

The Gospel According to Matthew

Study # 1

What does the word "Gospel" mean? The word "Gospel" means "a good or joyful message" (1828 Webster's Dictionary). The good news is that God sent His only begotten Son to save us from our sins.

Author of the book

The author of the first gospel is Matthew who was surnamed Levi (Mark 2:14). He was a Jewish tax-collector (publican). Tax-collectors were very despised by the Jews because they worked for the Roman government who were overlords of their nation. Matthew obeyed the call of Christ when Jesus said to him "follow Me" (Mark 2:14) and he became one of the twelve apostles. Matthew sets out to prove that Jesus is the longed expected Messiah and the King of the Jews. Matthew wrote the first gospel of the New Testament about 55 A.D.

Chapter 1

Outline

I. The Genealogy of Jesus Christ (1:1-17)

II. The Birth of Christ (1:18-25)

III. Applications

I. The Genealogy of Jesus Christ (1:1-17)

Notes:

Chapter 1 talks about the genealogy of Jesus Christ and the birth of Christ. This genealogy is traced through Joseph, Jesus' legal but not biological father and thus shows that Jesus is the true heir to the throne of David.

The word "Jesus" is the Greek word for the Hebrew word "Joshua" meaning "the Lord is salvation." "Christ" is the Greek word for the Hebrew word "Messiah" which means the "Anointed One." The New Testament was written originally in Greek while the Old Testament was written in Hebrew and some parts in Aramaic.

Jesus was the Son of David and the Son of Abraham which means that He was a descendant of David and Abraham. Jesus was the Seed of Abraham (Gal. 3:16) and Jesus was that Messiah that God promised to David which would come from him (Acts 2:30).

The word "begot" means fathered.

The words "of whom" in verse 16 is very important. It emphasizes the virgin birth that

Jesus was born of Mary only and not of Joseph.

II. The Birth of Christ (1:18-25)

Mary was engaged to Joseph. Betrothal in Bible times was a very binding act and could be only broken by divorce. Before Mary and Joseph came together in marriage, Mary became pregnant with Jesus. Joseph assumed unfaithfulness took place on the part of Mary and since he was a righteous man, he wanted to put her away secretly without bringing shame to her. But little did Joseph know that Mary was conceived rather by the Holy Spirit. The virgin birth was prophesied by the prophet Isaiah 700 years before the birth of Christ in Isaiah 7:14. The Virgin Birth is one of the most important doctrines in the Bible for it shows that Jesus was conceived without sin in the womb of Mary because He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and not by a human father. Thus the sin nature of Adam was not passed on to Him. Therefore He alone is qualified to be our Savior.

The angel appeared to Joseph in a dream assuring him of the virgin birth and instructing him to take Mary as his wife. The angel told Joseph to name the Child "Jesus" whom Mary would give birth to. The name "Jesus" means literally "Savior" for He alone would "save His people from their sins" (Matt. 1:21).

Verse 25 disproves the false idea that Mary remained a virgin all her life as the Roman Catholic church would have us believe. Verse 25 clearly states that Joseph kept Mary a virgin only till Jesus was born. The phrase "did not know her till" (Matt. 1:25) means Joseph did not have marriage intimacy with Mary until Jesus was born. Jesus was Mary's firstborn. But she had other sons and daughters with Joseph after the birth of Jesus. (Reference: Matt. 12:46 and Matt. 13:55-56)

Applications

Are you in bondage to sin? Want to break free? Remember Jesus is the One who can save you from your sins (Matt. 1:21). Jesus said:

"Jesus answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever. Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed." (John 8:34-36)

Prayer Topic

Thank the Lord for sending His Son to save you from your sins. Look at the awesome love of the Father that He would give up His Son for us. Share this wonderful good news with others.

Peter Sarkis

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