Harry, this is the Jones house. I am home. Where do you want me to sleep?" It is not my house. My house is across the street. Hebrews is not your book that tells you how to get to heaven. That will be across the street in Romans. Do you see how it works?

Matthew will finish off the rest, and you will see this today. Matthew will finish off the Catholics, the Lutherans, the Presbyterians, the Methodists, the Mormons that we saw, Seventh-day Adventists, and everybody else that is left on the planet. They will take these books and make these books their mode of church doctrine or salvation. When you do that, you are clobbered. I mean, does not anybody understand? The first problem is this: they do not understand the difference between the kingdom of God and the kingdom of heaven. What we are going to talk about here today is some basic Bible stuff that you need to get down. I mean, this is what I look for. Once I understand that there is a difference between the kingdom of God and the kingdom of heaven, and I thoroughly understand that the kingdom of heaven is the political kingdom to Israel, and the kingdom of God is the spiritual kingdom to me, and then I start reading through Matthew, and I find in Matthew, I find the kingdom of heaven 52 times. When I go to Mark, I find it no times. I go to Luke, I find it zero times, and I go to John, and I find it zero times there. Now, maybe it is just me. I am going to think there is something special about Matthew about the kingdom of heaven that is not found in the other books, and there is. That is the kind of things God shows you.

I cannot be responsible for anybody else. When I grew up in the ministry years ago, back in the 70s, and I still have them in the front of my Bible. Back in the old days when I grew up, when I was trained, these guys took the Bible much more seriously than I do. I have to tone it down a little bit because the world is not the same as it was back even in the 70s, and you older folks know that. So I cannot come at you like they come at me, and how they train them back then. Come over, you get close, but not very close. Back then, everything was built on the Bible. Everything was built on understanding the Bible and being held accountable with understanding it. When you were in ministry back there, if you did not measure up all the way, you were out before you got in. You cannot do that anymore. I mean, you can do a certain degree, but you know what? Too many wah-wahs around the world today. You have got to just... Most churches are not bastions of theology and fortifications for the Lord. Let us face it. What you do always, you do not go around giving verses. You put pacifiers in people's mouths so they can suck on this, so they do not keep their mouths shut and do not be whining all the time. That is just the

way it is. Sorry. I know. I wish I was born in the 17th century. It would be a lot better, but I am not. I am stuck. But I am building a time machine, and I hope it works.

Back then, there were 10 questions. I have them in the front of my Bible, not this Bible, not this Bible. 10 questions that they built that when you went into the ministry or you were sent out or you got a major responsibility that you had to answer before four or five guys these 10 questions. You were not allowed to use your Bible. You had to speak for at least 35 to 40 minutes on each one of these, and you had to lay it out to the place where they found out. Basically, I do not know where they got the questions from, but they are excellent questions. These questions, if you ask somebody these 10 questions and they lay them out, you will find out just like that if they know the Bible and they do not. I do not know who put them all together, but it is a genius thing. It will lay out and show you whoever is laying this out if you know their Bible or not. They are so systematically built together that everyone you explain ties into the next, and if you do not know the tie-in and you miss it, you are telling everybody, "I do not know anything about the Bible." It is an incredible set of questions. I had to take it three times before I passed it. That is how rigorous it was because I was... I mean, I am pretty stupid anyhow. But in those 10 questions, there were about three books within the other 10: Matthew, Acts, and Hebrews. Boy, they grilled you on those three books. We have a Bible Institute here that is a three-year program. In the last year, we are going to finish it up this year. The last year we spend is going through in every detail Matthew, Acts, and Hebrews because those three books are the landmines.

## V. Matthew's Core Purpose: Presenting the Messiah to Israel

In Matthew, Matthew is about the King of the Jews coming to this Earth, the Messiah coming to the nation of Israel. Matthew fundamentally does two things:

6. He gives the Jew everything they have been looking for. This is a key thing, and I am going to give you this today. We have never went through this before. Everything in Matthew that is going on is Christ is presenting Himself in one form or the other. We have talked about that before, but what He is presenting has been prophesied in the Old Testament, and the Jew is told to look for them. It was not like when Christ showed up the first time that He showed up and the Jews are saying, "Well, who is He? Who does He think He is? I mean, we did not accept Him because who does He think He is, man? I mean, this guy just showed up out of nowhere." No, no, no, it did not happen that way. When Christ showed up, He had fulfilled over 400 prophecies that the Jew should have been looking for, that he knew about.

Jewish religion and faith in their time was much different today. The Bible is an option for you, and people treat it like that. The Bible is an option. You have an option not to come to church today. You have an option to do whatever you want to do, and God just lets it happen. You have an option to not read your Bible for a week. You have an option to get out of fellowship and go your own way. They did not have that option in the Old Testament. Their relationship with God was built into every part of their culture. It was part of their lifestyle. Their faith and their religion in the Old Testament was built into everything in their society, everything in their

families, everything in their government. Everything was built around in the Old Testament, God being their King without Him actually literally being here because God was forming them up that someday He was going to bring them the King and going to form up that theocracy, that monarchy. So the Old Testament is built on that. So they knew the Old Testament. I would be safe to say that a Jew in the Old Testament that is probably a worthless Jew that you could not count on for anything probably knew more Bible than your best Bible student you could find today. Do you know why that is? Because their whole life was built around the Bible. It was not just, "Well, I will pick up my Bible and go to church tomorrow. Maybe I will go to Bible study tonight." Everything they did from the time they get up in the morning to the time they went to bed and everything that they did with their families, with their government, is all built around the Old Testament and the prophecies about Christ coming. So when Christ shows up, they all know what to look for. What He does for them is an incredible thing. He gives the Jew everything that Jew has been told to look for, and what Matthew is, almost chapter by chapter, is Him revealing something to them that has already been prophesied in the Old Testament. I want to give you those prophecies today that you can put them in by each chapter, and it is right on the money. God lays it out so they could not miss it unless they wanted to. Obviously, we know that they wanted to.

Matthew does almost exactly what I do every Sunday and every Thursday night for you. I confront you with the truth. I lay the truth out. I put it out as clear and plain as it can be that you could not miss it. Everything about the Bible, about God, we do not make it hard. We do not make it complicated. We just kind of lay it out all on a table right there. We lay it out as clearly as we can that you could not miss God's truth and what God wants you to do with your life unless you just absolutely want to, much like the nation of Israel. That is a parallel. That is how similar it is.

7. The second thing it does is it gives valuable information to us of what God is doing with the Jews and is dealing with them at the first coming of Christ. You want to remember this about the Bible. This is the number one thing you want to remember: Everything in the Bible is written for you, but not everything in the Bible is written to you. You have got to remember that. All the Bible is for you, but not all the Bible is directly to you. Matthew, Acts, and Hebrews are for you. There is information you can learn in it, but it is not written directly to you. That is very important. That is exactly how people get messed up. You have got to remember now that there are two main people groups in the Bible. The first people group is the Old Testament nation of Israel, and the second main people group is the church, you and me. So you are going to find the Bible is divided up directly to that. When you come to Matthew, you find that there are some great things here that God wants you and I to know about God dealing with the nation of Israel. Why? Because Romans chapter 9 and Romans chapter 11 tell you and me, Christians, clearly in the church that we are supposed to understand God's dealing with Israel. So when I come to the Bible, there are things in there that are written right to me between the eyeballs, and I take it and I put it right to me. But then there are things in there that God is not writing directly to me. He is writing to the nation of Israel directly, but He wants me to know it because I am to have an understanding of how

God is dealing with the nation of Israel. Three of those main books are Matthew, Acts, and Hebrews. Matthew is a key book, and that is why it is so important that Matthew is here.

## VI. Navigating Matthew: A Chapter-by-Chapter Overview

When you lay out Matthew, which we are about to do here, get this format in your mind. This will help you. I always think in my own personal life, and you know I am dumber than most of you guys, so if it works for me, it ought to work for you. When I think of the books of the Bible, do you know what I first think of in my mind? I have a general statement about that book that I always carry in my mind. When somebody asks me a question about it or in my daily conversations or I think about it, I will always put that point, that concept, or that statement about that book that I have in my mind; it will always be the forefront. It is my introduction to that book that basically sets me up as the contact. It will be very basic. I will show you Matthew here real simple. In Matthew, and you want to have this, you want to remember this: you want to remember that Matthew in its simplest form is an introduction of Christ to the nation of Israel as their Messiah and the King of the Jews. That is all you have got to remember. If you can remember that statement about Matthew, remember that statement about the book of Matthew, you will get more out of it and never get stuck in it and never lose your perspective on it if you just follow and keep that introduction and write it in the beginning of your Bible. Write it right smack dab in the beginning of Matthew. With that in mind, we are going to start to give you something today that will help you. Do you know what I am going to give you today? I am going to give you the map of the minefield so you can navigate through Matthew without blowing your legs off. That is what I am going to give you.

Remember that every book in your Bible, we are going through them on Thursday night. Every book in the Bible has a natural outline and a natural breakdown that God has given you so you can figure it out. What I am going to do for you is I am going to give you the map of the minefield. I am going to walk you through very quickly chapter by chapter, and I am going to show you with the theme in mind, Christ being introduced to the nation of Israel, show you what He is doing, and then show you the Old Testament prophecies that pull it all back together and help you put it together.

> *Chapter 1: The Genealogy of the Kingly Line*

*In chapter 1, you have what is called the genealogy of the kingly line. There is a line in your Bible that goes back through the kings, and those kings were the kings that represent all down through the Old Testament nation of Israel because we have already known now that that is a monarchy, is it not? So Israel has always had a king. That king line goes all the way back to Abraham, even though the first king did not show up until David, the right king anyhow. That line goes all the way back to Abraham. So you are going to find in Matthew a kingly line, and you are going to have information on this that you can spend the rest of your life going through it. Basically, here is what you have got: you have got two lines in your Bible that are represented by two verses in your Bible, and they both basically say the same thing. The first one is found in Genesis 5:1, going back to Adam, and it says, "The book of the generations of Adam." The second one is here in Matthew 1:1, where it says, "The book of the generations of Jesus Christ."*

*Now those represent the two lines in your Bible. The difference between those two lines is that when you go back to Genesis 5:5, when it says, "The book of the generations of Adam," and it goes down through it, then it says this: "and he died," telling you that Adam died. When you come through the book of the generations of Jesus Christ in Matthew chapter 1, it comes down through that, but do you know what you do not find? You do not find the phrase that he died. Do you know why? Because Adam's line represents death of human man, and the line of Jesus Christ represents the line of eternal life. That is why.*

*1 Corinthians 15:22*

*For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.*

So Matthew begins to set out the two lines in your Bible, and the first line is the line of Jesus Christ. The second line will go back to Adam, and Matthew 1 lays out the line of Christ through the kingly line, comes up through David, and goes all the way back through Abraham. The reason why they have to do that is because the Jews, this is why, this is why it had to be in there and this is why it is recorded, because the Jews were told to look for the Son of David. Remember that? That is why you find in the Gospels many of the people that He heals, many of the people that He deals with, many of the people will say, "Jesus, thou Son of David." When they saw the genealogy line and they saw that line going back, they knew, should have known, He was the right guy because He came from the right Old Testament genealogy running back through David to Abraham, and that is what you have got. That is why that thing is so important.

*> Chapter 2: The Birth of the King*

*In the second chapter, we have the genealogy laid out for you. Now we have a record of the birth of the King, and I want you to notice again that this is not the same account that you find in Luke. In Luke, He is in a manger, and He is a baby. Here, He is in a house, verse 11, and He is a young child. So the time element is a little different of when He is actually born in Bethlehem. You will find here that the reason why this is a later period of time is because this is where the wise men show up. That is again, the wise men show up. There are no newspapers, there is no radio, they were not putting on the radio or the TV, "Jesus, the Savior of the world, was born today down in Southern Bethlehem." That is not what happened. There was no form of communication anywhere, and certainly nobody knew or cared about the birth of Jesus, and certainly no one suspected at this point that He was the Savior of the world, King of the Jews, much less the Messiah for the nation of Israel.*

*But over in Babylon, somewhere east, some men who were called wise men were studying their Old Testament. Do you know what they were studying? They were studying the book of Daniel. When they are coming through the book of Daniel and reading that thing, they are talking about Daniel chapter 2, Daniel chapter 7, and Daniel chapter 9 that the Messiah is going to come. They are over there in Daniel chapter 9 and in Daniel's 70th week. Those old guys who were reading that back there know that it is going to be about 480 some years from the building of that temple when their King is going to be born. They are sitting down when they are reading that, and they are taking a piece of paper and their computers and their equipment and figuring that all up, and they say, "Wow, that is anywhere between this year and next year He is going to*

come." Do you know what they did? They had in their Bible that He was to be born in Bethlehem. They had in his Bible from Daniel that it was going to be 483 years. They had from Micah 5:2 that He would be born in Bethlehem. They had in Numbers 24:17 to look for a star. So they started out.

I have got to tell you, do you know what this story is a great picture of? It is one of the great practical pictures of how some of you got to this church. Those guys started out with the light that God gave them in Daniel, and they believed what God gave them. Then they started on a journey just trusting in what God already gave them, and when they were on their journey, do you know what God gave them? He honored the light that they honored, and He gave them more light. Then He sent an angel to them, and then He directed them right to where the King was being born. You see, some of you wonder why you went through some of the things in your life that you had, and you have some tough times in your life, and you look around and you thank God for getting you saved, getting you a place where you can learn the Bible. I suspect that for some of you, you think about it a lot, and you look back in your life and reflect, and you probably should. But do you know how you got here? Do you know how you get to the finish line with God? I will tell you why: even when you knew nothing about a King James Bible, even when you knew nothing about a church that would teach you or a place you could go to get one-on-one to help and all the different things you had, you had in your heart something that God gave you about His Word that you believed, and you acted on the light that God gave you. Just like the wise men in the East simply believed what God gave them at the time, and then they stepped out by faith to follow what they believed, God met them along the way and got them to where they needed to be, and that is what He has done with you. He met you somewhere along the way. Some of you, when we met over the past, you know, you have had issues when you come in, and this all goes into my dealing with people. You had issues when you come in. I told you many, many times, I do not look at your issues you have, I mean I do, but I mean I do not judge you on those issues. I take you with where you are at, understanding in my mind, I believe that God brings people here just like He, by divine inspiration, He gave that Bible, and I believe just like some people have to look in that Bible and say, "Yes, it is for me, no, it is not." I believe when God brings you here because He has something He wants you to do, you have to deal with inner things in your life, and some of you say, "I will deal with them," and you move on and become what God wants you to be. Some of you go for a while and you say, "Nope, I do not want to deal with them," and you are somewhere else this morning or nowhere else this morning. That is how God does it. Because to me, I do not know how you look at it, but that means that everybody who walks through that door who comes to see me or wants to, "I want to learn the Bible," to me that puts a tremendous responsibility on me to make sure they get everything that they need. But your responsibility is to do what the wise men did: take the light that God gave you and keep going with it. I would dare some to say, I cannot prove this, I would dare some to say there probably were other people out there who read the same thing and started on that journey and got halfway there and said, "You know what, just do not finish this thing, let us go back, this thing is not going to work," just like you have people here. The key is once you start the journey, if God brought you to the place, if God is sovereign in the sense of putting you where He wants you to be and orchestrates your life to put the people in your life, the church in your life, the Bible in your life, and then you walk away from it, that is on you. That is a great principle. Again, the

*Jew knew all about when He was coming. It was not some secret thing or somebody said, "Who are you going to believe this, somebody just told me that the Messiah was going." No, no, no, no, no, they had in that Bible, they had been reading about that for 400 years. The people in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John at the first coming of Christ, they knew their Old Testament, they knew exactly the time frame, they knew exactly what was going on. Did you ever read in Matthew 2 that Herod, who was a Gentile and lost as a goose, went to the wise men and inquired of them where He should be born, and they knew exactly where He was to be born? Do you know why? Because they knew their Old Testament.*

#### *> Chapter 3: The Proclamation of the King*

*In chapter 3, you have the proclamation of the King, and that will be the ministry of John the Baptist. Quickly, John's ministry and John's mission. John is born six months before the Lord Jesus Christ; he is six months older than Him. John is kind of like the front man. John is the guy who, six months before the Lord starts His public ministry, is out there proclaiming that the King has come to the nation of Israel. Every Jew, once they heard John the Baptist and they saw John the Baptist, this again was absolutely proof positive that God was doing something because John the Baptist coming to proclaiming was prophesied in Isaiah 40:3-8 and Malachi 3:1. You see, the Jews knew and they expected that. Remember one time that they said to Jesus or Jesus said to His disciples, "Who do men say that I am?" Do you ever see the response? Some say John the Baptist, some say Moses, some say Elijah, and then one guy throws a hat, some say Jeremiah. We look at that and we say, "They are all wrong." No, they are all right because those guys are prophesied in the Old Testament to be a common Christ comes back. They are just not sure where it is at in the deal, but they are expecting those people to come back because that was prophesied. Now this idea that the Jews did not know what they did, they knew exactly what they did when they rejected Christ. May I go one step further? Just like God's people know today exactly what they are doing when they dump God and go out and do their own thing. It is not an accident. You pretend it is an accident. "Well, I am mad about this. Where is this?" No. The bottom line is God brought you someplace, He gave you everything you needed, and you decided, "No thanks," just like some of them did. It is simple. It really is.*

#### *> Chapter 4: The Preparation of the King*

*In chapter 4, you have the preparation of the King, and for Christ to be the King in His kingship and kingdom, He has to be sinless. This was prophesied back in Jeremiah, was it not? Remember that prophecy back there in Jeremiah that said after Jeconiah, God said that nobody could sit on the throne from that kingly line anymore through the bloodline. The next King would have to be sinless. So in chapter 4, do you know what happens? He goes up there, and the devil takes Him up, the tempter, the devil takes Him up, and he tempts Him. He is 40 days and 40 nights without food. God just kind of stacked the deck because after 40 days, you know, your worst temptation and my worst temptation comes when we are tired, when we are hungry, or we are fatigued, and all the above. So just so somebody said God took Him before the devil ever showed up for 40 days, put Him out there with no food, no water when He was at His weakest point, then sent the devil to tempt Him. When the devil comes up, the devil tempts Him three times. He has to do that because in Hebrews 2:17-18, it says,*

*Hebrews 2:17-18*

*Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.*

*For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.*

You know why? Because He was not ever tempted. He did not fall to temptation. In Hebrews 4:15 is the answer to that. It says,

*Hebrews 4:15*

*For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.*

See that thing? The reason why in chapter 4 the devil comes to Him, the mindset behind it is because for Him to be the King to Israel, He has to be sinless. To prove His sinlessness, He has to be tempted. So God sends the devil himself in a weakened state to tempt Him. I think the way that He deals with that temptation is a great key. I could take a week on each one of these things and lay it out, each one of these chapters. We do not have time to do that. We are going to get it through all today. But I think that temptation is, and I tell you this all the time, if any place shows you the great principle found over there in Ephesians 4:27 where it says,

*Ephesians 4:27*

*Neither give place to the devil.*

It is here. Every time the devil comes to Him to try to get Him to do something, do you know what Jesus' answer is? He just simply says, "It is written." Do you know what He does? He does the same thing I tell you to do all the time. Learn Bible principles. When temptations come, when issues come, when somebody tries to get you to do something that is not the right thing to do, fall back on the principles and simply say to yourself, "It is written." After three times, the devil said, "There is no point in this." Do you know why? Because the devil knows if you stick with the Bible, he does not have a leg to stand on to get to you. It is when he gets you to doubt the Bible, not read the Bible, hang out with people that hate the Bible or are against the Bible, that is when he has an avenue into your life. I am telling you, you give the devil, that is why the Bible says, "Give no place to the devil." You give the devil two inches in your life, and he will drive an 18-wheeler through it. The devil will do in your life whatever, I talk about latitude. Do you know what latitude is? Latitude in your life is where the devil gets you. Do you know what latitude is? Latitude is the distance between what the book tells you to do and how long it takes you to do it. He will get through it every time. That is a great principle. But it had to be tempted because the key to Christ's kingship in His kingdom is He is sinless.

> *Chapters 5-7: The Constitutional Structure of God's Coming Kingdom (Sermon on the Mount)*

*Now look at chapter 5, 6, and 7. We will take these three at a time. It is a little lump here because this is where we have now the constitutional structure of God's coming kingdom. This is called in*

popular terms today the Sermon on the Mount, where He takes them up on the Mount and He preaches this to them, chapter 5, 6, and 7. This will be the center of our minefield. This is where the most concentrations of mines are; you are going to get your legs blown right off at the knees. This is where religions today take the social gospel. It has nothing to do with the Gospel, the grace of God found in Romans. This is, again, they walk into this minefield with snowshoes on. They see Jesus talking about doing a lot of good things and people doing this and doing that and getting the kingdom of heaven and all this stuff, and they do not understand that the kingdom of heaven is not something you and I get, so they start making a social gospel here. So this is a social gospel. This is what the neo-orthodox started back around 1900. They took theology that was Bible-based, and they said, "You know what, we are going to take theology and we are going to change what we believe and change what we teach as society changes to fit man so he will accept it." Jesus never did that.

Have you ever noticed in the Bible that Jesus really did not give a flip one way or the other whether you did what was right or not? Do you know what I do with a lot of you or most of you, and this is what I do with my job? When you have an issue, your nose gets bent out of joint, or you have some kind of thing that is stupid, do you know what I do? But all pastors should do, and we run after you. Try to help you. Pat you on the back. Put your little bottle up, wipe your little bib off, put your bottle back in your mouth, pat you on the head, pat you on the little butt, and say, "Oh, are you happy now?" "Yeah, happy." "You want a cracker?" "Yeah, bam, there you go." "Was that a good cracker?" "Well, another one." That is what Christians do today. That is like a nursery. You never saw Jesus run after anybody. Never. A guy said up one time, he said, "I want to follow you wherever, do whatever you want to do." He said, "The first thing I do is go back and bury my father." Do you know what Jesus said? "Let the dead bury the dead. Come with me, let us go." Rough. A guy said one time, "Well, I am going to come with you. I want to follow you. I want to be yours. I just got to go back and say goodbye to my family." He says, "He that put his hand on the plow looking back is not worthy." See, rough, man, rough stuff. One time a rich young ruler came up and he says, "Master, what good thing must I do to inherit eternal life?" That is a key thing right there. "What good thing?" He was a social gospel guy. "What good thing must I do?" And boy, Jesus nailed him. Do you know what the Bible says? He went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. Do you see Jesus run out and say, "Oh, I am sorry. I said, I did not mean to say it that way. Did I offend you? I am sorry. Oh, I know that your parents go to this church or you go over here. I should not have said that. I am so sorry. Please. I do not know what happened to me. I had a lapse of memory. I should have never been." He let him go. He did not chase anybody. Now I am not saying you should not chase people because people, you know, I mean, I am not saying you do not do that today. I think it is, it gets overboard sometime, but that is what you do. That is the ministry. I understand all that. My point is simply this: it was Jesus. I think the term "my way or the highway" originally started in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John because it is that way with Jesus, and He does not really care whether you do it or not. He came down and He set the example. Do you know why He did not care? Because it would already have been prophesied for 400 years what He was going to do, and they knew it. Just like some of you know what God expects of you, and you do not do it. I mean, some of you God's people have been dead wrong in what they have done, dead wrong in how they approach things, dead wrong in how they dealt with it. Do you know what? They know it. But what are you

going to do? It is the same system. Same system. This social gospel mindset here called the Sermon on the Mount, it is not for you and me in the church age. He is giving us information showing us that this is the structure when the King comes back by how He is going to run it. Every Jew knew that. He knew that. He knew that the King was coming, and he knew that the constitution of the kingdom. He saw that thing all the way down through the aspect of it.

> Chapters 8-9: The Proof of the King's Credentials (Signs and Wonders)

Now here is where He shows the proof of His credentials of who He is, and He does this with signs and wonders. Now boy, this blows a lot of people's legs off. This will kill the holiness crowd and the charismatic crowd quicker than they can say hallelujah. I mean, they are out of the ballpark. Signs and wonders. In these two chapters, He shows what most people do not know. You know, we have got an idea today that people go around speaking in tongues, and they think it is for the church. They think it is for today. Bless the hearts of most people that do that. They do not have a clue that if you look back to Isaiah 28:11, they do not have a clue that tongues back in the book of Isaiah was something that was prophesied to the nation of Israel. They were told to look for those stammering tongues in other languages. So when they see it, they know it is for them. Paul reminded us that over in 1 Corinthians 1:22 when he talks about that tongues are for a sign, and then he said in chapter 14 that the signs belong to Israel. They all knew that. When these tongues showed up, these people knew exactly, they knew exactly that that was prophesied in Isaiah 28:11 for the nation of Israel. It had nothing to do with the church.

You have got a lot of people today that believe in healing. Faith healers believe in healing right up to the time they die. Kathryn Kuhlman and people just, I mean this holiness crowd thing just gets out of control sometimes. I grew up in the era of two of the biggest fake holiness people you ever saw in your life. One was Kathryn Kuhlman, and the other one was T.T. Osborne. All that Oklahoma City. Kathryn Kuhlman had a radio program, and she would get on there, boy, and I mean if you ever hear a demon possessed person talk, it was her, boy. She pronounced her S's just like a snake hissing it. I am not kidding you, man, she was something else. One of the greatest faith healers you ever found in your life. Do you know what? When old Kathy Baby got cancer and got ready to die, she went straight to the hospital. She did not even pass go or go over to see two of the greatest faith healers, Oral Roberts and T.T. Osborne, that were 50 miles from her. She did not follow what she believed. She went straight to the hospital, and she died. It had worked for everybody else, did not work for her. Yes, she had a whole life of telling people when it did not work for them, they did not have enough faith, but she has no problem going to a hospital, did not even stop to follow her own teaching. Do you know why it does not work? Because in Exodus chapter 4 that was a sign given to Israel. Do you not remember that story? God and Moses are talking back there, and he said, "Well, how these people are going to follow me? They are not going to believe me. I am just some podunk from no place." God says, "Well, I will tell you how they follow you. Take your hand, Moses. Put it inside your bosom." He did. God says, "It kind of looked like Napoleon there for a minute. Boy, that is okay. Pull it out." He pulled it out. Leprous, white as snow. Moses said, "Oh my God, what am I going to do with that?" God said, "Put it back in." Put it back in. "Pull it out again." Pull it out again. Clean as a baby's flesh. Do you know what God told him? He says, "With signs of healings, I am going to prove

*who I am to Israel." Why? The first coming of Christ in chapter 8 and 9 when He sends those guys out and they start healing the sick, raising the dead, giving eyesight back to the blind, and unstopping deaf ears. They are fulfilling what the Old Testament Jew knew should happen from Exodus chapter 4, and when He is speaking in tongues, they know that that is supposed to take place from Isaiah chapter 28. They were looking for that. They were looking for that. But that is just the way it is today. I mean, that is exactly the way it works, and that is why it has nothing to do for today. Again, you go through Matthew, Acts, or Hebrews, and you do not find out where you are at, you are going to blow your legs off in that minefield because that is the way God kept it. That is why you will find people who believe this stuff, they do not know anything about the Bible. You show me a holiness person or a charismatic who knows one sketch of church history. They do not. They are too busy flopping around the minefield, getting their legs blown off. They have no idea how the Bible goes together. They have no idea how Matthew and Acts and Hebrews fit together.*

*> Chapter 10: The Message of the King*

*In chapter 10, you have the message of the King being sent out through His 12 apostles and preaching His coming kingdom. It is chapters where He picks the 12 apostles. Then He sends them out. If anybody was paying attention down here in Matthew 10:5-7, it says,*

*Matthew 10:5-7*

*These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not:*

*But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.*

*And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand.*

*Here it comes:*

*Matthew 10:8*

*Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.*

*Now, you see that thing? He is setting them up there. They do not go to the Gentile. He clearly tells you what they are doing, He signed gifts and all these things, they go to the house of Israel. They are preaching the kingdom of heaven is at hand. They are not preaching Christ's death on the cross. They are not preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ. They are preaching the King and His kingdom is at hand, and that is to Israel.*

*> Chapters 11-12: The Official Rejection of the King*

*Now, I do not know how you have got your Bible laid out, but here is what I do in Matthew, chapter 11 and 12. I give you one of them big old red grease pencils, and I start in chapter 11, and I just take that thing and outline it right on the edge of your Bible. I write that whole thing in red, big outline around that thing, bring it around and go to chapter 12 and do the exact same thing. Put that thing all around there. Do you know why? Because chapter 11 and 12 are the*

*pivotal chapters in the book of Matthew of where this thing turns. It is the pivotal chapter. Every time I open my Bible up and I see that big red mark around there, I know exactly what I am dealing with. I am right in the middle of that thing. I am right in the middle of that thing because chapter 11 and chapter 12 now deal with the official rejection of the King. Everything that they were told to look for, everything they knew to look for, everything that clearly God gave them and the light that God had given them that they had been reading and studying all of their lives, now when it is ultimately faced with the reality of it, they reject it. I have seen that happen in Christian lives. We all have. I have seen kids raised in a Christian home and coming up and growing up and parents do a decent job of that thing, and a kid comes to that age when they think they are smart and everybody else, and bang, off they go. Happens all the time. In spite of the fact that all their life they had some kind of teaching or training.*

*Of course, Steve, here is what kills them. Here is what kills them. Look at Matthew 12:24. In chapter 11, they throw John the Baptist in prison. They reject him, and then a little later on they kill him in chapter 11. Here is the killer. Boy, you had to have this marked in big red letters around this one.*

*Matthew 12:24*

*But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, This fellow doth not cast out devils, but by Beelzebub the prince of the devils.*

*Now what they are saying is this: the scribes and the Pharisees are here in this great excitement of what the Messiah is here. They knew He was here and who He was too, but they are playing a game. We do not have time to get into that game today. But they know who He is. When they see Jesus laying out His credentials, when they see Jesus doing everything that was prophesied in the Old Testament, they counter that by making a statement to the people. "Now this man does what he does not by the Spirit of God but by the Spirit of Beelzebub, the prince of devils." Now Beelzebub is the Old Testament name for the devil. It means Lord of Flies, which is a great key. That is why you will find the horse leech and the horse fly over there in Ecclesiastes, and that is why you will find in Ecclesiastes chapter 11 or 12, you will find it connected to flies. But he is called Beelzebub, Lord of the Flies. When the nation of Israel takes that position, they are equating the Spirit of God that God has sent to the nation of Israel and His Son, and they are equating that spirit by which God's Son does these miracles, not with the power of God but giving it to the power of the devil. That broke it, stopped it, dead in its tracks. Interesting, is it not? Last week I saw in Isaiah chapter 14 and 2 Peter 2 that the Gentiles in the NIV, they go back there and they make the devil God, and here the Jews in Matthew, they do the opposite and make God the devil. Either way, it kills you. When they did that and they took that official position and rejected Christ, they killed John the Baptist, and then they rejected Jesus Christ, then it comes to the point where it is over for them. This is the great pivotal point in the book of Matthew. You will want to see Matthew as an introduction, like I told you, you will want to walk it through and see each chapter, how He is presenting Himself to them. But when it gets to 11 and 12, this is your pivotal point where they reject what God has given them. At this point on, they just blew their legs off, and it goes downhill from there, downhill from there.*

Now from this, we get another little holiness, charismatic little piece of heresy that comes out, and because they read this and see this, they talk about the unpardonable sin. I am sure many of you, I get questions all the time, people ask me all the time, "Is there any sin that people think that if you commit suicide, you know, that you will not go to heaven?" You know, because, and I guess the reasoning is, is because, you know, you cannot ask forgiveness for that. "Well, ask forgiveness before and then it will be okay," you know, something like that. "Leave a note behind, you know, via a PS, forgive me God, I do not mean to do this, but I am going to go ahead and do it anyhow." That is the kind of goofy stuff you get into. Bottom line is this: once you are saved, once you are washed in the blood of Christ, you belong to Him. Now you may do some goofy things in your life. He said, "What do you think about a man that is a Christian committing suicide? What do you think about that?" And I said, "Well," he said, "Can that guy go to heaven?" My answer back to him was this: "You know what? That man did not commit suicide in his heart when he pulled the trigger. That man probably committed suicide in his heart when he walked away from the Word of God maybe four or five years ago. He was just a walking dead man because his suicide was not when he picked up the gun and blew his brains out or however he did it. The suicide was when he walked away from that book that God gave him because at that point he started now making bad choices, and he made one bad choice after another, and each bad choice brought him down another level. The last choice he made to blow his brains out was the last choice of a series of bad choices that he has made in life that got him there that started when he chose to walk away from that book." That is how it works. I have preached people's freedom before committed suicide. In lots you can deal with it. In lots you can say. But you deal with it and you lay it out as best you can so people understand and learn from it. I mean that is all you can do. But it says over there in Matthew 12:32, this is their favorite verse.

Matthew 12:32

And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come.

Of course, they try to apply that to Christians. Now somebody says, "What is that like, Bob?" That is like a football field with nuclear anti-personnel mines every six inches. Somebody is saying, "I will give you a million dollars, Bob. Ten million dollars if you can tiptoe through that minefield without getting your legs blown off, and at the end it will be a hundred million dollars for you. Can you do it?" "I can do it." "Okay, get ready." So he gets it ready. "You are over here. What are you doing? What are you doing? You are putting on skis." "Yeah, I thought I could just ski across faster." Yeah, you are wearing skis, snowshoes, and driving your car across the minefield trying to make that fit into the church. We have already established it has nothing to do with you and me. This is talking about Israel and their rejection. As long as Israel held that position, they could never get saved as a nation.

> Chapters 13-25: The Parables of the Kingdom

Now look at chapter 13, and this will be a large chunker, chapter 13 through chapter 25. Most people do not know this. Now we enter into the parables. Most people have no idea what the

parables are. You get a lot of goofy people out there that think the parables have a lot of good spiritual insight. Somebody said one time, how did he say it? He said the parables, he says, "The parables are heavenly truths hidden in some kind of whatever." "What do you think of that?" And I said, "I think when you stick your finger down your throat, whatever you just ate is going to come up." That is what I think about it. I do not think much of it. No, no. Matthew chapter 13 through chapter 25 deals with the parables. What happens is because they rejected the kingdom, now God tells stories about this kingdom in a veiled form, in a mystery form, that these guys cannot figure it out because they have rejected the word of truth. That too, my friend, was prophesied. Matthew 13:14-15 says this,

*Matthew 13:14-15*

*And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive:*

*For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.*

*I said, "Your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for verily I say unto you that many prophets and righteous men," He comes down and threw that. Now that is what He says there. Notice He says spoken about fulfilled of Isaiah the prophet. That will be Isaiah 6:9-10. So even the parables were prophesied in the Old Testament that this was going to happen. The Jews should have known that. They did not know that. You come to the end of this book, you realize that it is not the poor, dumb, stupid Jews that had no knowledge, it is the Jews that had every sign, every knowledge, and every scrap of truth they needed, they chose to reject what God sent them. Of course, that is what you have got.*

*> Chapter 26: The Betrayal of the King*

*Now, chapter 26. Chapter 26 brings us up to the end of Christ's life. Here is how you want to mark chapter 26. There are three things in chapter 26 you want to mark. I would mark them in so they stand out.*

*The first thing you find in verse 17 is the Passover. That is key. We will not get into it this morning, but that is key.*

*The second thing you find is in verse 36, that is His agony in the garden, that would be the Mount of Olives, that is where He is praying. That is key. We will not get into it this morning, but mark it in your Bible.*

*Then after that, in verse 47, Judas comes with all of the tribe that is with him, and He is betrayed and He is taken into custody in verse 47.*

*That is what you have got. Now, you want to break that chapter down around those three things.*

*> Chapter 27: The Death of the King*

Then we come to the next chapter, chapter 27. Chapter 27 simply is the death of the King. Chapter 26 will be the betrayal of the King, but chapter 27 will be the death of the King. Now, I was going to do this this morning, but I do not have time to do it, so, but let me just say it. If you want them, I will give them to you at some other time. But when Christ died on that cross in chapter 27, this is where He fulfilled the 48 prophecies that were foretold in the Old Testament about His death. I was going to give each one of them this morning, but we do not have time to give you 48 of them, so we will get them later.

I told you the story that how, when I got saved years and years ago, you see my pictures over here that I took, I have always been into astronomy, I always loved science and history and all that stuff. When I got saved, you know, I was pretty much a bona fide evolutionist before I got saved. Two old boys got me aside one day that were really instrumental in my life after I got saved, teaching me the Bible. They showed me up at Kent State University, they showed me a thing called statistical mathematical probability. What they did is they took the 48 prophecies about Jesus Christ in the Old Testament and showed me the mathematical probability of those things coming to pass 600 to 1900 years before He was born, 40 different authors, the whole nine yards, we have talked about it before. They showed me that the chances against 48 prophecies coming to pass in one man's life on everything being exact was 10 to the 157th power. That is 10 with 157 zeros after it. There are not that many electrons in the universe. There are not that many electrons in 10 universes. Yet every one of those prophecies, all 48 of them, came to pass in Matthew chapter 27. Sometime in your Bible when you get them, you need to put those 48 prophecies either in the back of your Bible or put them there in Matthew, it would be kind of tough to put them in Matthew, but you need to have those in your Bible. 48 prophecies that were foretold from Genesis right up to Zechariah and everything in between that lays out those prophecies that He fulfilled the coming of Christ.

> Chapter 28: The Resurrection of the King

Then chapter 28. Chapter 28 is the resurrection of the King. Now this is key, this is key. Most people do not know the importance of Matthew. Now you have a little better understanding. It is an introduction to the nation of Israel, to the Lord Jesus Christ, their Messiah, their King, and God's intention to establish His theocracy, His monarchy with His Son as a King on the throne. So He comes in Matthew, He gives them chapter by chapter. You should have it now, and you should have the Old Testament prophecy to show you chapter by chapter by chapter that the Jews knew exactly who He was because they had been reading those for any number of years. In Matthew chapter 28, the resurrection takes place. Jesus Himself foretold of this in the Gospels Himself. The resurrection of the King is key. It is key in a couple of ways. I am not even going to deal with it in the aspect that William preached on this New Year's Eve and did a tremendous job about the fact that if Christ did not come from the grave, we are still dead in our sin because everything hinges on the resurrection. But let me show you why that is.

Now on this one, we want to look at this. Take your Bible and turn to Matthew 28:1. Now you want to mark this in your Bible. This is one of these things that nobody ever sees, but brother, I have got to tell you, I did not find it. The old boy showed it to me years ago. This was basic Bible 101 30 years ago, 40 years ago.

*Matthew 28:1-6*

*In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre.*

*And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it.*

*His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow:*

*And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men.*

*And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified.*

*He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.*

*Now in your Bible, you find two narratives. Now I know the Bible is all written by the Holy Spirit of God, no question about that. "Holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." I have got it. But there are places in your Bible where the writers are writing because they were actually there and saw the events, so they are recording it under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit because they were there. Then you have a narrative in your Bible where there is nobody there, and the Holy Spirit of God is the only one that saw the narrative, and the Holy Spirit of God is speaking through that person, but the person is not speaking firsthand. Matthew was not here. You know your Bible, you know the 12 apostles were hiding in the brush. They were not here. They never expected Him to come out. So this narrative is being told through Matthew that the Holy Spirit of God is giving it. What I want you to see is down to the end of the last verse we read there, verse 6: "He is not here: for he is risen. Come, see the place where the Lord lay."*

*Now I am going to tell you this. The reason why we want to mark that in your Bible is because this is the first time in your Bible in the New Testament where the Holy Spirit or the narrative of the Bible called Jesus Christ "Lord." People have called Him Lord up to this time, but the Bible never gave Him the designation as Lord. He is called Jesus the Christ, Christ Jesus, but He is never called the Lord. People call Him Lord. You will say, "I found Him right here." This is where the guy wants to look. He called Him Lord. That is not the Holy Spirit. This place is where the first time that the Holy Spirit gives Him the title and designation of Lord. The reason why that is important is because He could not have that designation of Lord until He raised Himself from the dead. When it is Lord, it means Lord of the living and Lord of the dead.*

*Turn over to Hebrews chapter 2, and I will show you one last verse. Hebrews 2:14. Now most people do not know this, but up to the resurrection, it was still a toss-up. That is why the devil came to Him on the cross and had the people treat Him so sadistically and do all the things that they did trying to get Christ to quit. Once Christ died on the cross, the devil thinks he has won because up to this point, the devil had the keys of death and hell. He has Christ in his grip now. So all down through history, the devil has never lost anybody, and he has got Him now. So the devil thinks that he has won. But look at Hebrews 2:14, and it says this:*

*Hebrews 2:14*

*Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;*

*When Christ died, there was no victory. There is no victory in death. Everybody had died as in Adam, all died. Do you see what I am saying? Remember the two verses back in the beginning? But in Jesus Christ, all are made alive. All are made alive because Jesus Christ did not stay dead. When He came out of that tomb, He resurrected out of that tomb. What He did was, is He defeated the devil and death because when He comes out of that tomb, He now has the keys to death and hell. That is why before that happened, everybody who died went to Abraham's bosom. The devil had charge of Abraham's bosom. But now that Christ is back from the dead, the Bible says in the book of Ephesians, He goes down there, He leads captivity captive, and He empties that place out and takes them to heaven. You and I never have to fear dying again because He has got the keys now of death and hell. That is where the devil got defeated. That is why now after the resurrection, He is given a designation as Lord.*

*Let me end with this. That is Matthew, you have got it. I just gave you the map of the minefield. But I am telling you right now, this idea that the poor Jews did not know what was going on, did not know, that is not true. If I had time this morning, I would run you through some other passages in Matthew to show you exactly they knew who He was, and they chose not to do it. Much like we as God's people, the idea that we get out of fellowship with God. You know, there are a lot of things that, now I will just speak for myself. I can guarantee you one thing: there is never a time in my life when I do not know I am wrong, when I am wrong. The Holy Spirit of God, if He is inside us, the Bible says that He is the one who convicts us. Just like the Holy Spirit of God was present there in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, and He was convicting the nation of Israel, and they blew off that conviction and equated the spirit of their conviction with the spirit of the devil. God's people today take the Word of God, the things of God, the people of God, and make them of the devil so they can get out from under the conviction they are under because they do not want to do what is right too. It is the same system everywhere you go. So now you have Matthew, you should have that worked down in your Bible. I guarantee you that is the key to understanding that book. Get in your mind that what you have here is an introduction to the nation of Israel of their King and their Messiah.*