

The Coming of the Kingdom - 1

The book of Matthew is one of the _____ gospels in the New Testament. Together they give a complete picture of who Jesus is and what He came to do.

Matthew shows Jesus as: _____

Mark shows Jesus as: _____

Luke shows Jesus as: _____

John shows Jesus as: _____

The Gospels were originally written in _____ which was the international language of the day. Later translations were made into Latin and the other languages of the Middle East. In AD640 missionaries translated the Gospels into _____. This was even before they were translated into English. Today parts of the Bible are translated into over 3000 languages. The Gospel, which means _____, is for everyone.

The good news begins with the birth of Jesus Christ. Matthew records part of this story in chapters 1 and 2.

1. ROYAL ANCESTRY OF THE KING

Matthew 1:1-17

When Matthew wrote he wanted to show the Jewish nation that Jesus was their _____, or their King. How could he prove this? A true King has a royal line, and so Matthew begins by giving the royal lineage or ancestry of Jesus Christ.

ABRAHAM - Father of the Jewish nation God had promised that through him all peoples on earth would be blessed. (Genesis 12:2-3)

DAVID - Greatest King in Israel God had promised that his throne would be established forever. (2 Samuel 7:16)

JESUS - Fulfilled both of these promises

Then Matthew traces Jesus' line back to David and Abraham from the father's side. Although Jesus' real father was God, He was considered the son of Joseph. To the Jews in those days the male line was of great importance.

There are 3 sets of names:

From Abraham to _____

From David to _____

From the exile to Jesus Christ.

We have learnt that numbers are very important in the Word of God. The number 3 is one of those important numbers. It stands for the _____. There are three persons in the Godhead: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Then in each set of names there are fourteen names. Another important number is seven. It stands for _____. Fourteen is 7 plus 7! When God wants to emphasize a truth He tells us twice. So Matthew is showing us something important about Jesus. He is the perfect One, the Son of God. He was the Messiah, the King the people were waiting for.

Now we are waiting for the return of our Messiah, Jesus. The Bible says that in the last days many will come claiming to be the Messiah. Most major religions in the world are waiting for the coming of their messiah. The Bible prophesies that there will be one man who will rise up and be worshipped by the world as that messiah, but he will be the Antichrist, or the false Messiah. His number will be _____. (Revelation 13:18) This falls short of God's perfect number which is seven.

Although Matthew and others showed that Jesus was the Messiah the Jewish people had been waiting for, they did not believe. They had a wrong understanding of the Word of God. Let us know God's Word so that we will not be deceived when the Antichrist comes, but be ready and waiting for the true Messiah, who is Jesus.

2. BIRTH OF THE KING

Matthew 1:18-25, 2:1-23

Following the royal ancestry or the genealogy of Jesus is the wonderful story of His birth. Another way that Matthew shows that Jesus is the true Messiah is by showing how His birth fulfilled the Old Testament _____. We see this in Matthew 1:22-23, 2:5, 15, 17, 23.

Sometime after Jesus was born we are told that _____ came from the east to visit the new born King. It is believed by some that these men were kings, but they came to worship the greatest King of all.

These men came from the _____. It may have been Persia or Arabia, or even as far east as India. And they were astrologers who saw from the stars that a great King had been born. How wonderful that God revealed the birth of the Messiah, not only to the Jews, but to the Gentiles. He spoke to them in a way they could understand. They did not have the Scriptures as the Jews did, but they studied the stars, and God spoke to them in this way. God will reveal Jesus to anyone who is truly seeking Him, in a way they can understand.

Discuss

Read the story together in Matthew 2:1-12. What lessons do you learn from this story?

Share

We are waiting for the return of our King. The wise men brought gold, frankincense and myrrh as gifts. What can we bring Him? Share your thoughts.