

MESSIAH OUR KING
(Study of the Gospel of Matthew)

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All Scriptural Quotations are taken from the New American Bible (1970 Version), with Revised Translations of New Testament (1986) and Psalms (1991).

- **Jesus' Words are Shown in Red**
- *(Parenthetic Italics) Imbedded within Bible Quotes are Author's Comments.*
- **Bold** and Underlined Text are Author's Emphasis.
- **Green Indicates References & Quotations from Catholic "Deuterocanonical" Books**

Blue Highlights Messianic Representations/Foreshadows/Symbols & Prophecies in Old Testament Fulfill by Jesus Christ in the Gospel of Matthew.

Violet Highlights "Jewish Wedding Custom" & "Passover Supper Ritual".

{1} Source - Zola Levitt Ministries.

Small Italics are Author's Footnotes.

PART I - THE COMING KING
Matt. 1 & 2

A. Prelude

1. Offices of Hebrew Messiah (“Christ”)

The Lord’s Holy Anointed:

- a. Prophet = Speaks Forth God's Word
- b. Priest = Intercedes for Man by Atoning Sacrifice
- c. King = Supreme Ruler of God's Kingdom – Heaven & Earth

2. This is a Study of Christ Jesus' Kingship

The Lord’s Messiah – King

Phil. 2:5-11; Heb. 1:1-4

- a. As Revealed in Gospel of Matthew (*Hebrew Messiah*)
- b. As Predicted & Formulated in Old Testament
- c. As Fulfilled by Christ Jesus' First Advent

B. Christ's Royal Lineage / Heritage

Matt 1:1-17

1. Preface: Family Record of Jesus Christ

The Jesus of this Gospel is in the Royal Line of King David & Heir to Throne of Israel (God’s Chosen Nation/People)

- a. Son of David
- b. Son of Abraham

2. Israel’s Patriarchs

Matt. 1:2-5

a. Abraham (Ca 2000 BC) Hebrew Father & Patriarch

1) Lord God’s Covenant with Abraham

- a) A Great Nation/People Chosen by God to Bless the Whole World
 - “..... I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you and curse those who curse you. All the communities (Nations) of the earth shall find blessing in you.” Gen. 12:1-3

b) A Land for God’s Nation (*Promise Land*) Gen. 13:14-18

c) Covenant Confirmed & Sealed by Sacrifice Gen. 15

d) Sign of Covenant is Circumcision Gen. 17

2) Abraham is Spiritual Father of All Believers Gal. 3:6-9

3) Abraham the Father of Isaac

b. Isaac

1) Lord’s Covenant Confirmed with Isaac Gen. 26:1-5; Gen. 26:23-25

2) Isaac the Father of Jacob

c. Jacob (Israel)

1) Lord’s Covenant Confirmed with Jacob Gen. 28:10-15; Gen. 35:9-15

a) Jacob’s Name Changed to Israel Gen. 32:23-31

2) Jacob the Father of 12 Tribes of Israel

a) Includes Judah

d. Judah

1) Israel’s Blessing/Prophecy Over Judah Gen. 49:8-12

a) “You, Judah, shall your brothers (*Tribes of Israel*) praise (*Giving Him*)

Honor)”

- b) “The scepter shall never depart from Judah (*Ruler of Israel & an Everlasting Kingdom*)

Note. Judah never ruled. This prophecy applies to the rule of Kings David and Solomon, the Kings of Judah, and eventually Messiah-King (Christ Jesus), all from the Tribe of Judah. Note that this prophecy also refers to Christ’s sacrifice celebrated by the Holy Eucharist: “In wine he washes his garments, his robe in the blood of grapes.”

- 2) Perez & Zerah Sons of Judah Gen. 38
 a) Mother Tamar is Judah’s Daughter-In-Law
 b) Perez in Line of King David

Note. Perez was born from Judah’s incestuous relations with Tamar, his daughter-in-law. The promised King(s) were to come through the Tribe of Judah. According to the Law (Deut. 23:3) ten generations must pass from such an union, cleansing that lineage, before a king could be anointed. (Even though this sin predated the Law given to Moses, our sovereign Lord honored it.) So, there are ten generation between Perez and David (Matt. 1:3-6).

3. Kings of an United Israel (*Lord’s Royal Covenant*) Matt. 1:6
 a. King David (Ca 1000 BC) King of United Israel 1 Sam. 16:1-13
 1) David a "Man After God's Own Heart" Anointed King of Israel
 a) “..... The LORD has sought out a man after his own heart and has appointed him commander of his people
- 1 Sam. 13:14
- b) “The LORD said to Samuel: ‘.....Fill your horn with oil, and be on your way. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen my king from among his sons.’” (*1 Sam. 16:1*)
- c) “Jesse sent and had the young man (*David*) brought to them. The LORD said, ‘There-anoint him, for this is he!’ Then Samuel, with the horn of oil in hand, anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and from that day on, the spirit of the LORD rushed upon David.....”
(1 Sam. 16:12-13)
- 2) David Overthrew Israel's Enemies
 3) David Established Israel as a Secure Kingdom
 4) David Established Jerusalem as Israel's Capital
 5) David Subjected Neighboring Gentile Nations
 6) Lord God's Covenant with David: 2 Sam. 7:8-17 & 1 Chron. 17:3-14
 a) Son of David on Throne Forever. “..... I(Lord) will make his (Promised Son of David’s) royal throne firm forever. I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me.....” (*2 Sam. 7:13-14*)
- 7) David the Father of Solomon
- b. King Solomon 1 Kings 6:11-13
 1) Solomon the King of Peace – Ruled with Wisdom
 2) Lord’s Royal Covenant Confirmed with Solomon 1 Kings 6 - 9
 3) Solomon Built Yahweh's Temple in Jerusalem
4. Kings of Judah (*Messiah’s Royal Line*) Matt. 1:7-11
 a. King Rehoboam (931 – 913 BC)
 1) United Nation Divided into Israel & Judah
 b. King Abijah (Abijam) (913 – 911 BC)
 c. King Asaph (Asa) (911 – 870 BC)

- d. King Jehoshaphat (873 – 848 BC)
- e. King Joram (Jehoram) (853 – 841 BC)
- f. King Uzziah (Azariah) (790 – 739 BC)
- g. King Jotham (750 – 731 BC)
- h. King Ahaz (735 - 715 BC)
- i. King Hezekiah (715 – 686 BC)
 - 1) Israel Destroyed by Assyria (722 BC)
 - 2) Judah Miraculously Saved
- j. King Manasseh (696 – 642 BC)
- k. King Amos (Amon) (642 – 640 BC)
- l. King Josiah (640 – 609 BC)
- m. King Jechoniah (Jehoiachin) (597 BC)
 - 1) Judah, Jerusalem & Temple Destroyed by Babylon (9th day of Av 586 BC)

5. After Babylonian Exile Matt. 1:12-15
 a. Zerubbabel Rebuilt Temple in Jerusalem (516 BC)
6. Joseph (Husband of Mary) is the Legitimate Heir to Throne of Israel Matt. 1:16
 a. Joseph is Descendant from King David, King Solomon and the Kings of Judah
 b. As Father of His Household, Joseph's Son Inherits His Royal Lineage
7. Jesus, Son of Joseph (Yeshua ben Yosef) is the Legitimate Heir to the Throne of Israel.
 a. Jesus is also Israel's Messiah (*Evidenced by His Virgin Birth – Isa. 7:14*), and, as such, Solely & Exclusively Fulfills the Messianic Office of King. (*See "Anointed King – Part II" for Study of Jesus' Brothers.*)
 b. Jesus is Recognized & Commonly Referred to as "Son of David"
 Examples: Matt. 9:27; Matt. 15:22; Matt. 20:29-30; Matt. 21:1-11
 c. Temple Genealogy Records List Jesus as the Last Son of David & Legitimate Heir to Israel's Throne.
 d. Temple & All Records Destroyed by Rome (9th day of Av 70 AD)
 1) The Last Recorded Name as Legitimate Heir to the Throne of Israel is Yeshua ben Yosef

C. The King's Birth Matt. 1:18-25
 The Son of Promise & King of Israel Isa. 9:5-6

1. Jewish Wedding Custom {1}
- a. *The Contract*
 - 1) *Groom Offers Marriage Proposal to Bride's Father*
 - 2) *Marriage Contract Negotiated & Agreed to by Groom & Bride's Father*
 - b. *The Price*
 - 1) *Groom Pays Bride's Father for Daughter's Hand in Marriage*
 - 2) *Amount Agreed to in Contract*
 - c. *The Cup*
 - 1) *Cup of Wine Offered to Bride*
 - 2) *Bride Accepts Groom & Marriage Contract by Drinking Cup*
 - a) *Executing & Effecting Marriage Contract*
 - 3) *Marriage Not Physically Consummated (Bride Remains a Virgin)*

d. *The Departure of Bridegroom*

1) *Groom Returns to His Father's House & Builds Bridal Chamber*

2) *Bride Remains Chaste - Anxiously Waiting Groom's Return*

a) During this Time Mary Conceives Jesus by the Holy Spirit Luke 1:26-38
(*Unfaithful Brides are a Disgrace to their Father & Bride Groom, Subject to Divorcement & Possibly Stoning. Deut. 22:23-24*)

e. *The "Stealing" of the Bride*

1) *Groom "Steals" Bride & Takes Her to Bridal Chamber*

f. *The Bridal Chamber*

1) *Marriage Physically Consummated*

g. *The Marriage Supper*

1) *Celebration Banquet*

2. Virgin Mary's Conception of Jesus

Matt. 1:18

a. Scriptures Teach Life Begins at Conception

b. Jesus Existed Before Conception and is "**Son of God**"

John 1:1-18

1) Prophecy Fulfilled. "**But you, Bethlehem-Ephrathah too small to be among the clans of Judah, From you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel (Messiah – King of Israel); Whose origin is from of old, from ancient times (Preexistent to His Coming).**"

Micah 5:1

c. Jesus Conceived in Mary by God the Holy Spirit

1) "Now this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the holy Spirit." (Matt. 1:18)

d. God Became Man and is "**Son of Man**"

3. Angel of the Lord Appears to Joseph in a Dream

Matt. 1:19-23

a. Joseph Intended to Quietly Divorce Mary

b. Angel of Lord (Yahweh) Addresses Joseph:

1) "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her." (Matt. 1:20b)

a) Angel Recognizes Joseph's Royal Lineage/Heritage

- Addresses Him as "Joseph, Son of David"

b) Lord Establishes & Confirms Joseph as Head of Household

- Instructs Joseph to Take Mary as His Wife
- Child was Conceived by Holy Spirit (Not Man)

2) "She (*Mary*) will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." (Matt. 1:21)

a) Lord Names His Son "Yeshua" Which We Translate "Jesus"

b) Yeshua Means "Yahweh is Salvation"

c. Angel Confirms by Quoting Prophetic Scripture – Fulfilled by Jesus' Conception

1) "**Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,**" which means 'God is with us'." (Matt. 1:23) Isa. 7:14

a) **Virgin Shall be with Child**

b) **Virgin Shall Give Birth to a Son**

c) **Son Called Emmanuel – Meaning "God is with us"**

4. Joseph Obedient to Lord Matt. 1:24-25
- a. Joseph Honors Sanctity of Mary's Virginitly
 - 1) Mary Carrying Lord Jesus – Messiah & King
 - 2) Mary Carrying Son of God John 3:16
 - 3) Mary Carrying Word of God – Made Flesh John 1:1-14
 - b. Child Born “Yeshua ben Yosef” to Become Our Messiah
 - 1) Born into World as Son of God & Son of Man
 - 2) Born to Proclaim God's Word by Example, Word & Deed
 - 3) Born to Fulfill the Law & the Prophets
 - 4) Born to Die as Our Perfect, Holy & Eternal Sacrifice
 - 5) Born to Rise Victorious Over Death
 - 6) Born to Rule as King of Kings & Lord of Lords

5. Jesus Born in Bethlehem of Judea Matt. 2:1a

C. Royal Receptions Matt. 2

1. Preface
 - a. *The Prophet Isaiah Proclaims:* Isa. 9:5-6
 - 1) *“For a child is born to us, a son is given us; upon his shoulder dominion rests. They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace. His dominion is vast and forever peaceful, From David's throne, and over his kingdom, which he confirms and sustains By judgment and justice, both now and forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this!”*
 - b. *Jesus Born Crown Prince of Heaven & Earth*
 - 1) *Destined to Inherit His Father's Kingdom*
 - 2) *Destined to Rule as King of Kings & Lord of Lords*
 - 3) *When a Crown Prince is Born:*
 - a) *The Nation Rejoices*
 - b) *Dignitaries Visit Bringing Gifts & Paying their Respects - Courting Favor from Royal Family*
 - c. *What Kind of Royal Receptions Did Our Crown Prince Receive?*
2. Royal Visitors - The Magi Matt. 2:1-12
 - a. Astrologers from East
 - 1) Mesopotamian Tradition:
 - a) Astrology Based Religions
 - b) Going Back to Tower of Babel Gen. 11:1-9
 - 2) Astrology is Idolatry Forbidden by God Deut. 18:9-14
 - 3) Magi were Gentile Pagans
 - a) Spiritual Darkness
 - b) Studied Stars
 - c) Studied Religious Texts (e.g. Jewish Torah, Tanach, etc.)
 - d) Correctly Identified Birth of the "King of Jews"
 - e) Pilgrimage to Seek Out Newborn King of the Jews!
 - b. Magi Traveled to Jerusalem
 - 1) Capital City of Kings of Judah
 - 2) Inquired of King Herod
 - a) “..... Where is the newborn King of the Jews? We saw his star at its

- rising and have come to do him homage.” (*Matt. 2:2*)
- 3) King Herod Became Greatly Troubled – Should He:
 - a) Accept Messiah, Cooperate & Surrender His Throne?
 - b) Ignore Messiah Jeopardizing His Rule/Dynasty?
 - c) Reject & Destroy Messiah?
 - 4) Herod Inquires of Priests & Scribes Where Messiah is to be Born
 - a) Priests & Scribes Answer: “In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it has been written through the prophet: ‘**And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; since from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people Israel.**’...” (*Matt. 2:5-6*) Micah 5:1
 - Prophecy – Messiah to be Born in Bethlehem of Judea
 - Bethlehem is City of King David's Birth
 - Bethlehem Means "House of Bread"
 - 5) Herod Enlisted Magi
 - a) Asked Magi When Star Appeared
 - b) Sent Magi to Bethlehem: “..... Go and search diligently for the child. When you have found him, bring me word, that I too may go and do him homage.” (*Matt. 2:8*)
 - Herod's Lie & Deceit
- c. Magis' Audience with King of the Jews
- 1) Magi Followed Star which Rested Over Jesus' Abode
 - 2) Magi Entered Holy Family's Residence
 - a) Prostrated Themselves Before Jesus
 - b) Presented Jesus Kingly Gifts:
 - Gold = Emblem of Purity & Nobility
 - Frankincense = Incense Used in Sacrifices
Symbolizes Prayer Accepted by God
 - Myrrh = Ingredient in Holy Anointing Oil Used in Embalming
 - 3) Lord's Intervention (*Protecting Messiah & Magi*)
 - a) Magi Receive Warning in a Dream Not to Return to King Herod
 - b) Magi Return Home by Another Route

2. The Rival King: Herod the Great

Matt. 2:13-23

a. Promised Son in Exile

Matt. 2:13-15

- 1) Lord Warns & Instructs Joseph in a Dream: “Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you. Herod is going to search for the child to destroy him.” (*Matt. 2:13*)
 - a) Joseph Obeys & Takes His Family to Egypt
- 2) Prophecy Fulfilled. “**Out of Egypt I (Lord) have called My Son**” Hos. 11:1
- 3) *Old Testament Foreshadow:*
 - a) *Lord's Son (Israel) Migrated to Egypt* *Gen. 46*
 - b) *Lord Called Israel Out of Egypt* *Ex. 12:37-42*
 - *To Create a People Particular to God*
- 4) *New Testament Fulfillment:*
 - a) *Jesus (Son of God) Escapes into Egypt*
 - b) *Lord Called Jesus Out of Egypt*
 - *To Create a People Particular to God (Christians)*

- b. Assassination Attempt Matt. 2:16-18
- 1) King Herod Realizes Magi Deceived Him
 - a) Orders Massacre of All Boys Under Age of 2 Years in Bethlehem Vicinity
 - b) Fulfilling Prophecy. “A voice was heard in Ramah, sobbing and loud lamentation; Rachel weeping for her children, and she would not be consoled, since they were no more.” (Matt. 2:18) Jer. 31:15
 - 2) *Old Testament Foreshadow:* Ex. 1 – 4
 - a) *Israel in Bondage in Egypt*
 - b) *Israel’s Promise of a Deliverer*
 - c) *Pharaoh Kills Israel's Sons*
 - d) *Moses Escapes to Become Israel's Deliverer*
 - 3) *New Testament Fulfillment:*
 - a) *Mankind in Bondage to Sin*
 - b) *Promise of a Savior King*
 - c) *Herod Kills Bethlehem's Sons*
 - d) *Jesus Escapes to Become Mankind's Lord & Savior*
- c. Return & Concealment of Promised Son Matt. 2:19-23
- 1) Lord Instructs Joseph in a Dream
 - a) Return to Israel. “Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child’s life are dead.” (Matt. 2:20)
 - King Herod is Dead
 - b) Joseph Obeys & Returns to Israel
 - 2) Joseph Warned Not to Settle in Judea
 - a) Herod’s Son on Throne
 - 3) Joseph Settles in Region of Galilee – Town of Nazareth
 - a) Prophecy Fulfilled "He Shall be Called a Nazarene"
 - Referring to Zechariah’s Prophecy. “Thus says the LORD of hosts: Here is a man whose name is Shoot (or Branch), and where he is he shall sprout (*Grow into Manhood*), and he shall build the temple of the LORD.” (Matt. 2:23) Zech. 6:12
 - "Shoot" is "Netzer" in Hebrew Meaning "Branch"
 - Nazareth in Hebrew is "Netzeret"
 - "Netzeret" is Derived from "Netzer"
 - Nazareth Means "Branch-Town"
 - Nazarene Means "Branch-Man"
 - b) Isaiah’s Confirming Prophecy. “But a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse (David the Smallest/Youngest Son of Jesse), and from his roots a bud shall blossom (*Mature into Manhood*). The spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him (*He Shall be Anointed by Lord*)” Isa. 11:1-5

D. Nurturing the King of Israel

1. Jesus Dedicated to the Lord (Given Back to God)
 - a. Jesus Circumcised on 8th Day Luke 2:21
 - 1) As Prescribed by Law Gen. 17
 - 2) Circumcision Initiates a Male into Judaism
 - a) Placing Him Under God’s Covenant with Abraham
 - b. Presentation of Jesus at the Temple Luke 2:22-40
 - 1) Law of Purification Lev. 12

2) Jesus Consecrated to Lord as First Born

a) As Prescribed by Law

Ex. 13:1-16

2. Jesus' Upbringing (Typical First Century Jewish Family)*Unlike Most Royalty, Who are:*

- Separated from Family in Boarding Schools/Tutors
- Separated from People/Subjects

Jesus Lived, was Reared & Worked Among the People

a. Jesus Lived with His Family in Nazareth

- 1) Obedient to God's Family Order – Father & Mother

b. Jesus Observed Jewish Rituals & Traditions

- 1) Worshipped at Synagogue with Family & Neighbors
- 2) Special Position as Eldest Son – Consecrated to Lord
- 3) Pilgrimages to Worship at Temple in Jerusalem
- 4) Jesus Celebrated:

Luke 2:41-52

- a) Sabbath (Shabbat)
- b) Feasts of Passover, Unleavened Bread & Feast of First Fruits
- c) Feast of Weeks (Pentecost)
- d) Rosh Hashanah (New Years / Feast of Trumpets)
- e) Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement)
- f) Sukkot (Feast of Tabernacles/Booths)
- g) Hanukkah (Feast of Dedication)

*All Pointing to Christ's Salvific Mission, Reign & Restoration of Kingdom
(See "Holy Days, Festivals & Feasts – Part II" Study)*

c. Jesus Educated in Synagogue

- 1) Read & Write
- 2) Hebrew Language
- 3) Jewish Laws, Traditions & Customs
- 4) Hebrew Scriptures (Tanach)

(i.e. Old Testament Without Deuterocanonical Books)

d. Jesus Worked with Joseph as a Carpenter

- 1) Ran Business & Household

e. Jesus Lived as an Ordinary Man

- 1) Providing for His Family
- 2) No Special Empowerment to Overcome Daily Tasks & Problems
- 3) Our King – Experiencing What We Experience Every Day

Heb. 2:14-18

PART II - INITIATION of CHRIST'S KINGDOM

Matt. 3 – 7

A. Foundations of Christ's Kingdom

Matt. 3 & 4

1. The King's Herald: John the Baptist

Matt. 3

When A King and His Entourage Enter a City/Nation, They are Proceeded by Fanfare Announcing (Heralding) the Coming King.

When Christ Jesus – Our King – is About to Begin His Ministry, to Establish His Kingdom On Earth, He is Proceeded by John the Baptist Heralding the Coming Messiah.

a. Prophecies of Messiah's Herald

- 1) Proclaimed by Prophet Isaiah: "[A voice cries out: In the desert prepare the way of the LORD! Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God! Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill shall be made low; The rugged land shall be made a plain, the rough country, a broad valley. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all mankind shall see it together; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.](#)" Isa. 40:3-5

2) Introduced by Prophet Malachi

- a) "[Lo, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me; And suddenly there will come to the temple the LORD whom you seek, And the messenger of the covenant whom you desire. Yes, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts.](#)" Mal. 3:1

- b) "[Lo, I will send you Elijah, the prophet, Before the day of the LORD comes, the great and terrible day, To turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, Lest I come and strike the land with doom. Lo, I will send you Elijah, the prophet, Before the day of the LORD comes, the great and terrible day doom.](#)" Mal. 3:23-24

3) John is the Last Old Covenant Prophets

4) John is of the Tribe of Levi & House of Aaron

- a) Family of Israel's Chosen Priesthood
- b) Proclaiming Christ Jesus as Savior & King: "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world." John 1:29

b. John Proclaims the Coming King

Matt. 3:1-12

1) John Preaches in Judean Desert (*Fulfilling Isaiah's Prophecy. Isa. 40:3*)

- a) John is that Prophesied Prophet like Elijah (*Fulfilling Malachi's Prophecy. Mal. 3:23-24*)

- Fearlessly Proclaiming the Word of God to Sinful Generation
- Preparing People's Hearts to Recognize & Accept Messiah
- Wore Clothing of Camel's Hair with Leather Belt Like Elijah
- Jesus' Later Confirmation Matt. 11:7-15

- b) People from Jerusalem & Throughout Judea Coming to be Baptized

2) John's Message:

- a) "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" (*Matt. 3:2*)
 - Calling Men to Repentance
 - Pointing to Coming Messiah

- b) “Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.” (*Matt. 3:3*)
Isa. 40:1-5
- All Men Equal Before God
 - Prepare Your Hearts to Receive Messiah
- 3) John's Admonition of Religious Leaders
- a) “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?” (*Matt. 3:7*)
- Evidence Your Repentance by Good Works
- b) Don't Rely on Your Position. “And do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you, God can raise up children to Abraham from these stones.” (*Matt. 3:9*)
- c) God's Appointed Time Has Arrived. “Even now the ax lies at the root of the trees. Therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.” (*Matt. 3:10*)
- d) Messiah is at Hand! “I am baptizing you with water, for repentance, but the one (*Promised Messiah*) who is coming after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals (*Symbolizing Messiah's Walk/Ministry*). He will baptize you with the holy Spirit and fire.”
- e) Messiah Will Divide the World. His winnowing fan is in his hand. He will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.” (*Matt. 3:11-12*)
- Kingdom of God (*Those Who Repent & Accept Christ as Lord & Savior*), Divided from Kingdom of Sin & Darkness (*Those Who Reject/Ignore Christ*)
- c. King's Anointing (Baptism) Matt. 3:13-17
- 1) Jesus Came from Galilee to be Baptized
- 2) John Objects to Baptizing Jesus. “I need to be baptized by you, and yet you are coming to me?” (*Matt. 3:14*)
- a) Discerning Jesus Did Not Need to Repent of Sin
- 3) Jesus' Response. “**Allow it now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.**” (*Matt. 3:15*)
- a) Baptize Him in Obedience to Father God
- b) Baptize Him as an Example to Man (*No One Too Good*)

Comment. In the Old Testament, a Prophet or Priest would Anoint the King. Spiritually, John (as descendant of Aaron) was fulfilling the roles of both prophet & priest in Baptizing Jesus – Anointing & Confirming Him as King of Israel.

- 4) John Baptizes Jesus
- a) Heavens Opened When Jesus Came Up from Water
- b) Holy Spirit Descended On Jesus - Empowering Him for Ministry
- Jesus of Nazareth Is the Messiah Being Proclaimed by John
- c) Father God Spoke from Heaven: “**This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.**” (*Matt. 3:17*)
- Anointing Him as Messiah (God's Holy Anointed One)

Comment. Here we see the manifestation of the Godhead (Trinity) involved in Jesus' Baptism, as we did when God (Elohim) created Man (Gen. 1:26-28). Christ Jesus becoming the “Last Adam” anointed to regain dominion over Earth that was lost by the “First Adam”.

2. King Lays the Foundation of His Kingdom Matt. 4
- a. King's Alliances & Allegiances Matt. 4:1-11
- 1) Jesus Led into Desert by Holy Spirit
 - a) To Prepare His Mission to Establish the Kingdom of God
 - b) Jesus Fasted & Prayed 40 Days & 40 Nights
 - 2) Jesus Tempted by Satan (*Attempt to Destroy God's Plan of Salvation*)
 - a) Satan Tempts Jesus to Turn Stones into Bread. "If you are the Son of God, command that these stones become loaves of bread." (*Matt. 4:3*)
 - Tempting Jesus to Break His Fast
 - Honoring Flesh Over His Commitment to God
 - Jesus' Response: "**It is written: 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.'**" (*Quoting Deut. 8:3*)" (*Matt. 4:4*)
 - b) Satan Takes Jesus to Parapet of Temple in Jerusalem. "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down. For it is written: 'He will command his angels concerning you' and 'with their hands they will support you, lest you dash your foot against a stone.'" (*Matt. 4:6*)
 - Appealing to Human Pride
 - Mocking & Misapplying Scripture
 - Jesus' Response: "**Again it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord, your God, to the test.'**" (*Quoting Deut. 6:16*)" (*Matt. 4:7*)
 - c) Satan Shows Jesus All the Kingdoms of the World. "All these I shall give to you, if you will prostrate yourself and worship me." (*Matt. 4:9*)
 - Temptation of Worldly Power & Wealth
 - Submit to Satan's Authority
 - Jesus' Response: "**Get away, Satan! It is written: 'The Lord, your God, shall you worship and him alone shall you serve.'**" (*Quoting Deut. 6:13*)" (*Matt. 4:10*)
 - d) Christ's Weapon is the Word of God Eph.6:10-17
 - e) Satan Leaves Jesus
 - f) Angels Came & Ministered to Jesus
- 3) Christ's Kingdom Based on God & His Righteousness
- b. King's First Campaign Matt. 4:12-17
- 1) Jesus Left Nazareth to Live in Capernaum – Region of Zebulun & Naphtali
 - a) Fulfilling Prophecy. "**Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, the way to the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles, the people who sit in darkness have seen a great light, on those dwelling in a land overshadowed by death light has arisen.**" (*Matt. 4:15*) *Isa. 8:23 - 9:2*
 - 2) Jesus Announces His Coming Kingdom
 - a) Jesus' Message: "**Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand** (*King of Heaven is on Earth*)."
(*Matt. 4:17*)
 - Prepare Yourselves (Heart)
 - To Recognize, Accept & Join God's Kingdom
- c. King Appoints His Officials (Disciples) Matt. 4:18-22
- 1) Jesus Calls Fishermen: Simon (Peter), Andrew, James & John
 - a) "**Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men.**" (*Matt. 4:19*)
 - 2) They Left Their Businesses & Followed Jesus

- d. King's Initial Victories Matt. 4:23-25
- 1) Taught in Synagogues
 - 2) Proclaimed Good News of His Kingdom
 - 3) Healed People of Every Disease, Illness & Bondage
 - 4) Exercised the King's Authority
 - 5) Great Crowds Sought Him

B. Laws of Christ's Kingdom – Sermon on the Mount Matt. 5 - 7

1. Background

Angelic Beings Attending God's Throne Unceasingly Sing: "... Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and who is, and who is to come." Rev. 4:8

- *Holy is the Father*
- *Holy is the Son*
- *Holy is the Holy Spirit*

The Lord God Almighty IS Holiness, Purity & Truth

- a. *Nature of God's Kingdom* Rev. 21 & 22
- 1) *God Requires Absolute Perfection*
 - a) *All Creation in Perfect Order & Harmony with God & with the Rest of Creation (Including All Universes & Dimensions of Creation)*
1 Cor. 15:27-28
 - 2) *Nothing Evil, No Sin, Can Enter Kingdom of God*
 - a) *No Contamination Allowed in God's Holy Kingdom*
 - 3) *All of God's Laws & Requirements Must be Met 100%*
 - a) *No Shortcomings*
 - b) *No Shortcuts*
- b. *God's Relationship with Man*
- 1) *Man Created in the Image of God* Gen. 1:26-27
 - a) *Individual & Eternal Beings Capable of Knowing & Communing with God*
 - 2) *Man Sinned & Fell Short of God's Requirements* Rom. 3:23
 - 3) *Penalty of Sin is Death & Eternal Separation from God (Curse of Sin)*
Gen. 2:15-17; Gen. 3:17-19; Rom. 6:23
 - 4) *God Choose a People (Israel) & Gave them a Contract of Laws (Old Covenant)*
 - a) *To Atoned for their Sins*
 - b) *To Live a Life Obedient to God*
 - 5) *Old Covenant Law Contains:*
 - a) *Moral Laws*
 - b) *Civil & Governmental Laws*
 - c) *Religious Ritualistic Laws*
 - 6) *NO ONE was Able to Keep God's Laws 100%* Isa. 64:4-5; James 2:10
 - 7) *Real Purpose of Old Covenant:*
 - a) *To Show True Nature of Sin* Rom. 5:20-21; Rom. 7:7-13
 - b) *To Point to a Perfect Savior (Messiah)*
- c. *Christ Jesus Our King*
- 1) *Christ Jesus Establishes a New Kingdom with a New Set of Laws*
 - a) *Satisfies God's Requirements of Perfection*
 - b) *Brings Us into the Kingdom of God*

- 2) *God's Word is Effectual & Eternal*
 - a) CAN NOT Nullify One Iota of His Covenant with Israel
 - b) CAN NOT Compromise His Requirements of Perfection
- 3) Christ Jesus Had to Fulfill the Old Covenant 100% in Accordance with the Prescriptions of the Law
 - a) *Live a Holy & Perfect Life (100% Sinless)*
 - b) *Proclaim Good News (Gospel) of His Kingdom*
 - c) *Take Our Sins Upon Himself* Gal. 3:10-14
 - d) *Pay the Penalty for Our Sins & Die in Our Place* Isa. 53
 - e) *Conquer All the Forces of Evil*
 - f) *Rise Victorious from the Dead*
 - g) *Reign Over His Kingdom* Phil. 2:5-11

2. Sermon on the Mount - Spiritual Application of the Law Matt. 5
King Jesus Establishes the Laws for His Kingdom

Constitution for Kingdom of God:

- 1) *Based on God's Absolute & Immutable Laws*
- 2) *Principles Based on Truth*
 - *Laws Established by Lord God Almighty in Creation*
- 3) *The World We See is a Lie, Vandalized by Satan & Sin*
 - *Topsy-Turvy & Out of Step with God & His Created Order*

Chief Law in Christ's Kingdom:

Mark 12:28-31

"One of the scribes, asked him, 'Which is the first of all the commandments?' Jesus replied, 'The first is this: 'Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is Lord alone! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' (Quoting Deut. 6:4-5) The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' (Quoting Lev. 19:18) There is no other commandment greater than these.'"

- a. The Beatitudes Matt. 5:1-12
 - 1) *Messianic Ministry Prophesied: "The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; He has sent me to bring glad tidings to the lowly, to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, To announce a year of favor from the LORD....."* Isa. 61:1-2
 - a) *Messianic Ministry Proclaimed by Jesus of Nazareth* Luke 4:14-21
 - Jesus Reads that Passage in His Synagogue in Nazareth
 - Jesus Then Declares: "Today this scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing." (Luke 4:21)
 - 2) Beatitudes are Jesus Christ's Invitation to Follow Him Matt. 5:3-12
 - a) Form Used by Christ:
 - "Blessed are the" (Christ Identifies Human Need)
 - "They will" (That Need is Satisfied in Christ)
 - Recipients Are Blessed
 - b) Personal Application
 - "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."
 - Poor in Spirit are Totally Dependant Upon the Lord.

- *They are Blessed, Because in Jesus – King of Kings – They Will Obtain the Kingdom of Heaven.*
 - **“Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.”**
 - *Those Who Mourn Cry Out to the Lord with Sorrow.*
 - *They are Blessed, Because in Jesus – Our Suffering Savior – They Will be Comforted.*
 - **“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land.”**
 - *The Meek Submit Themselves to the Lord.*
 - *They are Blessed, Because through Jesus – God’s Obedient Servant – They Will Possess an Inheritance.*
 - **“Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.”**
 - *Those Who Yearn to be Righteous.*
 - *They are Blessed, Because through Jesus – The Righteousness One – They Will be Righteous Before God.*
 - **“Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.”**
 - *Those Who Show Mercy to Others.*
 - *They are Blessed, Because in Jesus – Our Merciful Savior – They Shall Receive Mercy.*
 - **“Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God.”**
 - *A Clean Heart is a Repentant Person Seeking Forgiveness.*
 - *They are Blessed, Because in Jesus – Our Sinless Savior – They Will be Reconciled to God.*
 - **“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.”**
 - *Peacemakers Shares God’s “Shalom” (Peace) with Others.*
 - *They are Blessed, Because in Jesus – Prince of Peace – They Will Become Children of God.*
 - **“Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you (falsely) because of me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven. Thus they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”**
 - *The Result of Following Jesus Will be Persecution in this World & Great Rewards in Heaven.*
- 3) Christ's Laws Come from Within Us from a Heart Regenerated by the Holy Spirit
John 3:1-8; 1 Cor. 6:19-20; 2 Cor 5:16-21
- a) **“Amen, amen, I say to you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.”** (John 3:3)
 - b) **“God is Spirit, and those who worship him must worship in Spirit and truth.”** John 4:24
- b. Jesus Addressed People Who Accept Him (Christ’s “Blessed”) Matt. 5:13-16
- 1) **“You are the salt of the earth.”**
 - a) Salt is Used to Promote Healing, Preserve & Flavor
 - b) Jesus Exhorts Us to Remain “Salty”
 - 2) **“You are the light of the world. your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father”**

- a) Light Exposes Sin, Overcomes Darkness, Brings Warmth & Enhances Visibility
- b) Jesus Exhorts Us to Glorify God by Our Lives, Our Words & Our Deeds
- c. Christ's Fulfillment of Old Covenant (*Old Testament*) Matt. 5:17-20
- 1) Christ Fulfills All Laws & Prophets (100%). "Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets. I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. Amen, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or the smallest part of a letter will pass from the law, until all things have taken place."
 - 2) Importance of Christ's Eternal Laws. "Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do so will be called least in the kingdom of heaven. But whoever obeys and teaches these commandments will be called greatest in the kingdom of heaven. I tell you, unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter into the kingdom of heaven."
- d. Christ Jesus' Application of the Law Matt. 5:21-48
- Christ's Laws are Contrary to Man's Knowledge & Human (Sinful) Experiences:*
- *In God's Creation: 1) Spiritual Laws are a Higher Created Order & Superior to Natural Laws (e.g. gravity), and 2) Natural Laws are Superior to Human / Manmade Laws.*
 - *Here, Christ Jesus (Son of God & Son of Man) Teaches the Lord's Intention of the Law and How it Should be Applied to Our Lives.*
- 1) Form Used by Christ:
 - a) "You have heard that it was said....." (*Christ Refers Back to Old Covenant*)
 - b) "But I say to you,....." (*Christ's Application of that Law to His Kingdom*)
 - 2) Christ Applies Certain Laws to His People
 - a) Anger & Forgiving Heart. "You have heard that it was said to your ancestors, 'You shall not kill; (Quoting Ex. 20:13 & Deut. 5:17) and whoever kills will be liable to judgment.' (Referring to Gen. 9:6 & Lev. 24:17) But I say to you, whoever is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment....." Matt. 5:21-26
 - b) Adultery & Pure Heart. "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' (Quoting Ex. 20:14 & Deut. 5:18) But I say to you, everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart....." Matt. 5:27-30
 - c) Sanctity of Marriage. "It was also said, 'Whoever divorces his wife must give her a bill of divorce.' (Quoting Deut. 24:1) But I say to you, whoever divorces his wife (unless the marriage is unlawful) causes her to commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery." Matt. 5:31-32
 - d) Swearing Oaths. "Again you have heard that it was said to your ancestors, 'Do not take a false oath, but make good to the Lord all that you vow.' (Quoting Lev. 19:12) But I say to you, do not swear at all; not by heaven, for it is God's throne; nor by the earth, for it is his footstool; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King....." Matt. 5:33-37
 - e) Retaliation & Loving Heart. "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for

an eye and a tooth for a tooth. (Quoting Ex. 21:24, Lev. 24:20 & Deut. 19:21) **But I say to you**, offer no resistance to one who is evil. When someone strikes you on (your) right cheek, turn the other one to him as well.....”
Matt. 5:38-42

f) Conquering Hate with Love. “**You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor (Quoting Lev. 19:18) and hate your enemy.’ (e.g. Sir. 12:4-7) But I say to you**, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your heavenly Father,”
Matt. 5:43-47

g) Summary of Law. “**So be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect.**”
Matt. 5:48

3) Christ's Laws Require Our Reliance on the Holy Spirit
John 14:23-26; John 16:7-15; Rom. 8:26-27; 1 Cor 1:18-25

3. Sermon on the Mount - Law of Faith Matt. 6 & 7 *Basic Rules of Christ's Kingdom*

1) *The Word of God Proclaims:* “..... *my just one shall live by faith, and if he draws back I take no pleasure in him.*”
Heb. 10:38

2) *In the Sermon on the Mount, Christ Jesus Teaches Us to Live the Life of Faith*

- *Faith Not in Man, Not in Manmade Institutions, Not in Ideologies, etc.; but Faith in God (Yahweh)*

- “..... *without faith it is impossible to please Him, for anyone who approaches God must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who seek him.*”
Heb. 11:6

a. *God Calls Us to a Life of Faith*

1) *The Life of Faith*

a) *We are to Live by Faith.* “..... *The one who is righteous by faith will live.*”
Rom. 1:16-17

- *Not by Sight (Physical World).* “..... *for we walk by faith, not by sight*”
2 Cor. 5:6-7

- *Not by Human Reasoning.* “.....*Trust in the LORD with all your heart, on your own intelligence rely not; In all your ways be mindful of him, and he will make straight your paths...*” Prov. 3:1-12

b) *Trust in God as Our Source*

- *Health & Strength* Phil. 4:13

- *Food & Clothing* Matt. 4:4

- *Housing*

- *Transportation*

- *Finances*

- *Spiritual Well Being* Rom. 5:1-11

- *All Our Needs*

2) *Trust in Christ Jesus as Our Lord & Savior (JESUS IS OUR BOSS!)*

a) *Seek God's Will for Our Lives*

b) *Accomplish God's Will in Our Lives*

c) *Seek Christ's Advice & Counsel Concerning Our Lives*

- *Education*

- *Profession*

- Marriage
 - Etc.
- 3) *Establish & Maintain a Close Personal Relationship with Christ Jesus*
- a) *He is Both Son of God & Son of Man. "For there is one God. There is also one mediator between God and the human race, Christ Jesus, himself human, who gave himself as ransom for all....." 1 Tim. 2:5-6*
 - b) *We are to Live as Christ. "Live as children of light, for light produces every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth....." Eph. 5:8-14*
 - c) *We are to Represent Christ on Earth. "..... So we are ambassadors for Christ" 2 Cor. 5:19-20*
 - d) *Jesus Challenges Us to Perform the Works of Messiah John 14:12-14*
 - e) *Christ Commands Us to Love One Another John 15:9-17*
 - f) *Christ Commissions Us to Further His Kingdom on Earth Matt. 28:18-20*
- 4) *Live Our Lives as Citizens of God's Kingdom Matt. 6; Rom. 8*
- a) *"But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we also await a savior, the Lord Jesus Christ." Phil. 3:20*
- b. Sermon on the Mount (Continued): Matt. 6
- 1) Good Works & Alms Giving Matt. 6:1-4
 - a) "... take care not to perform righteous deeds in order that people may see them; otherwise, you will have no recompense from your heavenly Father."
 - Perform Good Works to Please God, Not Man
 - b) "When you give alms, do not blow a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets to win the praise of others. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right is doing, so that your almsgiving may be secret. And your Father who sees in secret will repay you."
 - Give from the Heart to Please God
 - 2) True Prayer Matt. 6:5-15
 - a) Personal Prayer. "When you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, who love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on street corners so that others may see them. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you pray, go to your inner room, close the door, and pray to your Father in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will repay you."
 - b) Pray in Faith. "In praying, do not babble like the pagans, who think that they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them. Your Father knows what you need before you ask him."
 - c) Pray to God as "Our Father". "This is how you are to pray: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and do not subject us to the final test, but deliver us from the evil one."
 - Honor & Glorify Father God
 - Seek God's Will to be Manifest on Earth & Our Personal Lives
 - Ask Father God to Protect & Sustain Us – Spiritually & Physically
 - Seek Forgiveness – Right Standing Before God
 - d) Forgive Your Fellow Man. "If you forgive others their transgressions,

your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your transgressions.”

- 3) True Fasting Matt. 6:16-18
 - a) “When you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites. They neglect their appearance, so that they may appear to others to be fasting. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that you may not appear to be fasting, except to your Father who is hidden. And your Father who sees what is hidden will repay you.”
 - Fast to Please God, Not to Impress Man
- 4) True Wealth Matt. 6:19-34
 - a) Store Up Heavenly Treasures. “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and decay destroy, and thieves break in and steal. But store up treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor decay destroys, nor thieves break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be.” (Matt. 6:19-21)
 - b) Keep Chaste & Disciplined Before the Lord. “The lamp of the body is the eye. If your eye is sound, your whole body will be filled with light; but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be in darkness. And if the light in you is darkness, how great will the darkness be.” (Matt. 6:22-23)
 - Give No Occasion to Sin
 - c) Serve God & Trust Him to Provide Your Needs
 - “No one can serve two masters. He will either hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon (Money).” (Matt. 6:24)
 - “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat (or drink), or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?” (Matt. 6:25)
 - Depend on Father God for Your Sustenance, Clothing, Life, etc.
 - d) Seek His Kingship Over You. “But seek first the kingdom (of God) and his righteousness, and all these things will be given you besides.” (Matt. 6:33)

Comments.

- 1) Jesus’ instructions are the opposite of ‘normal’ worldly thinking. We are asked to be humble before God, open and available to God’s will in our lives, to depend on God’s providence, not only to provide our needs but to use us as Ambassadors of Christ’s Kingdom.
- 2) The proud and self-willed thwart God’s Goodness in their lives. “I will do it myself!” “I will do it my way!” Those who put “I” first either reject, ignore or are ignorant of God’s Will, and as such stifle God’s Blessings in their own lives and the world around them.

c. Christ’s Call to a Life of Faith Matt. 7:1-23 Three Cardinal Virtues: Faith (Believe in God), Hope (Trust in God) & Love

- 1) Avoid Judging Others Matt. 7:1-6
 - a) “Stop judging, that you may not be judged. For as you judge, so will you be judged, and the measure with which you measure will be measured out to you.” (Matt. 7:1-2)
 - b) “Do not give what is holy (Christ’s Laws) to dogs (Unbelievers), or throw your pearls before swine (Unclean), lest they trample them underfoot, and turn and tear you to pieces.” (Matt. 7:6)

- 2) Trust in the Lord as Your Source Matt. 7:7-11
- a) Persistent Prayer. “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives; and the one who seeks, finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.” (Matt. 7:7-8)
- b) Father God’s Answer. “Which one of you would hand his son a stone when he asks for a loaf of bread, or a snake when he asks for a fish? If you then, who are wicked, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good things to those who ask him.” (Matt. 7:9-11)
- 3) Our Relationships Matt. 7:12-23
- a) Our Relationship with Other People
- The Golden Rule: “Do to others whatever you would have them do to you. This is the law and the prophets.” (Matt. 7:12)
- b) Our Relationship with Lord. “Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the road broad that leads to destruction, and those who enter through it are many. How narrow the gate and constricted the road that leads to life. And those who find it are few.” (Matt. 7:13-14)
- Jesus Is the Gate that Leads to Eternal Life John 10:1-10
- c) Our Relationship with Religious Leaders
- Our Discernment. “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but underneath are ravenous wolves. By their fruits you will know them. Every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. So by their fruits you will know them.” (Matt. 7:15-20)
 - Do They Bear Good Fruits?
 - “. the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.” Gal. 5:22-23
 - Christ’s Judgment of Imposters. “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name? Did we not drive out demons in your name? Did we not do mighty deeds in your name?’ Then I will declare to them solemnly, ‘I never knew you (No Personal Relationship). Depart from me, you evildoers’.” (Matt. 7:21-23)
 - What is the Work of God? “This is the work of God, that you believe in the one he sent (Jesus the Messiah).” (John 6:29)
 - What is Father God’s Will? “For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who sees the Son (Jesus – Son of God) and believes in him may have eternal life, and I shall raise him (on) the last day.” (John 6:40)
- d. Jesus Christ’s Call to Obedience Matt. 7:24-27
- 1) The Obedient. “Everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and buffeted the house. But it did not collapse; it had been set solidly on rock.”
- a) Jesus Christ Is the Rock Rom. 9:32-33; 1 Pet. 2:8

- 2) The Disobedient. “And everyone who listens to these words of mine but does not act on them will be like a fool who built his house on sand. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and buffeted the house. And it collapsed and was completely ruined.”

Comment: Christ Jesus is Son of God and Word of God. His words are the creative force that brings things into existence and sustains them (Col. 1:15-20, Heb. 1:1-4). The laws Christ taught during His ministry on Earth are effectual, eternal, and superior to all natural and human laws, whether we accept them, ignore them or reject them. Jesus advises that we accept and apply them to our lives.

- e. Effect of Jesus Christ's Sermon Matt. 7:28-29
- 1) “When Jesus finished these words, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as their scribes.”

He Taught With Authority!

HE IS OUR KING

PART III - THE KING'S AUTHORITY**Matt. 8 – 10****A. Jesus Exercises His Kingly Authority**

Matt. 8 & 9

King David's Praise: "Bless the LORD, my soul; all my being, bless his holy name! Bless the LORD, my soul; do not forget all the gifts of God, Who pardons all your sins, heals all your ills, Delivers your life from the pit, surrounds you with love and compassion, Fills your days with good things; your youth is renewed like the eagle's." Psa. 103:1-5

1. Jesus' Authority Over Disease / Infirmities

Matt 8:1-17

a. Great Crowds Follow Jesus After His Sermon

Matt. 8:1

b. Jesus Cleanses a Leper

Matt. 8:2-4

(Leprosy is a Disease of the Flesh – Representing Sin)

1) Leper Approaches Jesus: "Lord, if you wish, you can make me clean."

2) Jesus Touches Man & Says: "**I will do it. Be made clean.**"

a) Man Immediately Cleansed of Leprosy

3) Jesus Instructs Man: "**See that you tell no one, but go show yourself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses prescribed; that will be proof for them.**"a) *Law Requires a Priest Examine Anyone Cured of Leprosy & Perform Specific Purification Rites*

Lev. 14:1-20

c. Roman Military Officer Recognizes Jesus' Authority

Matt. 8:5-13

1) Centurion Approaches Jesus: "Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, suffering dreadfully."

a) Roman Centurion Addresses Jesus as "Lord"

2) Jesus Answers: "**I will come and cure him.**"

3) Centurion's Profession of Faith

a) Humbles Himself Before Jesus. "Lord, I am not worthy to have you enter under my roof; only say the word and my servant will be healed."

b) Recognizes Jesus' Authority. "For I too am a person subject to authority, with soldiers subject to me. And I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come here,' and he comes; and to my slave, 'Do this,' and he does it."

4) Jesus Replies in Amazement: "**Amen, I say to you, in no one in Israel have I found such faith.....**"

a) Believing Gentiles will Inherit Kingdom of God

b) Unbelieving Jews will Loose their Inheritance

5) Jesus Heals with a Command: "**You may go; as you have believed, let it be done for you.**"

a) Centurion's Servant Immediately Healed

d. Jesus Heals with a Touch (*Christ's Healing Presence*)

Matt. 8:14-15

1) Jesus Enters Peter's House

2) Peter's Mother-in-law in Bed with a Fever

3) Jesus Touches Her Hand & Fever Leaves

e. Jesus Expels Demons with a Command

Matt. 8:16-17

1) Delivering Many Possessed People

2) Healing Many Sick People

3) Fulfilling Isaiah's Prophecy: "**He took away our infirmities and bore our diseases.**" (*Matt. 8:17*)

Isa. 53:4

f. Evidence of Jesus' Authority Over Sickness & Disease

2. Priority of Christ's Kingdom Matt. 8:18-22
 a. Jesus Takes Precedence Over Worldly Laws & Concerns
3. Jesus' Authority Over Natural Laws / Elements Matt. 8:23-27
 a. Jesus Stills a Storm
 - 1) Jesus & Disciples in Boat on Sea
 - 2) Violent Storm Suddenly Appears Awashing the Boat
 - a) Jesus Asleep
 - 3) Disciples Wake Jesus: "Lord, save us! We are perishing!"
 - 4) Jesus Admonishes His Disciples: "Why are you terrified, O you of little faith?"
 - 5) Jesus Rebukes Winds & Waves
 - a) Storm Immediately Ceases & Sea Calms
 - 6) Disciples' Remark: "What sort of man is this, whom even the winds and the sea obey?" (*He is Son of God – King of All Creation*)
 b. Evidence of Jesus' Authority Over Nature
4. Jesus' Authority Over Satan's Kingdom / Demons Matt. 8:28-34
 a. Two Demoniacs Confront Jesus at Gadarenes
 - 1) Demons Recognize Jesus as Son of God: "What have you to do with us, Son of God? Have you come here to torment us before the appointed time?"
 - 2) Demons Plead with Jesus: "If you drive us out, send us into the herd of swine."
 b. Jesus Expels Demons with a Command: "Go then!"
 - 1) Men Immediately Delivered from Demonic Possession
 a. Evidence of Jesus' Spiritual Power & Authority
5. Jesus' Authority Over Sin Matt. 9:1-17
 a. Jesus Forgives Sins – Prerogative of God Matt. 9:1-8
 - 1) Jesus Returns to Capernaum
 - 2) People Bring Paralytic to Jesus on Stretcher
 - 3) Jesus Speaks to Paralytic: "Courage, child, your sins are forgiven."
 - 4) Scribes Say to Themselves: "This man is blaspheming."
 (*Only God Can Forgive Sins*)
 - 5) Jesus Discerns Their Thoughts
 - a) Speaks to Scribes:
 - "Why do you harbor evil thoughts? Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise and walk'?"
 - "But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins
 - b) Speaks to Paralytic: "Rise, pick up your stretcher, and go home."
 - Paralytic Stood Up & Walked Home
 b. Jesus Calls Sinners Matt. 9:9-13
 - 1) Jesus Calls Matthew the Tax Collector: "Follow me."
 - a) Jesus Dines at Matthew's House
 - Accompanied by Tax Collectors & Sinners
 - b) Pharisees Remark to Jesus' Disciples: "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"
 - c) Jesus Hears them & Replies: "Those who are well (*Righteous*) do not need

a physician (*Savior*), but the sick (*Sinners*) do. Go and learn the meaning of the words, *'I desire mercy, not sacrifice. I did not come to call the righteous but sinners.'* (Quoting Hos. 6:6)"

- Why? To Provide Salvation

John 3:16-18

c. Rejoice with the King – Our Bridegroom

Matt. 9:14-17

- 1) John's Disciples Ask Jesus: "Why do we and the Pharisees fast (much), but your disciples do not fast?"
- 2) Jesus Answers: "Can the wedding guests mourn as long as the bridegroom (*Promised Messiah*) is with them? The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them (*His Death*), and then they will fast."
 - a) Jesus Refers to Himself as Israel's Prophesied Bridegroom. Isa. 61:10
 - "I rejoice heartily in the LORD, in my God is the joy of my soul; For he has clothed me with a robe of salvation, and wrapped me in a mantle of justice, Like a bridegroom adorned with a diadem, like a bride bedecked with her jewels."
 - 3) Jesus Inaugurates a New Covenant
 - a) "No one patches an old cloak with a piece of unshrunk cloth, for its fullness pulls away from the cloak and the tear gets worse.
 - b) "People do not put new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise the skins burst, the wine spills out, and the skins are ruined. Rather, they pour new wine into fresh wineskins, and both are preserved."

d. Jesus Has the Authority to Forgive Sins & Save People

6. Jesus' Authority Over Death (*Curse of Sin*)

Matt. 9:18-26

- a. Jewish Official Kneels Before Jesus: "My daughter has just died. But come, lay your hand on her, and she will live."
 - 1) Jesus & Disciples Follow the Official
- b. A Woman Interrupts their Journey
 - 1) She was Suffering from Hemorrhage for 12 Years (*Life Draining Away*)
 - 2) She Touches Tassel of Jesus' Cloak
 - a) Reasoning: "If only I can touch his cloak, I shall be cured."
 - 3) Jesus Turns to Her: "Courage, daughter! Your faith has saved you."
 - a) Woman Immediately Healed
- c. Jesus Arrives at the Official's House
 - 1) People Mourning Girl's Death
 - 2) Jesus Interrupts Mourners: "Go away! The girl is not dead but sleeping."
 - a) People Reducible Jesus
 - b) Jesus Dismisses the People
 - 3) Jesus Takes Dead Girl's Hand
 - a) She is Restored to Life
- d. Evidence of Jesus' Authority Over Death

7. Jesus' Authority to Give Sight (*To See His Kingdom*)

Matt. 9:27-31

- a. Two Blind Men Follow Jesus, Crying: "Son of David, have pity on us!"
- b. Jesus Asks Blind Men; "Do you believe that I can do this?"
- c. Blind Men Answer: "Yes, Lord"
- d. Jesus Touches their Eyes: "Let it be done for you according to your faith."
 - 1) Their Blind Eyes Immediately Opened
- e. Jesus Warns Them: "See that no one knows about this."

- 1) They Disobeyed Testifying throughout Land
8. Jesus' Authority to Give Speech (To Proclaim His Kingdom) Matt. 9:32-34
 - a. A Demoniac Unable to Speak was Brought to Jesus
 - b. Jesus Expels Demon & Man Spoke
 - 1) Crowd's Belief: "Nothing like this has ever been seen in Israel."
 - 2) Pharisees Disbelief: "He drives out demons by the prince of demons."
(*Blaspheming the Lord's Anointing*)
9. Expansion of Christ's Kingdom Matt. 9:35-38
 - a. Jesus Goes to All Towns & Villages
 - 1) Teaching at Synagogues
 - 2) Proclaiming the Gospel (Good News) of His Kingdom
 - 3) Healing Every Disease & Illness
 - b. Jesus Moved with Compassion for Crowds
 - 1) People Troubled & Abandoned – Like Sheep Without Shepherd
 - c. Jesus Asks His Disciples to Pray for God to Provide Leaders & Workers
 - 1) "The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest."
10. Kingdom of God is Based on the Person of Jesus Christ
 - a. It is Built on Faith Matt. 8:10, 26; Matt. 9:2, 22, 28-29

B. King Jesus Delegates His Authority Matt. 10

1. King Delegates Authority /Responsibility to His Officials (Disciples) Matt. 10:1-4
 - a. Jesus Gives His Disciples Authority to Heal Sickness & Expel Demons
 - b. Jesus' 12 Apostles:
 - 1) Simon Called Peter
 - 2) Andrew, Simon Peter's Brother
 - 3) James Son of Zebedee
 - 4) John Son of Zebedee
 - 5) Philip
 - 6) Bartholomew
 - 7) Thomas
 - 8) Matthew the Tax Collector
 - 9) James Son of Alphaeus
 - 10) Thaddeus
 - 11) Simon the Cananean
 - 12) Judas Iscariot
2. King Instructs His Disciples & Sends Them on their First Campaign Matt. 10:5-42
 - a. Proclaim Messiah's Kingdom to House of Israel
 - 1) "Do not go into pagan territory or enter a Samaritan town. Go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." (Matt. 10:5-6)
 - 2) "As you go, make this proclamation: 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' (Matt. 10:7)
 - 3) Continue Messiah's Work. "Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, drive out demons. Without cost you have received; without cost you are to give."

- (Matt. 10:8)
- 4) Rely on Lord for Sustenance
 - b. Disciples' Accommodations
 - 1) Bless Households Who are Hospitable
 - 2) Leave Whoever Rejects or Won't Listen to You. "..... go outside that house or town and shake the dust from your feet." (Matt. 10:14)
 - a) Subject to Severe Judgment
 - c. Warnings of Persecution. "Behold, I am sending you like sheep in the midst of wolves; so be shrewd as serpents and simple as doves." (Matt. 10:16)
 - 1) Trust in the Lord
 - 2) Reason for Persecution.
 - a) "You will be hated by all because of my name, but whoever endures to the end will be saved." (Matt. 10:22)
 - b) "No disciple is above his teacher, no slave above his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul (See Matt. 9:34 Above), how much more those of his household!" (Matt. 10:24-25)
 - 3) Fear No Man
 - 4) Proclaim Messiah's Words: "What I say to you in the darkness, speak in the light; what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops." (Matt. 10:27)
 - 5) Keep an Eternal Perspective
 - 6) Jesus' Promise: "Everyone who acknowledges me before others I will acknowledge before my heavenly Father. But whoever denies me before others, I will deny before my heavenly Father." (Matt. 10:32-33)
 - d. Jesus Christ Divides Humanity
 - 1) Jesus: "Do not think that I have come to bring peace upon the earth. I have come to bring not peace but the sword." (Matt. 10:34)
 - a) Warfare Between Kingdom of God & Kingdom of Darkness
 - b) Division Within the Same Household - Believers Against Unbelievers
 - 2) Relationship with Jesus Christ is First & Paramount
 - a) Love Christ. "Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever does not take up his cross and follow after me is not worthy of me." (Matt. 10:37-38)
 - b) Humbly Submit to Christ. "Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it." (Matt. 10:39)
 - e. Reception of Messiah's Disciples
 - 1) "Whoever receives you (Disciples) receives me (Jesus Christ), and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me (Father God)." (Matt. 10:40)
 - 2) "Whoever receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and whoever receives a righteous man because he is righteous will receive a righteous man's reward." (Matt. 10:41)
 - 3) Supporters Rewarded. "And whoever gives only a cup of cold water to one of these little ones to drink because he is a disciple—amen, I say to you, he will surely not lose his reward." (Matt. 10:42)

PART IV - ESTABLISHING THE KINGDOM**Matt. 11 – 23**

- A. Initial Revelations of Messiah’s Kingdom** Matt. 11
1. King’s Officials’ Sent on their First Campaign Matt. 11:1
 - a. Jesus Teaches & Preaches in their Towns

 2. Christ Confirms/Testifies of John’s Mission Matt. 11:2-15
 - a. Jesus is Messiah Matt. 11:2-6
 - 1) John the Baptist in Prison
 - a) Sends a Message to Jesus: “Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?”
 - 2) Jesus Sends a Reply: “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them. And blessed is the one who takes no offense at me.”
 - a) Confirming that He is Performing Prophesied Works of Messiah
 - Example: “The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; He has sent me to bring glad tidings to the lowly, to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, To announce a year of favor from the LORD” Isa. 61:1-2
 - b) Reassuring John that His Ministry was Successfully Completed
 - b. Jesus’ Witness of John the Baptist Matt. 11:7-15
 - 1) “What did you go out to the desert to see? A reed swayed by the wind? Then what did you go out to see? Someone dressed in fine clothing? Those who wear fine clothing are in royal palaces.” (Matt. 11:7-8)
 - 2) “Then why did you go out? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written: ‘Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you (Promised Messiah); he will prepare your way before you.’ (Quoting Mal. 3:1)” (Matt. 11:9-10)
 - a) Fulfilled by John Who Announced the Coming Messiah (Jesus)
 - 3) John is the Final & Greatest Old Covenant Prophet. “Amen, I say to you, among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist;
 - a) All Citizens of Christ’s Kingdom Greater than John. “yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.” (Matt. 11:11)
 - 4) John is “Elijah” Prophesied to Come Mal. 3:22-24
 - a) “All the prophets and the law prophesied (Of Coming Messiah) up to the time of John. And if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah (Prophesied Forerunner of Messiah), the one who is to come.” (Matt. 11:13-14)
 - 5) Jesus’ Admonition: “Whoever has ears ought to hear.” (Matt. 11:15)
 - a) Listen to & Heed Jesus – He is Messiah (Lord’s Holy Anointed One)

 3. Christ’s Admonishes Impenitent Towns Matt. 11:16-24
(Chorazin, Bethsaida, Capernaum; Where Jesus Taught, Preached & Performed Most of His Miracles.)
 - a. They Did Not Recognize the Lord’s Visitation
 - 1) Heeded Not John – Lord’s Prophet & Messiah’s Herald. “For John came

neither eating nor drinking, and they said, ‘He is possessed by a demon.’”
(*Matt. 11:18*)

- 2) Heeded Not Jesus – Lord’s Messiah. “The Son of Man came eating and drinking and they said, ‘Look, he is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.’ But wisdom is vindicated by her works.” (*Matt. 11:19*)
- b. Miracles Performed as Evidence of the Lord’s Anointing
 - 1) They Failed to Repent
 - 2) Pending Judgment for Rejecting their Messiah
 - a) “Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty deeds (*Jesus’ Miracles*) done in your midst had been done in Tyre and Sidon (*Wicked Cities in Old Testament*), they would long ago have repented in sackcloth and ashes. But I tell you, it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon on the day of judgment than for you.” (*Matt. 11:21-22*)
 - b) “And as for you, Capernaum For if the mighty deeds (*Jesus’ Miracles*) done in your midst had been done in Sodom (*Wicked City Destroyed by God*), it would have remained until this day. But I tell you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom on the day of judgment than for you.” (*Matt. 11:23-24*)

4. Father God’s Revelation

Matt. 11:25-30

- a. Messiah Revealed to Unlearned Ordinary People
 - 1) “I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to the childlike.”
 - a) *People Whose Minds/Hearts are Open to Spirit of God*
 - 2) “Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will.”
- b. Jesus’ Intimate Relationship with Father
 - 1) “All things have been handed over to me by my Father (*Jesus Lord of Creation*). No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him”
- c. King’s Invitation to Join Him
 - 1) “Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for your selves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light.”

B. Jesus Reveals His Lordship

Matt. 12

1. Jesus Christ is Lord of the Sabbath

Matt. 12:1-15

a. Revelation by Example

Matt. 12:1-8

- 1) Jesus’ Disciples Gleaning Grain on Sabbath
- 2) Pharisees Complain to Jesus: “See, your disciples are doing what is unlawful to do on the sabbath.” (*Matt. 12:2*)
- 3) Jesus’ Reply:
 - a) Recalls David Entering Tabernacle & Eating Show Bread 1 Sam. 21:2-8
 - b) Refers to Law Where Priests Serve in Temple Without Violating Sabbath
 - c) **Jesus is Greater than Temple (Tabernacle).** “I say to you, something greater (*Referring to Himself*) than the temple is here.” (*Matt. 12:6*)
 - *Temple/Tabernacle Constructed as Commanded & Specified by Lord*

God of Israel (See “Tabernacle & Temple – Parts I & II” Studies)

- *Temple/Tabernacle is Israel’s Central Place of Worship*
 - *Temple/Tabernacle Worship is Officiated by Israel’s High Priest*
 - *Temple/Tabernacle is Place of Sacrifice*
 - *Temple/Tabernacle is God’s Dwelling Place on Earth*
- d) **Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath.** *“If you knew what this meant, ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice, (Quoting Hos. 6:6)’ you would not have condemned these innocent men. For the Son of Man (Referring to Himself) is Lord of the sabbath.” (Matt. 12:7-8)*

- Sabbath is Prescribed Holy Day Ex. 20:8-11; Lev. 23:1-3

- Sabbath Commemorates God’s Rest After Creation Gen. 2:1-3

(Only God Himself Can Legitimately Declare to be Lord of the Sabbath)

b. Revelation by Deed

Matt. 12:9-15

1) Jesus Enters Synagogue on Sabbath

a) There’s a Man with a Withered Hand

2) Pharisees Ask Jesus: “Is it lawful to cure on the sabbath?” *(Matt. 12:10b)*

a) Attempt to Accuse Jesus

3) Jesus Answers: *“Which one of you who has a sheep that falls into a pit on the sabbath will not take hold of it and lift it out? How much more valuable a person is than a sheep. So it is lawful to do good on the sabbath.”*

(Matt. 12:11-12)

a) Jesus Orders the Deformed Man: *“Stretch out your hand.” (Matt. 12:12)*

- Man Stretches Out His Withered Hand Which is Immediately Restored

b) Evidencing Jesus’ Anointing

4) Pharisees Counsel Against Jesus to Put Him to Death

5) Jesus Discerns their Treachery & Leaves that Place

a) Many People Followed Jesus & He Heals All their Diseases

2. Christ’s Mercy & Kingdom Extends to the World

Matt. 12:15-21

a. Jesus Healed All Sick People Following Him *(Presumably Some Gentiles)*

b. Fulfilling Messianic Prophecy *(Quoting Isa. 42:1-9) (Matt. 12:18-21)*

1) *“Behold, my servant whom I have chosen, my beloved in whom I delight; I shall place my spirit upon him, and he will proclaim justice to the Gentiles.*

a) Jesus Is the Lord’s Chosen One (Messiah)

b) Father God Delights in Jesus – As Verbalized at His Baptism

c) Spirit of Lord Descended Upon Jesus at His Baptism - Anointing Him
(See Matt. 3:16-17 Above)

d) Gospel of Jesus Christ will be Proclaimed to the Gentiles

2) *“He will not contend or cry out, nor will anyone hear his voice in the streets. A bruised reed he will not break, a smoldering wick he will not quench,*

a) Jesus Humbly Ministers to People with Compassion, Love & Kindness

3) *“until he brings justice to victory. And in his name the Gentiles will hope.”*

a) Jesus Will Justify Man to God by His Victorious Death & Resurrection

b) Gospel of Jesus Christ Will be Proclaimed to Gentiles

3. Christ Confronts Jewish Leaders *(King Confronts Old Order)*

Matt. 12:22-45

a. Jealousy & Blasphemy of Religious Leaders

Matt. 12:22-37

1) Jesus Cures Possessed Man - Restoring Sight & Speech

- a) People Exclaim: “Could this perhaps be the Son of David (*i.e. Promised Messiah – King of Israel*)?” (*Matt. 12:23*)
- b) Pharisees’ Accusation: “This man drives out demons only by the power of Beelzebul, the prince of demons.” (*Matt. 11:24*)
- 2) Jesus’ Kingly Reply: “**Every kingdom divided against itself will be laid waste, and no town or house divided against itself will stand. And if Satan drives out Satan, he is divided against himself; how, then, will his kingdom stand?**” (*Matt. 12:25-26*)
- 3) Jesus’ Kingly Accusation:
 - a) “**And if I drive out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your own people (*i.e. Religious Leaders*) drive them out? Therefore they will be your judges**
 - b) “**But if it is by the Spirit of God that I drive out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.** (*Matt. 12:27-28*)
 - c) “**Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters.**” (*Matt. 12:30*)
- 4) Jesus Warns of Judgment
 - a) Unforgivable Sin of Blaspheming the Holy Spirit
(*Pharisees Blasphemed Jesus Christ’s Anointing – See Matt. 11:24 Above*)
 - “**Therefore, I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven people, but blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. And whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven; but whoever speaks against the holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.**” (*Matt. 12:31-32*)
 - b) Accusers Held Accountable by their Words at Judgment
 - “**Either declare the tree good and its fruit is good, or declare the tree rotten and its fruit is rotten, for a tree is known by its fruit.**
 - “**You brood of vipers, how can you say good things when you are evil? For from the fullness of the heart the mouth speaks.....**
 - “**I tell you, on the day of judgment people will render an account for every careless word they speak. By your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned.**” (*Matt. 12:33-37*)
- b. Religious Leaders Request for a Sign *Matt. 12:38-45*
 - 1) Jesus Replies: “**An evil and unfaithful generation seeks a sign, but no sign will be given it except the sign of Jonah the prophet.**” (*Matt. 12:39*)
 - 2) Sign of Jonah (*Lord’s Anointed Prophet*) *Jonah*
 - a) “**Just as Jonah was in the belly of the whale three days and three nights, so will the Son of Man be in the heart of the earth three days and three nights.**
 - **Jonah in Fish 3 Days & Nights**
 - **Jesus will be in Tomb/Netherworld 3 Days & Nights**
 - b) “**At the judgment, the men of Nineveh will arise with this generation and condemn it, because they repented at the preaching of Jonah;**
 - **Nineveh Repented at Jonah’s Preaching**
 - **Gentiles will Accept Christ**
 - c) “**and there is something greater (*Referring to Himself*) than Jonah here.” (*Matt. 12:40-41*)

 - **Jesus is Greater than the Prophet Jonah****

- 3) Queen of Sheba Listened to Solomon's Wisdom 1 Kings 10:1-12
- a) "At the judgment the queen of the south will arise with this generation and condemn it, because she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and there is something greater (Referring to Himself) than Solomon here." (Matt. 12:42)
- **Jesus is Greater than King Solomon**
(Solomon was the Richest, Wisest & Most Powerful Ruler in Israel)
- 4) Jesus Warns of Deception & Judgment Without Him

4. King's Royal Family Matt. 12:46-50
- a. Jesus' Natural Family Visit
- b. Jesus Informed. "Your mother and your brothers are standing outside, asking to speak with you."
- c. Jesus Replies: "Who is my mother? Who are my brothers?"
- d. Jesus Stretches His Hand Toward His Disciples: "Here are my mother and my brothers. For whoever does the will of my heavenly Father is my brother, and sister, and mother."
- 1) Jesus Includes All Followers as His Family Rom. 8:14-17; Gal. 4:1-7

C. Christ Teaches About His Kingdom Matt. 13

1. Christ Teaches the People Matt. 13:1-35
- a. Large Crowds Gather Around Jesus Matt. 13:1-3
- 1) Crowd So Large that Jesus had to Get into Boat While Crowd Stood on Shore
- a) Jesus Speaks to People in Parables
- b. Parable of the Sower Matt. 13:3-23
(Spreading the Gospel - Good News of Christ's Kingdom)
Parable of the Sower is the Principle Kingdom Parable, and Prerequisite to the Other Kingdom Parables.
- 1) Jesus Tells Parable of Sower: "A sower went out to sow. Matt. 13:3-9
- a) "And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path, and birds came and ate it up
- b) "Some fell on rocky ground, where it had little soil. It sprang up at once because the soil was not deep, and when the sun rose it was scorched, and it withered for lack of roots.
- c) "Some seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it.
- d) "But some seed fell on rich soil, and produced fruit, a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold.
- e) "Whoever has ears ought to hear (Be Attentive to the Word of God)."
- 2) Reason Jesus Taught in Parables Matt. 13:10-17
- a) Disciples Ask Jesus Why He Taught in Parables
- b) Jesus Replies:
- "Because knowledge of the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven has been granted to you, but to them it has not been granted.
 - Kingdom Principle of Use. "To anyone who has, more will be given and he will grow rich; from anyone who has not, even what he has will be taken away.
- *Whoever Uses (Exercises) what the Lord Gives Them (Talents, Resources, etc.), More Shall be Given (Multiplying God's Gifts)*
 - "This is why I speak to them in parables, because 'they look but do

not see and hear but do not listen or understand.’

- Fulfilling Isaiah’s Prophecy. *‘You shall indeed hear but not understand you shall indeed look but never see. Gross is the heart of this people, they will hardly hear with their ears, they have closed their eyes, lest they see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and be converted, and I heal them.’ (Quoting Isa. 6:9-10)*
- “But blessed are your eyes, because they see, and your ears, because they hear. Amen, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people (Of Old Covenant) longed to see what you see (Messiah & His Ministry) but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.”
- c) *Jesus’ Parables are Spiritual Teachings of God’s Kingdom 1 Cor. 2:6-10*
 - *Need to be Spiritually Discerned*
 - *Requires the Holy Spirit to Interpret/Reveal Meaning*
 - *Requires a Mind/Heart Open to the Holy Spirit*
 - *Can Only be Understood by Believers (Citizens of Christ’s Kingdom)*
- 3) *Jesus Explains Parable to His Disciples. “Hear then the parable of the sower. Matt. 13:18-23*
Sower is Christ & Christ Living in His People
Seed is Gospel of Jesus Christ & His Kingdom
Parable Describes Different Types of Recipients of Christ’s Gospel Message
 - a) “The seed sown on the path is the one who hears the word of the kingdom without understanding it, and the evil one comes and steals away what was sown in his heart.
 - b) “The seed sown on rocky ground is the one who hears the word and receives it at once with joy. But he has no root and lasts only for a time. When some tribulation or persecution comes because of the word, he immediately falls away.
 - c) “The seed sown among thorns is the one who hears the word, but then worldly anxiety and the lure of riches choke the word and it bears no fruit.
 - d) “But the seed sown on rich soil is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold.”

Comments:

- 1) *The world, its way of thinking, its logic, knowledge, understanding, perspectives, priorities, etc., are totally contrary to the Kingdom of God (Rom. 8; 1 Cor. 1:18-25). In John 3:1-8 Jesus states “Amen, amen, I say to you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above. Amen, amen, I say to you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of flesh is flesh and what is born of spirit is spirit. Do not be amazed that I told you, ‘You must be born from above.’ ”*
- 2) *By accepting Jesus Christ as our personal Lord and Savior, and inviting the Spirit of God into our lives, we are “born” into the Kingdom of God (John 1: 12-13; John 3: 16-18; 1 Cor. 3:16). By yielding our will to Christ Jesus, being open to the Holy Spirit allowing Him to direct our lives and instruct us, we can learn the things of the Lord that enable us to better understand Him, enjoy Him, carry out His will for our lives/ministry and expand His Kingdom on Earth.*

c. Kingdom Parables

Matt. 13:24-33

- 1) Christ Begins Each Kingdom Parable with Phrases Such As:

- a) “The reign of God is like” or “The Kingdom of Heaven is like.....”
- 2) Parable of the Weeds Matt. 13:24-30
(Parable Explains Earth's Co-Existing Kingdoms – Kingdom of Heaven & Kingdom of World - God's Perseverance, Final Judgment & Reward)
- a) “The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everyone was asleep his enemy came and sowed weeds all through the wheat, and then went off. When the crop grew and bore fruit, the weeds appeared as well. The slaves of the householder came to him and said, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where have the weeds come from?’ He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ His slaves said to him, ‘Do you want us to go and pull them up?’ He replied, ‘No, if you pull up the weeds you might uproot the wheat along with them. Let them grow together until harvest; then at harvest time I will say to the harvesters, ‘First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles for burning; but gather the wheat into my barn.’””
(See Jesus’ Explanation of this Parable Below. Matt. 13:36-43)
- 3) Parables of Mustard Seed & Leaven Matt. 13:31-33
(Exponential Growth of the Kingdom of God)
- a) “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that a person took and sowed in a field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, yet when full-grown it is the largest of plants. It becomes a large bush, and the ‘birds of the sky come and dwell in its branches.’”
- b) “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed with three measures of wheat flour until the whole batch was leavened.’”
- d. Christ’s Teachings Fulfill Prophets Matt. 13:34-35
- 1) “I (Lord) will open my mouth in parables, I will announce what has lain hidden from the foundation (of the world). (Quoting Psa. 78:2)”
2. Christ Privately Teaches His Disciples Matt. 13:36-53
- a. Disciples Ask Jesus to Explain Parable of the Weeds Matt. 13:36-43
- 1) Jesus Replies:
- a) “He who sows good seed is the Son of Man (Jesus Christ), the field is the world, the good seed the children of the kingdom (People Who Accept & Believe in Jesus Christ). The weeds are the children of the evil one (Unrepentant Sinners), and the enemy who sows them is the devil.
- b) “The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels. Just as weeds are collected and burned (up) with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all who cause others to sin and all evildoers. They will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father.
- c) “Whoever has ears ought to hear (Be Attentive to the Word of God).”
- b. Parables of Treasure & Pearl *(Kingdom of God is Priceless)* Matt. 13:44-46
- 1) “The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field, which a person finds and hides again, and out of joy goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.
- 2) “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant searching for fine pearls.

When he finds a pearl of great price, he goes and sells all that he has and buys it

- c. Parable of Dragnet (*Catch of Souls for Eternal Life*) Matt. 13:47-50
 - 1) “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net thrown into the sea, which collects fish of every kind. When it is full they haul it ashore and sit down to put what is good into buckets. What is bad they throw away.
 - 2) “Thus it will be at the end of the age. The angels will go out and separate the wicked from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth.”
 - d. Jesus Charges His Disciples Matt. 13:51-52
 - 1) Jesus Asks His Disciples: “Do you understand all these things?”
 - 2) Disciples Answer: “Yes.”
 - 3) Jesus Replies: “Then every scribe who has been instructed in the kingdom of heaven is like the head of a household who brings from his storeroom both the new and the old.”
 - a) Disciples Head of Household (*Church*)
 - b) Access to Both Old & New Covenants
(*Old Covenant Law & Prophets, and Their Fulfillment in Jesus Christ.*)
3. Christ Teaches in Nazareth (Hometown) Matt. 13:53-58
 - a. Townsfolk Amazed at His Wisdom & Power
 - b. Jesus is Rejected by Townsfolk
(*Look Upon Jesus from Humanistic Perspective, Not Upon His Anointing.*)
 - 1) “Where did this man get such wisdom and mighty deeds?”
 - 2) “Is he not the carpenter’s son? Is not his mother named Mary and his brothers James, Joseph, Simon, and Judas? Are not his sisters all with us?”
 - 3) “Where did this man get all this?”
 - c. Jesus Remarks: “A prophet is not without honor except in his native place and in his own house.”
 - 1) “And he did not work many mighty deeds there because of their lack of faith.”
 - a) *Faith in Jesus as Messiah is Prerequisite for Entering Kingdom of Heaven*

D. Contrast of Kingdoms

Matt. 14

(*Contrasts Between World’s Kingdoms & God’s Kingdom*)

1. The World’s Kingdoms

- a. Execution of John the Baptist Matt. 14:1-12
 - 1) Herod, Tetrarch of Galilee, Heard of Jesus’ Reputation
 - a) Reasoned Jesus was John Raised from Dead
 - Believing That was the Source of His Powers
 - 2) Herod had Arrested & Imprisoned John
 - a) John Angered Herodias – Herod’s Sister-in-law
 - John Rebuked Herod for Living in Adultery with Herodias
 - b) Herod Wanted to Kill John, but Feared People
 - People Regarded John a Prophet
 - 3) Herod’s Birthday Celebration
 - a) Herodias’ Daughter Performed Seductive Dance
 - b) Herod Pleased & Swore to Give Her Anything She Asked
 - c) Prompted by Her Mother, She Asked for John’s Head on Platter

- d) Herod Dishearteningly Ordered John Beheaded
 - Keeping the Oath He Swore Before His Guests
- 4) John Beheaded in Prison
 - a) Head Brought on Platter to Girl, Who Presented it to Her Mother
 - b) John's Disciples Retrieved & Buried Corpse
 - Went & Told Jesus
- b. *This Account is Representative of the World's Kingdoms*
 - 1) *Herod, Tetrarch of Galilee (Jesus' Hometown Region), is Presented as a Ruler of a World Kingdom.*
 - 2) *Attributes of World's Kingdoms. "Now the works of the flesh are obvious: immorality, impurity, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, hatreds, rivalry, jealousy, outbursts of fury, acts of selfishness, dissensions, factions, occasions of envy, drinking bouts, orgies, and the like. I (St. Paul) warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God." Gal. 5:19-21*
 - 3) *Tetrarch Herod is the Son of King Herod the Great*
 - a) *His Father Slaughtered the Innocents in an Attempt to Kill Messiah*
Matt. 2:16-18
 - 4) *Herod Believed Jesus was John the Baptist Raised from Dead*
 - a) *Beliefs Based on Human Superstition & Unsound Doctrine*
Rom. 1:18-32
 - 5) *Herod Lived in an Adulterous Relationship with His Brother's Wife*
 - a) *Violation of Law & Unrepentant Sin* *Lev. 18:16*
 - 6) *Herod Unjustly Arrested & Imprisoned John*
 - a) *Persecution of God's People* *Matt. 10:16-20*
 - 7) *Herod Afraid of the People*
 - 8) *Herod's Ill-Conceived Oath* *Matt. 5:33-37*
 - 9) *Herod's Self Indulgence, Lust & Pride* *1 Cor. 6: 9-10*
 - 10) *Herod Murdered the Lord's Prophet – John the Baptist* *Matt. 5:10-12*
- 2. Kingdom of God *Matt. 14:13-36*
 - a. *Christ Jesus (Son of God) is King of Kings & Lord of Lords*
 - 1) *Attributes of Christ's Kingdom. "In contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law." Gal. 5: 22-23*
 - b. *Christ's Authority Over this World (Christ Our Source)*
 - 1) *Jesus Feeds the Multitudes (Christ Our Provider)* *Matt. 14:13-21*
 - a) *Jesus Goes to Deserted Place to Mourn John the Baptist*
 - Vast Crowds Follow Jesus
 - b) *Jesus Filled with Pity for People (Christ Our Intercessor)*
 - Cures their Sick (*Christ Our Healer*)
 - c) *Jesus Multiplies Food (Christ Our Provider & Sustainer)*
 - Disciples Approach Jesus at Evening. "This is a deserted place and it is already late; dismiss the crowds so that they can go to the villages and buy food for themselves." (*Matt. 14:15*)
 - Jesus Replies: "There is no need for them to go away; give them some food yourselves." (*Matt. 14:16*)
 - Disciples Remark: "Five loaves and two fish are all we have here."

- (Matt. 14:17)
- Jesus Replies: “**Bring them here to me,**” (Matt. 14:18)
 - Jesus Orders Crowds to Sit Down (*Dining Position*)
 - Jesus Takes 5 Loaves & 2 Fish, Blesses Food & Breaks Bread
 - Jewish Blessing: “Blessed art Thou, O Lord our God, King of the universe, Who bringest forth bread from the earth.”
 - Jesus Gives Food to His Disciples Who Serve the People
 - Everyone Ate the Food & Were Satisfied
 - Disciples Gathered 12 Baskets Full of Leftover Food
 - Number of People Fed was 5,000 Men Plus Women & Children
- 2) Jesus Walks On Water (*Christ Our Redeemer*) Matt. 14:22-33
- a) Jesus Dismisses the Crowds
 - Disciples Get into Boat & Disembark for Other Side
 - Jesus Goes Up on Mountain to Pray Alone
 - b) Few Miles Offshore the Boat was being Buffeted by Storm
 - c) Jesus Comes Toward Boat Walking on Sea
(*Christ’s Sovereignty & Authority Over Laws of Nature*)
 - Disciples See Him & are Afraid: “It is a ghost” (Matt. 14:26)
 - d) Jesus Says: “**Take courage, it is I, do not be afraid!**” (Matt. 14:27)
 - e) Peter Replies: “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.” (Matt. 14:28)
 - f) Jesus Commands Peter: “**Come.**” (Matt. 14:29)
 - g) Peter Gets Out of Boat & Walks on Water
 - Eyes Fixed on Jesus
 - h) Peter Loses Sight of Jesus (*Cares of the World*)
 - Sees Strong Winds, Becomes Fearful & Begins to Sink
 - Cries Out to Jesus: “Lord, save me!” (Matt. 14:30)
 - i) Jesus Stretches Out His Hand & Saves Peter (*Christ Our Savior*)
 - “**O you of little faith, why did you doubt?**” (Matt. 14:31)
 - j) Jesus & Peter Get into Boat
 - Winds Cease
 - k) Disciples Give Jesus Homage: “Truly, you are the Son of God.”
- 3) Jesus Heals the Sick (*Christ Our Healer*) Matt. 14:34-36
- a) Jesus & Disciples Land on Other Side of Sea at Gennesaret
 - Townsfolk Recognize Jesus & Send Out Word to Surrounding Villages
 - b) “..... People brought to him (*Jesus*) all those who were sick and begged him that they might touch only the tassel on his cloak, and as many as touched it were healed.” (Matt. 14:35-36)

E. Christ’s Kingdom of Faith

Matt. 15 & 16

The Necessity of Faith in the Kingdom of God - Excerpts from Scripture:

1) *Old Testament Heroes of Faith*

Heb. 11

- “*Because of faith the men of old (i.e. Old Covenant) were approved by God.*” (Heb. 11:2) (*New American Bible – 1970 Translation*)
- “*But without faith it is impossible to please him, for anyone who approaches God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.*” (Heb. 11:6)

2) *Personal Faith in Jesus Christ – Son of God*

- *“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son (Jesus – Messiah & Son of God), so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him will not be condemned, but whoever does not believe has already been condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.” John 3:16-18*
- *“Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever hears my word (Gospel of Jesus Christ) and believes in the one who sent me (Father God) has eternal life and will not come to condemnation, but has passed from death to life.” John 5:24*

3) *Faith of the New Covenant Church*

- *“Believe in the Lord Jesus and you and your household will be saved.” Acts 16:31*
- *“For by grace (Unmerited Favor) you have been saved through faith (Grace Received by Faith), and this is not from you; it is the gift of God.....” Eph. 2:8-9*

1. Jesus Confronts Religious Leaders

Matt. 15:1-20

a. *Faith vs. Human Precepts / Traditions
(Heart/Spirit vs. Legal Observances)*

Rom. 8

b. Question of Ritualistic Washing

1) Pharisees & Scribes (*Religious Lawyers*) from Jerusalem Question Jesusa) *“Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders? They do not wash (their) hands when they eat a meal.” (Matt. 15:2)*

- Referring to the Traditional Practice of Ritualistic Washing - Not Prescribed in Law of Moses

2) Jesus Replies:

a) *“**And why do you break the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition? For God said, ‘Honor your father and your mother,’ (Quotes from Law of Moses: Ex. 20:12; Deut. 5:16) and ‘Whoever curses father or mother shall die.’ (Quotes from Law of Moses. Ex. 21:17; Lev. 20:9) But you say, ‘Whoever says to father or mother, “Any support you might have had from me is dedicated to God,” need not honor his father.’ You have nullified the word of God for the sake of your tradition.” (Matt. 15:3-6)***b) *“**Hypocrites, well did Isaiah prophesy about you when he said: This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines human precepts.’ (Quotes from Prophets Isa. 29:13)” (Matt. 15:7-9)***3) Jesus Addresses People: *“**Hear and understand. It is not what enters one’s mouth that defiles that person; but what comes out of the mouth is what defiles one.**” (Matt. 15:10-11)*4) Disciples Approach Jesus; *“Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?” (Matt. 15:12)*5) Jesus Replies: *“**Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. Let them alone; they are blind guides (of the blind). If a blind person leads a blind person, both will fall into a pit.**” (Matt. 15:13-14)*

6) Peter Asks Jesus to Explain this Teaching

7) Jesus Explains *“**Are even you still without understanding? Do you not realize that everything that enters the mouth passes into the stomach and is expelled into the latrine? But the things that come out of the mouth come from the***

heart, and they defile. For from the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, unchastity, theft, false witness, blasphemy. These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile.” (Matt. 15:16-20)

2. Faith of a Gentile Woman (*Deliverance by Faith*) Matt. 15:21-28
 - a. Jesus Goes to Region of Tyre & Sidon (*Gentile Territory*)
 - 1) Canaanite (Gentile) Woman Calls Out to Jesus: “Have pity on me, Lord, Son of David! My daughter is tormented by a demon.” (Matt. 15:22)
 - a) She Recognizes Jesus as “Lord” & “Son of David” (i.e. King of Israel)
 - b) She Recognizes Jesus’ Spiritual Authority Over Demonic Forces
 - 2) Jesus Ignores Her
 - 3) Disciples Complain to Jesus: “Send her away, for she keeps calling out after us.” (Matt. 15:23)
 - 4) Jesus Speaks to Woman: “**I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel (As Israel’s Messiah).**” (Matt. 15:24)
 - 5) Woman Pleads with Jesus Paying Him Homage: “Lord, help me.” (Matt. 15:25)
 - 6) Jesus Replies to Woman: “**It is not right to take the food of the children (Israelites) and throw it to the dogs (Slang for Gentiles).**” (Matt. 15:26)
 - 7) Woman’s Faith & Humility: “Please, Lord, for even the dogs eat the scraps that fall from the table of their masters.” (Matt. 15:27)
 - 8) Jesus Answers Woman: “**O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.**” (Matt. 15:28)
 - a) Her Daughter was Immediately Delivered & Healed

3. Jesus Heals the Crowds (*Healing by Faith*) Matt. 15:29-31
 - a. Jesus Returns to Sea of Galilee (*Jewish Territory*) & Ascends a Mountain
 - 1) Great Crowds Come to Jesus
 - a) They Place at Jesus’ Feet (*Sign of Faith in Jesus*):
 - The Lame,
 - The Blind,
 - The Deformed,
 - The Mute, and
 - Many Other People with Disabilities
 - b) Jesus Heals Them All
 - c) Crowd Amazed & Glorified God of Israel

4. Jesus Multiplies Food & Feeds a Multitude Matt. 15:32-39
(Miracle of Provision / Abundance by Faith)
 - a. Jesus Calls His Disciples: “**My heart is moved with pity for the crowd, for they have been with me now for three days and have nothing to eat. I do not want to send them away hungry, for fear they may collapse on the way.**” (Matt. 15:32)
 - 1) Disciples Answer: “Where could we ever get enough bread in this deserted place to satisfy such a crowd?” (Matt. 15:33)
 - b. Jesus Asks Disciples: “**How many loaves do you have?**” (Matt. 15:34)
 - 1) Disciples Answer: “Seven, and a few fish.”
 - c. Jesus Orders People to Sit (*Dining Position*)
 - d. Jesus Takes 7 Loaves & Fish

- 1) Jesus Blesses & Breaks Bread
 - a) Jewish Blessing. “Blessed art Thou, O Lord our God, King of the universe, Who bringest forth bread from the earth.”
 - 2) Jesus Gives Food to His Disciples Who Distribute to People
 - 3) Everyone Ate & Was Satisfied
 - e. Those Fed were 4,000 Men Plus Women & Children
 - f. Jesus Dismisses Crowds
 - 1) Disembarks in Boat to District of Magadan
5. Religious Leaders Ask for Sign in Sky Matt. 16:1-4
- a. Pharisees & Sadducees (*Major Ruling Jewish Sects*) Test Jesus
 - 1) Ask Jesus to Show Them a Sign from Heaven (*To Prove He is Messiah*)
 - b. Jesus Replies (*Matt. 16:2-4*):
 - 1) “(In the evening you say, ‘Tomorrow will be fair, for the sky is red’; and, in the morning, ‘Today will be stormy, for the sky is red and threatening.’ You know how to judge the appearance of the sky,
 - a) Religious Leaders Can Interpret Physical Signs
 - 2) “but you cannot judge the signs of the times.)
 - a) Religious Leaders Can Not Interpret Spiritual Signs. (*i.e. Time & Season when Messianic Prophecies within Jewish Scriptures are being Fulfilled*)
 - *Hearts & Minds Not Open to Spirit of God*
 - 3) “An evil (*Sinful*) and unfaithful (*Without Faith*) generation seeks a sign, but no sign will be given it except the sign of Jonah.”
 - a) “Sign of Jonah” Refers to Messiah’s Death & Resurrection (*See Matt. 12:38-45 Above*)
 - *Will They Believe Then?*
 - c. Jesus Leaves Pharisees & Sadducees
6. Jesus' Warning Against Pharisees & Sadducees Matt. 16:5-12
- a. Jesus & Disciples Sail to Other Side of Sea
 - 1) Disciples Forgot to Bring Bread
 - b. Jesus Says to Them: “Look out, and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees.” (*Matt. 16:6*)
 - 1) *Leaven Spiritually Symbolizes Sin*
 - c. Disciples Think He Said This Because They Had No Bread (*Looking at Physical*)
 - d. Jesus Corrects Disciples (*Matt. 16:8-11*):
 - 1) “You of little faith, why do you conclude among yourselves that it is because you have no bread?
 - 2) “Do you not yet understand, and do you not remember the five loaves for the five thousand, and how many wicker baskets you took up? Or the seven loaves for the four thousand, and how many baskets you took up?
 - 3) “How do you not comprehend that I was not speaking to you about bread? Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees (*i.e. Legalism*).”
 - e. Disciples Understood Jesus was Talking About Pharisees’ & Sadducees’ Teachings
 - 1) Pharisees & Sadducees:
 - a) Failed to Discern “Signs of Times” (*Messiah’s Fulfillment of Prophecies*)
 - b) Failed to Recognize & Trust Lord’s Holy Anointed One (*Jesus the Christ*)
 - c) Practiced & Taught Religious Legalism
 - *Legalism, like Leaven (Yeast), Expands Until it Permeates Whole Loaf*

- *Stifling the Spirit of God*

7. Peter's Profession of Faith (*Confession of Church*) Matt. 16:13-20
- a. Jesus & Disciples Go to Caesarea Philippi
(*Place Where Many Pagan Idols are Displayed & Worshipped*)
 - b. Jesus Asks His Disciples: “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?”
(*Matt. 16:13*)
 - 1) Disciples Give a Variety of Answers
 - c. Jesus Asks His Disciples (*And Each of Us*): “But who do you say that I am?”
(*Matt. 16:15*)
 - d. Peter Answers: “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” (*Matt. 16:16*)
 - e. Jesus’ Response (*Matt. 16:17-19*):
 - 1) Accepts Peter’s Confession of Faith. “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father.”
 - a) Confession Confirms God's Revelation (*Peter's Heart Open to Spirit of God*)
 - 2) “And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”
 - a) Changes “Simon’s” Name to “Peter”
 - Simon Means a “Reed” that’s Swayed by Breeze (*Uncertain Faith*)
 - Peter Means a “Rock” that Remains Secure (*Steadfast Faith*)
 - b) Church Built Upon Peter's Confession of Faith
 - Death Will Not Prevail (*Faith Transcends Curse of Death*)
 - Keys of Kingdom Granted (*Authority to Bind/Loose Power of Heaven*)
 - 3) Examples of Church’s Confession of Who Jesus Christ Is:
 - a) Apostles Creed: “I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,.....”
 - b) Catholic Profession of Faith: “..... We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, one in Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he was born of the Virgin Mary, and became man....”
 - f. Jesus Orders Disciples Not to Divulge that He is Messiah
 - 1) Jesus Must Complete His Salvific Mission Before His Disciples Publicly Proclaim Him as Messiah & Lord Matt. 28:16-20; Acts 1:8; Acts 2:36
8. Jesus' First Prediction of His Death & Resurrection Matt. 16:21-23
- a. Jesus Begins to Prepare His Disciples for the Ultimate Test of Faith
 - 1) He Must Go to Jerusalem
 - 2) He Will Suffer Greatly at Hands of the Religious Leaders
 - 3) He Will be Killed
 - 4) He Will Rise from Dead on 3rd Day
 - b. Peter (*Without Faith*) Rebukes Jesus: “God forbid, Lord! No such thing shall ever happen to you.” (*Matt. 16:22*)

- c. Christ's Chastises Peter: "Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle to me. You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do." (Matt. 16:23)

9. Jesus Teaches on Discipleship (*Total Trust / Faith in God*) Matt. 16:24-28
- a. Give Your Life Totally to Jesus Christ. "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? Or what can one give in exchange for his life?"
 - b. Promise of Christ's Victory & Reward. "For the Son of Man will come with his angels in his Father's glory, and then he will repay everyone according to his conduct."
 - c. Jesus Imminent Prediction: "Amen, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."
 - 1) Referring to His Upcoming Transfiguration
(*Proving He Is Messiah – Son of God*)

F. Kingdom of God - Its Order & Structure Matt. 17 & 18

1. Jesus Christ Transfigured (*Jesus King of God's Kingdom*) Matt. 17:1-8
Preview of Jesus' Messianic Kingship, and, as Son of Man, His Place within the Lord God's Redemptive Plan for Mankind. Revealed to Peter, James & John 6 Days After Jesus' Promise (Matt. 16:28)
- a. Jesus Takes Peter, James & John to High Mountain
 - b. Jesus is Transfigured Before Them
 - 1) His Face Shone as the Sun (*Represents Christ's Divine Majesty*)
 - 2) His Clothes Became Radiant as Light (*Christ Clothed in Light*)
 - a) *Jesus Is the Source of Divine Revelation / Illumination to Mankind*
 - c. Moses & Elijah Appear with Jesus
 - 1) Moses Represents the Law
 - 2) Elijah Represents the Prophets
 - 3) Moses & Elijah Conversing with Jesus Christ
 - a) Jesus Fulfills All the Law & Prophets (Old Covenant) Matt. 5:17-18
 - d. Peter Proposes to Erect 3 Booths
 - 1) Equally Honoring Moses, Elijah & Jesus Christ
 - 2) Bright Cloud Overshadows Them and a Voice (*Father God*) Speaks: "**This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.**" (Matt. 17:5)
 - a) Jesus Christ Is The Son of God John 5:19-30
 - b) Jesus Christ Is Superior to Moses & Elijah Heb. 1
 - c) Jesus Christ Is The Word of God "**Listen to Him**" John 1:1-18
 - 3) Peter, James & John Prostrate Themselves in Fear
 - 4) Jesus Comes & Touches Them: "Rise, and do not be afraid." (Matt. 17:7)
 - 5) Disciples Raise their Eyes & See Jesus Alone
 - e. Transfiguration Reveals Jesus Christ as Superior to All Earth's Kingdoms Rev. 19 & 20
 - 1) He Is King of Kings & Lord of Lords
 - f. Transfiguration Previews Jesus Christ Glorified Rev. 1:9-20
 - 1) He is the Focus & Center of God's Kingdom

- g. Transfiguration Previews Jesus Christ's Second Coming for His Church
John 11:25-26; 1 Thess. 4:14-17
- 1) Resurrection of Those Who Died in Christ
(Represented by Moses – Who Died & Went to Heaven. Deut. 34:5-8; Jude 9)
 - 2) Translation of Those Who are Alive at Christ's Coming
(Represented by Elijah – Who was Taken Alive into Heaven. 2 Kings 2:9-12)
- h. Transfiguration Previews Jesus Christ's Eminence as Eternal Lord & King of the Living & Dead, Heaven & Earth Phil. 2:5-11
2. Foundation of Christ's Kingdom (*The Old Covenant*) Matt. 17:9-13
- a. Jesus Commands Peter, James & John: **“Do not tell the vision to anyone until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.”** (Matt. 17:9)
 - 1) Completing His Salvific Ministry, Fulfilling the Law & Prophets
 - b. Disciples Ask Jesus: “Why do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?” (Matt. 17:10)
 - 1) Old Covenant Prophecies “Elijah” Must Come Isa. 40:3-5; Mal. 3:23-24
 - a) Restore Everything Before Messiah is Revealed
 - Prepare Peoples' Hearts to Accept Messiah
 - Introduce Messiah to People
 - c. Jesus Affirms that Elijah Had Come: **“Elijah will indeed come and restore all things; but I tell you that Elijah has already come, and they did not recognize him but did to him whatever they pleased.”** (Matt. 17:11-12a)
 - 1) Predictions of Coming “Elijah” had been Fulfilled
 - a) He Was Not Recognized
 - b) He Was Persecuted & Murdered
 - 2) Disciples Understood that Jesus was Speaking of John the Baptist
 - d. Jesus Predicts Same Fate for Himself: **“So also will the Son of Man suffer at their hands”** (Matt. 17:12b)
 - 1) He Must Fulfill the Sacrificial Requirements of Law Lev. 1 - 7
3. Citizens of Christ's Kingdom are to Conquer Satan's Realm Matt. 17:14-21
- a. Jesus Rejoins the Crowd
 - 1) Man Approaches Jesus Kneeling Before Him (Matt. 17:15-16):
 - a) “Lord, have pity on my son, for he is a lunatic and suffers severely; often he falls into fire, and often into water.
 - b) “I brought him to your disciples, but they could not cure him.”
 - Disciples Unable to Deliver Possessed Boy
 - 2) Jesus Chastises Those Disciples: **“O faithless and perverse generation, how long will I be with you? How long will I endure you? Bring him here to me.”** (Matt. 17:17)
 - 3) Jesus Expels Demon & Cures Boy
 - b. Disciples Privately Approach Jesus
 - 1) They Ask Jesus: “Why could we not drive it out?” (Matt. 17:19)
 - 2) Jesus Answers: **“Amen, I say to you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you. (This kind does not leave but by prayer and fasting.)”** (Matt. 17:20-21)
 - a) Trust in Lord & Apply Your Faith
 - b) Prepare Yourself by Prayer & Fasting

- c. Jesus Challenges Church to Perform Same Works He Performed John 14:12-14
4. Jesus' Second Prediction of His Death & Resurrection Matt. 17:22-23
Christ's Kingdom Built on His Sacrifice & Victory
- a. Jesus & Disciples Gather in Galilee
- 1) Jesus Says to Them: “**The Son of Man is to be handed over to men, and they will kill him, and he will be raised on the third day.**”
 - 2) Disciples Overcome with Grief
5. King Pays Temple Tax Matt. 17:24-27
Enrollment of Citizens in God's Kingdom
- a. Jesus & Disciples Return to Capernaum
- 1) Jewish Tax Collectors Ask Peter if Jesus Pays Temple (Census) Tax
 - a) Census Tax Paid by Israelites as Forfeit for their Lives Ex. 30:11-16
(Ransom for their Souls)
 - b) Peter Answers: “Yes”
 - 2) Peter Enters House Where Jesus is Residing
 - a) Before Peter Speaks, Jesus Asks Him: “**What is your opinion, Simon? From whom do the kings of the earth take tolls or census tax? From their subjects or from foreigners?**” (*Matt. 17:25c*)
 - Jesus Christ (Son of God) is Exempt
 - Temple is God's Throne on Earth
 - b) Peter Answers: “From foreigners,” (*Matt. 17:26a*)
 - c) Jesus Says to Peter:
 - “**Then the subjects (Sons / Citizens) are exempt.**” (*Matt. 17:26b*)
 - “**But that we may not offend them, go to the sea, drop in a hook, and take the first fish that comes up. Open its mouth and you will find a coin worth twice the temple tax. Give that to them for me and for you.**” (*Matt. 17:27*)
- b. Jesus Provides Tax Money for Himself & Peter (*Christ Our Financial Source*)
- 1) Peter Pays their Taxes
- c. Jesus Fulfills Law by Forfeiting His Life as a Ransom for Church 1 Tim. 2:5-6
- 1) Paying the Price for Our Souls
 - 2) Granting Us Eternal Life
6. Citizenship in Christ's Kingdom – The Family of God Matt. 18
- a. The Greatest in Christ's Kingdom Matt. 18:1-4
- 1) Disciples Ask Jesus: “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?”
 - 2) Jesus Calls a Little Child Over & Places Him/Her in their Midst: “**Amen, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.**”
 - a) *Why a Little Child?*
 - *A Little Child is Innocent, Humble & Trusting*
 - *A Little Child is Totally Dependant Upon His/Her Parents*
 - *A Little Child Unconditionally Loves His/Her Parents*
 - *A Little Child Believes Everything His/Her Parents Say*
 - b) Kingdom Principle of Greatness – Humility & Service to Others

- b. Importance of God's Children (*Christians*) Matt. 18:5-14
- 1) Accepting God's Children. "And whoever receives one child such as this in my name receives me."
 - 2) Warning Against Leading God's Children Astray. "Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea."
 - 3) Warning Against Scandals. "Woe to the world because of things that cause sin! Such things must come, but woe to the one through whom they come!"
 - 4) Seriousness of Sin & Its Eternal Consequences.
 - a) "If your hand or foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter into life maimed or crippled than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into eternal fire."
 - b) "And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter into life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into fiery Gehenna."
 - 5) Divine Relationship of God's Children. "See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that their angels in heaven always look upon the face of my heavenly Father."
 - 6) Jesus' Salvific Mission. "For the Son of Man has come to save what was lost"
 - a) "What is your opinion? If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them goes astray, will he not leave the ninety-nine in the hills and go in search of the stray? And if he finds it, amen, I say to you, he rejoices more over it than over the ninety-nine that did not stray."
 - b) "In just the same way, it is not the will of your heavenly Father that one of these little ones be lost."
- c. Importance of Forgiveness & Unity Among Citizens (*Christians*) Matt. 18:15-35
- 1) Reconcile with Fellow Citizens. "If your brother sins (against you), go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have won over your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, so that 'every fact may be established on the testimony of two or three witnesses' (*Quotes Law of Witnesses. Deut. 19:15.*)' If he refuses to listen to them, tell the church. If he refuses to listen even to the church, then treat him as you would a Gentile or a tax collector (*i.e. an Outsider.*)"
 - 2) Christ Grants Us Power to Bind & Loose. "Amen, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."
 - 3) Christ Promises Us Power & His Presence in United Prayer. "Again, (amen,) I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything for which they are to pray, it shall be granted to them by my heavenly Father. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."
 - a) *This Promise Requires Christ Jesus to Possess the Divine Attributes of being Eternal & Omnipresent*
 - b) Kingdom Principle of Unity
 - Exponential Effects of Unified Forces Lev. 26:7-8
 - Includes Unifying with the King of Creation
 - 4) Practice Unlimited Forgiveness (*Prerequisite of Uniting with Christ*)
 - a) Peter Asks Jesus: "Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive him? As many as seven times?"

- b) Jesus Answers: “I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times.”
- c) Jesus Tells the Parable of Unforgiving Official
 - The King’s Mercy (*Jesus Forgives Our Sins*). “That is why the kingdom of heaven may be likened to a king who decided to settle accounts with his servants.
 - “When he began the accounting, a debtor was brought before him who owed him a huge amount. Since he had no way of paying it back, his master ordered him to be sold, along with his wife, his children, and all his property, in payment of the debt.
 - “At that, the servant fell down, did him homage, and said, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay you back in full.’
 - “Moved with compassion (*Mercy*) the master of that servant let him go and forgave him the loan.”
 - The Servant’s Unforgiveness (*Servant Unwilling to Forgive Others*)
 - “When that servant had left, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a much smaller amount. He seized him and started to choke him, demanding, ‘Pay back what you owe.’
 - “Falling to his knees, his fellow servant begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.’
 - “But he refused. Instead, he had him put in prison until he paid back the debt.”
 - The King’s Justice
 - “Now when his fellow servants saw what had happened, they were deeply disturbed, and went to their master and reported the whole affair.
 - “His master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you your entire debt because you begged me to. Should you not have had pity on your fellow servant, as I had pity on you?’
 - “Then in anger his master handed him over to the torturers until he should pay back the whole debt.”
 - “Jesus’ Exhortation.” So will my heavenly Father do to you, unless each of you forgives his brother from his heart.”

G. Christ Proclaims His Kingdom in Judea

Matt. 19 & 20

1. Jesus Travels to Judea (*Jesus’ Family Tribal Lands*) Matt. 19:1-2
 - a. Great Crowds Follow Him
 - b. Jesus Cures Their Illnesses (*Exhibiting His Authority*)
 - 1) God’s Goodness & Mercy – Fulfilled in Christ Jesus. “**Bless the LORD, my soul; all my being, bless his holy name! Bless the LORD, my soul; do not forget all the gifts of God, Who pardons all your sins, heals all your ills**”
Psa. 103:1-3
2. Jesus Teaches Sanctity of Marriage Matt. 19:3-12
 - a. Question of Divorce
 - 1) Pharisees Test Jesus on Law: “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any cause whatever?”
 - 2) Jesus Answers by Explaining the Creator’s Intention: “**Have you not read that**

from the beginning the Creator ‘made them male and female’ (Re. Gen. 1:27 & Gen. 5:2) and said, ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’ (Quotes Gen. 2:24)? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, no human being must separate.” (Symbolic of Christ the Bridegroom & His Church. Matt. 9:15)

- 3) Pharisees’ Legalistic Retort: “Then why did Moses command that the man give the woman a bill of divorce and dismiss (her) (Referring to Deut. 24:1-4)?”
 - 4) Jesus Answers: “Because of the hardness of your hearts Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so. I say to you, whoever divorces his wife (unless the marriage is unlawful) and marries another commits adultery.”
 - a) Enforcing the Creator’s Intention of Holy Matrimony
 - b) Amending Law of Moses (*Jesus Superior to Moses – Heb. 3:1-6*)
- b. Question of Celibacy
- 1) Disciples Say: “If that is the case of a man with his wife, it is better not to marry.”
 - 2) Jesus Answers: “Not all can accept (this) word, but only those to whom that is granted. Some are incapable of marriage because they were born so; some, because they were made so by others; some, because they have renounced marriage for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. Whoever can accept this ought to accept it.”

3. Jesus Blesses Children

Matt. 19:13-15

- a. People Bring their Children to Jesus
 - 1) For Jesus to Lay Hands on Them & Pray
- b. Disciples Rebuke Them
- c. Jesus Rebukes Disciples: “Let the children come to me, and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.” (Matt. 19:14)
 - 1) Jesus Lays Hands on Children – Blessing Them

4. Jesus Teaches True Riches (Kingdom of God)

Matt.19:16-30

- a. Jesus and the Young Rich Man

Matt. 19:16-22

 - 1) Man Questions Jesus: “Teacher, what good must I do to gain eternal life?”
 - a) Implying that Heaven Can be Gained by Good Works Eph. 2:8-10
 - 2) Jesus Answers: “Why do you ask me about the good? There is only One (Lord God) who is good. If you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments.”
 - a) Implies All Men are Sinners & Can Not Achieve Heaven by Human Works
Isa. 64:4-6; Rom. 3:23; Rom. 6:23
 - b) Gives Man an Opportunity to Confess Him as Lord
 - 3) Man Asks Which Commandments?
 - 4) Jesus Answers: “‘You shall not kill; you shall not commit adultery; you shall not steal; you shall not bear false witness; honor your father and your mother’ (Quotes from Ten Commandments. Ex. 20:12-16; Deut. 5:16-20); and ‘you shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ (Quotes Lev. 19:18)”
 - 5) Man Replies: “All of these I have observed. What do I still lack?”
 - 6) Jesus Speaks Directly to Man: “If you wish to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come,

follow me.”

- a) Applying Israel’s Greatest Commandments: (See Matt. 22:34-40 Below)
 - “Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD alone! Therefore, you shall love the LORD, your God, with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength.” Deut. 6:4-5
 - “You shall love your neighbor as yourself. I am the LORD.” Lev. 19:18
 - b) Man’s Lack: He Loves Wealth More than the Lord
 - “**For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be.**” Luke 12:34
 - c) Kingdom Principle of Reciprocity (Giving & Receiving)
 - “**Give and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap.....**” Luke 6:38
- 7) Man Rejects Messiah’s Words & Departs
- a) His Riches More Important to Him than Kingdom of God
- b. Kingdom More Precious than Wealth
- 1) Jesus Addresses His Disciples: “**Amen, I say to you, it will be hard for one who is rich to enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for one who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.**”
 - a) Riches are a Stumbling Block to Kingdom of God
 - 2) Disciples Astonished – Ask Jesus: “Who then can be saved?”
 - a) Disciples Were Successful Businessmen
 - 3) Jesus Looks at Them & Says: “**For human beings this is impossible, but for God all things are possible.**”
 - a) Put the Lord Before Human Wealth & Trust in Him
- c. The Lord Alone Is Our Sole Source for Salvation Isa. 33:22; Acts 4:11-12
- d. The Kingdom's Reward
- 1) Peter Asks Jesus: “We have given up everything and followed you. What will there be for us?”
 - 2) Jesus Replies:
 - a) “**Amen, I say to you that you who have followed me, in the new age (Messianic Kingdom), when the Son of Man is seated on his throne of glory, will yourselves sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. (Re: Rev. 20:4-6)**
 - b) “**And everyone who has given up houses, or brothers for the sake of my name will receive a hundred times more, and will inherit eternal life.**
 - c) “**But many who are first (Wealthy, Powerful, Important, etc.) will be last, and the last (Poor, Humble, Generous, etc.) will be first.**”

5. Jesus Tells Parable of Laborers in Vineyard

Matt. 20:1-16

- a. God's Generosity to All Workers (*Citizens in His Kingdom*)
 - 1) “**The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out at dawn to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with them for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard.**” (Matt. 20:1-2)
 - a) He Hired Other Laborers Throughout the Day & Sent Them to Vineyard
 - Some at 9:00am
 - Some at Noon

- Some at 3:00pm
 - Some at 5:00pm
- 2) Sovereign Disbursement. “When it was evening the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Summon the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and ending with the first.’
 - a) “When those who had started about five o’clock came, each received the usual daily wage.
 - b) “So when the first came, they thought that they would receive more, but each of them also got the usual wage. And on receiving it they grumbled against the landowner, saying, ‘These last ones worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us, who bore the day’s burden and the heat.’
 - c) “He said to one of them in reply, ‘My friend, I am not cheating you. Did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what is yours and go. What if I wish to give this last one the same as you? (Or) am I not free to do as I wish with my own money? Are you envious because I am generous?’
 - d) “Thus, the last will be first, and the first will be last.” (Matt. 20:8-16)
 - 3) Parable is About Those Hired/Chosen by Lord to Gather People (Souls) for Kingdom of God:
 - a) Some Laborers Work for Years Under Harsh Conditions (e.g. Persecution in Foreign Lands), While Others Labor for Shorter/Easier Assignments (e.g. Contributing/Supporting Others in Field).
 - b) Each Laborer Receives His/Her Eternal Reward.
 - c) Parable Implies it’s an Honor & Privilege to Serve the Lord, Which is a Reward in Itself.

6. Jesus' Third Prediction of His Death & Resurrection Matt. 20:17-19
 - a. Jesus & Disciples Going to Jerusalem
 - 1) Jesus Privately Speaks to His Disciples: “Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death, and hand him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and scourged and crucified, and he will be raised on the third day.”
 - b. Kingdom to be Secured in Jerusalem (*Israel’s Government & Religious Capital*) by Messiah’s Sacrifice & Victory

7. Positions of Authority in Christ's Kingdom Matt. 20:20-28
 - a. Question of Sitting at Right & Left Hands of Christ's Throne Matt. 20:20-23
 - 1) Mother of Sons of Zebedee Approaches Jesus with Her Sons (James & John)
 - 2) Jesus Asks Her: “What do you wish?”
 - 3) She Answers: “Command that these two sons of mine sit, one at your right and the other at your left, in your kingdom.”
 - 4) Jesus Replies: “You do not know what you are asking. Can you drink the cup that I am going to drink? (Referring to His Persecution, Suffering & Death)”
 - 5) James & John Say: “We can.”
 - 6) Jesus Replies: “My cup you will indeed drink (They Will Suffer Persecution for Christ’s Sake), but to sit at my right and at my left (, this) is not mine to give but is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father.”
 - a) Positions of Authority are Granted by Father God

- b. Principle of Greatness in Christ's Kingdom Matt. 20:24-28
- 1) Other Disciples Become Indignant with James & John
 - 2) Jesus Summons His Disciples:
 - a) "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and the great ones make their authority over them felt."
 - Christ's Kingdom is Contrary to Human Authority
 - b) "But it shall not be so among you. Rather, whoever wishes to be great among you shall be your servant; whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave."
 - In Christ's Kingdom the Greatest is Servant to Others
 - c) Jesus Christ Our Example: "Just so, the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Example Scriptures: Acts 2:22-23; Phil. 2:5-8; Heb. 5:7-9

 - God the Son – King of Creation – Came Down to Earth as Jesus of Nazareth – Son of Man – to Live the Life of a Man.
 - He Served Us by Healing Our Sick/Disabled, Ministering to Our Needs, Teaching Us About the Kingdom of Heaven, Offering Prayers & Supplications for Us, Etc.
 - He Served Us by Offering His Life as a Holy & Perfect Sacrifice to Save Us from the Curse of Sin & Reconcile Us to God.
 - 3) Kingdom Principle of Greatness – Humility & Service to Others

8. Jesus Heals the Blind Matt. 20:29-34
- a. Great Crowd Follows Jesus as He Leaves Jericho
 - 1) Two Blind Men Sitting by Roadside
 - a) Heard Jesus was Passing By
 - b) Cry Out: "(Lord,) Son of David, have pity on us!" (*Matt. 20:30c*)
 - Proclaiming Their Faith in Jesus' Lordship
 - Proclaiming Their Faith in Jesus as "Son of David" (*King of Israel*)
 - 2) Crowd Warns Blind Men to be Silent
 - a) They Call Out Louder: "Lord, Son of David, have pity on us!" (*Matt. 20:30c*)
 - Repeating & Confirming Their Proclamations of Faith
 - 3) Jesus Stops & Asks Blind Men: "What do you want me to do for you?" (*Matt. 20:32*)
 - a) They Answer in Faith: "Lord, let our eyes be opened." (*Matt. 20:33*)
 - 4) Jesus Touches Their Eyes & They Immediately Receive Their Sight
 - b. Jesus Opens The Eyes of the Blind
(*Confirming His Authority & Providing the Way for Man to See Kingdom of God*)

H. Christ Declares His Kingship Matt. 21 - 23

1. Jesus' Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem as Messiah Matt. 21:1-11
(*Jerusalem Capital City of United Israel, then Judah, and Site of the Temple – Center of Jewish Worship.*)

This first "Palm Sunday" is the 10th Day of the 1st Month in the Jewish Calendar. The Day when each Israelite Household Procures an Unblemished Lamb, that they Examine for 4 Days to Ensure Purity and Sacrifice on the 14th Day of the 1st Month (Feast of

Passover), as Prescribed by Law (Ex. 12:1-10). On this Day, Christ Jesus Presents Himself as Messiah to the People of Israel/Judah and their Officials.

Three Messianic Offices Reside in One Person, Christ Jesus, to be Revealed to the People and Officials During this “Holy Week”.

- 1) Prophet. *During this week, Christ Jesus, as the Lord’s Holy Anointed One, Confronts the People, and Civil, Legal & Religious Authorities; Uncompromisingly Proclaiming & Speaking Forth God’s Word.*
- 2) Priest.
 - *On “Palm Sunday”, Christ Jesus Symbolically Cleanses the Temple Precincts in Preparation for His Sacrifice, and Presents Himself to the People & Officials as the Paschal Lamb of God.*
 - *On the Feast of Passover, Christ Jesus will Offer a Holy & Perfect Sacrifice (Himself) to Atone for the Sins of the World.*
- 3) King.
 - *Christ Jesus, Son of David & Legitimate Heir to Israel’s Throne, Presents Himself as Messiah-King to the People & Officials of Israel/Judah.*
 - *Christ Jesus will Secure His Kingdom by Completing & Fulfilling All Requirements of the Law, Offering a Royal & Holy Sacrifice.*
 - *Christ Jesus will Secure an Eternal Kingdom, as the Lord Promised to Kings David & Solomon, by Rising Victorious over Death.*

a. *Jesus Enters Jerusalem Mounted on Beast of Burden (Symbolizing Christ’s Salvific Mission)*

1) *Jesus & Disciples on Mount of Olives Near Jerusalem*

- a) *Jesus Sends 2 Disciples: “Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find an ass tethered, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them here to me. And if anyone should say anything to you, reply, ‘The master has need of them.’ Then he will send them at once.” (Matt. 21:2-3)*
 - *Fulfilling Prophecy: “Rejoice heartily, O daughter Zion, shout for joy, O daughter Jerusalem! See, your king shall come to you; a just savior is he, Meek, and riding on an ass (Beast of Burden), on a colt (Representing New Life), the foal of an ass.” Zech. 9:9 (Matt. 21:4-5)*
[At His Second Coming, Jesus will Enter Jerusalem as Conqueror, Mounted on a White Horse. Zech. 14:1-5; Rev. 19:11-21]
- b) *Disciples Bring the Ass & Colt to Jesus*
 - *Lay Their Cloaks on Animals for Jesus to Sit On*

Comment. *It is interesting to note that Jesus sends 2 Disciples to bring back 2 animals to be used in His procession into Jerusalem. One is an ass and the other a colt the foal of an ass, in fulfillment of prophecy. The Bible does not mention how Jesus rode these 2 animals into Jerusalem. I believe He sat astride the ass (representing the burden of sin that He will take upon Himself later that week) holding a tether to the colt which followed behind (representing that new life that He will bring to us).*

2) *Jesus Mounts Ass/Colt & Rides into Jerusalem*

- a) *Large Crowd Accompanies Jesus*
 - *People Lay Cloaks (Symbolizing their Sinfulness) & Palm Branches (Symbol of Peace) in Jesus’ Path*
 - *People in the Procession Proclaim (Matt. 21:9):*

- "Hosanna to the Son of David" (*Save Us King Jesus*)
 - "Blessed is he (*Jesus*) who comes in the name of the Lord (*Yahweh*)" (*Quoting from Messianic Prophecy Psa. 118:26-27. "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD. We bless you from the LORD'S house [Temple]. The LORD is God and has given us light. Join in procession with leafy branches up to the horns of the altar."*)
 - "Hosanna in the Highest"
- 3) All Jerusalem Astir: "Who is this?"
- a) Crowd Testifies: "This is Jesus the prophet, from Nazareth in Galilee." (*Matt. 21:11*)
 - Recognizing Jesus as Lord's Anointed Prophet
2. Christ Cleanses the Temple (*God's Throne on Earth*) Matt. 21:12-17
(Symbolizes High Priest's Cleansing of the Temple on Day of Atonement. Lev. 16)
(Jesus' Mission in Jerusalem is to Atone for Man's Sin)
- a. Jesus Enters Temple Precincts
 - 1) Jesus Drives Out Merchants
(People Would be Purchasing their Paschal Lambs at the Temple on this Day)
 - a) Turns Over Tables of Money Changers & Those Selling Sacrificial Animals
 - b) Chastises Merchants: "**It is written: 'My house (Lord's Temple) shall be a house of prayer (Quoting Isa. 56:7), but you are making it a den of thieves.'**" (*Quoting Jer. 7:11*)" (*Matt. 21:13*)
 - 2) Jesus Heals Blind & Lame at Temple (*Manifesting His Power / Authority*)
 - 3) Chief Priests & Scribes (*Religious & Legal Authorities*) Witness these Events
 - a) Hear Children Shouting: "Hosanna to the Son of David"
 - b) Complain to Jesus: "Do you hear what they are saying?" (*Matt. 12:16a*)
 - 2) Jesus Replies: "**Yes; and have you never read the text, 'Out of the mouths of infants and nurslings you have brought forth praise' (Quoting Psa. 3:2/3)?"**" (*Matt. 12:16b*)
 - a) Indicating that He Accepts their Praise (*Divine Privilege*)
 - b. Jesus Leaves Jerusalem & Goes to Bethany to Spend the Night
3. Christ Curses the Fig Tree (*Symbol of Israel*) Matt. 21:18-22
- a. Jesus Returning to Jerusalem Next Morning
 - 1) Jesus was Hungry (*Symbolizing His Hunger for Souls*)
 - a) Sees a Fig Tree by the Road
 - b) Finds Nothing on Fig Tree but Leaves (*Fig Tree Not Bearing Fruit – Foreshadow of Israel's Rejection of Messiah*)
 - 2) Jesus Curses Fig Tree: "**May no fruit ever come from you again.**" (*Matt. 21:19*)
 - a) Fig Tree Immediately Withers
(Foreshadow of Israel Loosing Lord's Favor / Anointing)
 - 3) Disciples Witness This & Ask: "How was it that the fig tree withered immediately?" (*Matt. 21:20*)
 - 4) Jesus Replies: "**Amen, I say to you, if you have faith and do not waver, not only will you do what has been done to the fig tree, but even if you say to this mountain, 'Be lifted up and thrown into the sea,' it will be done. Whatever you**

ask for in prayer with faith, you will receive.” (Matt. 21:21-22)

a) Our Authority to Bear Fruit - Exercise Faith in Christ Jesus

4. The King's Authority

Matt. 21:23-27

a. Jesus Returns to Temple Precincts

- 1) Chief Priests & Elders (*Religious & Civil Authorities*) Confront Jesus
 - a) Questioning His Authority. “By what authority are you doing these things? And who gave you this authority?” (Matt. 21:23)
(*Jesus Rode Triumphantly into Jerusalem, Accepted People’s Praise, Disrupted Temple Merchants, Healed Blind & Lame, etc.*)
- 2) Jesus' Reply is Based on John's Witness (*Messiah's Herald*) (Matt. 21:24-25):
 - a) “I shall ask you one question, and if you answer it for me, then I shall tell you by what authority I do these things.
 - b) “Where was John’s baptism from? Was it of heavenly or of human origin?”
- 3) Religious Leaders Discuss Jesus’ Question Among Themselves
 - a) Answer: “We do not know” (Matt. 21:27a)
- 4) Jesus’ Reply: “Neither shall I tell you by what authority I do these things.” (Matt. 21:27b)
 - a) Why?:
 - John was from Priestly House of Aaron (Same as Religious Leaders)
 - John Baptized for Repentance (They Did Not Repent)
 - John Announced Jesus as Savior (They Did Not Accept His Word)
 - Their Hearts Not Open to Receive the Lord & His Messiah

5. Israel and Their King (Messiah)

Matt. 21:28 - 22:14

a. Jesus Tells Parable of 2 Sons

Matt. 21:28-32

- 1) Jesus’ Allegory to Religious Leaders:
 - a) “What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He came to the first and said, ‘Son, go out and work in the vineyard today.’ He said in reply, ‘I will not,’ but afterwards he changed his mind and went. The man came to the other son and gave the same order. He said in reply, ‘Yes, sir,’ but did not go.
 - b) “Which of the two did his father’s will?”
- 2) Religious Leaders Answer: “The first.”
- 3) Jesus Retorts:
 - a) “Amen, I say to you, tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God before you.
 - Religious Leaders (*Israel*) Profess Belief Without Faith/Works (*God's Will*), So the Kingdom will be Taken Away from Them
 - b) “When John came to you in the way of righteousness, you did not believe him; but tax collectors and prostitutes did. Yet even when you saw that, you did not later change your minds and believe him.”
 - People (*Sinners / Gentiles*) Say No to Religion, but Respond to Faith (*God's Will*), So the Kingdom will be Given to These

b. Jesus Tells Parable of the Tenants

Matt. 21:33-44

- 1) Jesus’ Allegory to Religious Leaders:
 - a) “Hear another parable. There was a landowner (*Lord God*) who planted a vineyard (*Symbolizing Israel*), put a hedge around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a tower (*Lord’s Favor & Protection*). Then he leased it to

tenants (*Israel's Priests/Authorities*) and went on a journey. When vintage time drew near, he sent his servants (*Prophets*) to the tenants to obtain his produce (*Result of Faith & Good Works*). But the tenants seized the servants and one they beat, another they killed, and a third they stoned. Again he sent other servants, more numerous than the first ones, but they treated them in the same way.

- Israel's Authorities Persecuted & Killed God's Messengers
- b) "Finally, he sent his son (*Messiah – Son of God*) to them, thinking, 'They will respect my son.' But when the tenants saw the son, they said to one another, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and acquire his inheritance.' They seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him (*Jesus Will be Killed Outside Jerusalem*).
- Israel's Authorities Will Murder God's Son (*Jesus*)
- c) "What will the owner of the vineyard do to those tenants when he comes?"
- 2) Religious Leaders Answer: "He will put those wretched men to a wretched death and lease his vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the proper times."
 - a) Lord's Perfect Judgment - Pronounced by those Religious Leaders
- 3) Jesus Retorts:
 - a) "Did you never read in the scriptures: '*The stone (Lord's Messiah) that the builders (Israel's Authorities) rejected has become the cornerstone (Foundation of God's Kingdom); by the Lord has this been done, and it is wonderful in our eyes*' (Quoting *Psa. 118:22-23*)?"
 - b) "Therefore, I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that will produce its fruit. (The one who falls on this stone will be dashed to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.) (*Jesus a Stumbling Stone to Jews Is the Lord God's Messiah & Judge*)"
 - Kingdom will be Taken from Israel & Given to Gentile Nations
- c. Conspiracy Against Jesus Matt. 21:45-46
 - 1) Religious Leaders Knew Parables Applied to Them
 - a) Sought to Arrest Jesus, but were Afraid of People
 - People Regarded Jesus as a Prophet
- d. Jesus Tells Parable of Wedding Banquet (*Kingdom Parable*) Matt. 22:1-14
 - 1) "The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a king (*Lord God of Israel*) who gave a wedding feast for his son (*Messiah-Son of God*). He dispatched his servants (*Prophets/Disciples*) to summon the invited guests (*Israelites*) to the feast, but they refused to come.
 - a) King's (*Lord's*) Invitation to Wedding (*Unite with Christ & His Kingdom*)
 - b) Invited Guests (*Israel*) Reject Invitation
 - 2) King Sends Out Second Invitation
 - a) Some Invitees Ignore Invitation
 - b) Other Invitees Persecute & Kill Lord's Servants
 - 3) "The king was enraged and sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city.
 - a) King's Destruction of Invitees (*Israel*) (*Prefiguring Destruction of Jerusalem by Rome 70 AD*)
 - 4) "Then he said to his servants, 'The feast is ready, but those who were invited

were not worthy to come. Go out, therefore, into the main roads and invite to the feast whomever you find.’

- a) King’s (*Lord’s*) Invitation Extended to Others (*Gentiles*)
- 5) “The servants went out into the streets and gathered all they found, bad and good alike, and the hall was filled with guests.
 - a) Gentiles Respond to King’s (*Lord’s*) Invitation
- 6) “But when the king came in to meet the guests he saw a man there not dressed in a wedding garment (*Clothed by Holy Spirit*). He said to him, ‘My friend, how is it that you came in here without a wedding garment?’ But he was reduced to silence. Then the king said to his attendants, ‘Bind his hands and feet, and cast him into the darkness outside, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth.’
 - a) King (*Lord*) Purges those Improperly Attired (*Imposters – Not Filled with Holy Spirit*)
- 7) “Many are invited (*Gospel Offered to World*), but few are chosen (*Those Who Accept Christ, His Gospel & His Kingdom*).”

6. King Confronts Religious Authorities

Matt. 22:15-45

a. Christ’s Kingdom is Distinct from Earthly Empires

Matt. 22:15-22

- 1) Pharisees Plot to Trap Jesus
 - a) Pharisees = Officials of Major Jewish Religious Sect
 - Have Orthodox Literal Interpretation & Obedience to All Jewish Law
- 2) Question of Paying Taxes to Caesar
 - a) Pharisees’ Disciples & Herodians Question Jesus: “..... Tell us, then, what is your opinion: Is it lawful to pay the census tax to Caesar or not?”
 - Attempt to Trick Jesus into Speaking Sedition Against Rome
 - Many Jews Believe They Should Withhold Paying Taxes to Rome
 - Herodians = Envoys of Herod Tetrarch of Galilee
 - Herod Appointed by Emperor of Rome
 - b) Jesus Knowing Their Malice Chastises Officials: “Why are you testing me, you hypocrites?”
 - Asks for a Roman Coin: “Show me the coin that pays the census tax.”
 - c) They Hand Jesus a Roman Coin
 - d) Jesus Asks: “Whose image is this and whose inscription?”
 - e) They Answer: “Caesar’s”
 - f) Jesus Retorts: “Then repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God.”
- 3) Plotters Go Away Amazed

b. Christ’s Kingdom is Eternal

Matt. 22:23-33

- 1) Question of Resurrection of Dead
 - a) Sadducees = Officials of Major Jewish Religious Sect
 - Unorthodox Faith Believing Only in Torah (Books of Moses)
 - Do Not Believe in Resurrection of Dead, Life After Death, Angels, etc.
 - b) Sadducees Propose a Scenario to Jesus
 - “Teacher, Moses said, ‘If a man dies without children, his brother shall marry his wife and raise up descendants for his brother.’”

- Woman Married 7 Brothers After Each One Died Without an Heir
 - Woman Finally Died
 - “Now at the resurrection, of the seven, whose wife will she be? For they all had been married to her.”
- c) Jesus Chastises Officials: “**You are misled because you do not know the scriptures or the power of God.**”
- Religious Leaders Do Not Understand Scriptures or Power of God
- d) Jesus Confirms Resurrection & Eternal Life:
- “**At the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage but are like the angels in heaven.**”
 - Declaring the Existence of Angels
 - “**And concerning the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was said to you by God, ‘I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’ (Quoting Ex. 3:6)?**”
 - Jesus Quotes the Lord’s Words to Moses Who Lived Centuries After Abraham, Written in the Torah
 - “**He is not the God of the dead but of the living.**”
- 2) Crowd Astonished at Jesus’ Teaching
- c. Greatest Commandment in God's Kingdom Matt. 22:34-40
- 1) Pharisees Hear Jesus Silenced the Sadducees
 - 2) Pharisee Scholar Questions Jesus: “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?”
 - 3) Jesus Answers:
 - a) “**‘You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ (Quoting Deut. 6:5) This is the greatest and the first commandment.**”
 - *Jesus (Messiah-Son of God) is Israel’s Lord*
 - b) “**‘The second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ (Quoting Lev. 19:18)**”
 - *Jesus (An Israelite from Tribe of Judah) is their Neighbor*
 - c) “**‘The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments.’**”
 - *Jesus Christ Fulfills All Law & Prophets* Matt. 5:17
 - *He Is Love Itself!*
- d. Messiah (King of Israel) - Son of God Matt. 22:41-45
- 1) Jesus Questions Pharisees: “**What is your opinion about the Messiah? Whose son is he?**”
 - 2) Officials Answer: “David’s”
 - a) Messiah is the Son of David (*Referring to Lord’s Covenant with King David & Messiah’s Human Lineage. 2 Sam. 7:8-17*)
 - 3) Jesus Retorts: “**How, then, does David, inspired by the Spirit, call him ‘lord’, saying: ‘The Lord (Yahweh) said to my lord (Messiah), Sit at my right hand until I place your enemies under your feet’? (Quoting David’s Proclamation Written in Psa. 110:1)**”
 - 4) Jesus Asks: “**If David calls him ‘lord,’ how can he be his son?**”
 - a) **Messiah (Jesus) is Superior to King David**
 - 5) No One Was Able to Answer Jesus
 - 6) No One Dare Ask Jesus Any More Questions

7. Jesus Christ's Chastisement of Religious Authorities Matt. 23
- a. Jesus Addresses the People Matt. 23:1-12
- 1) Advises People to Obey Religious Authorities. “The scribes and the Pharisees have taken their seat on the chair of Moses. Therefore, do and observe all things whatsoever they tell you, but do not follow their example. For they preach but they do not practice.”
 - a) Warns Against Following their Example
 - 2) Hypocrisy of Religious Leaders
 - a) Unnecessarily Burden the People. “They tie up heavy burdens (hard to carry) and lay them on people’s shoulders, but they will not lift a finger to move them.
 - b) Full of Pride & Self-Importance. “All their works are performed to be seen They love places of honor at banquets, seats of honor in synagogues, greetings in marketplaces, and the salutation ‘Rabbi.’
 - c) Love Titles of Respect & Honor that Belong to God & His Messiah
 - Rabbi (*Teacher*). “As for you, do not be called ‘Rabbi.’ You have but one teacher (*Holy Spirit*), and you are all brothers.
 - Father. “Call no one on earth your father; you have but one Father (*Father God*) in heaven.
 - Master. “Do not be called ‘Master’; you have but one master, the Messiah (*Jesus Christ – Son of God*).
 - 3) Kingdom Principle of Greatness – Humility & Service to Others
 - a) “The greatest among you must be your servant.
 - b) “Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, but whoever humbles himself will be exalted.”
- b. Messiah-King Denounces Hypocrisy of Religious Authorities Matt. 23:13-28
Pronouncing “Woes”:
- 1) “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites. You lock the kingdom of heaven before human beings. You do not enter yourselves, nor do you allow entrance to those trying to enter.
 - 2) “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites. You devour the houses of widows and, as a pretext, recite lengthy prayers. Because of this, you will receive a very severe condemnation.
 - a) Void of Love & Compassion
 - b) Self-Righteous
 - 3) “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites. You traverse sea and land to make one convert, and when that happens you make him a child of Gehenna (*Hell*) twice as much as yourselves.
 - 4) “Woe to you, blind guides (*Leaders/Authorities*), who say, ‘If one swears by the temple, it means nothing, but if one swears by the gold of the temple, one is obligated.’ Blind fools (*Don’t Understand Things of God*), which is greater, the gold, or the temple that made the gold sacred (*i.e. Presence of God*)? And you say, ‘If one swears by the altar, it means nothing, but if one swears by the gift on the altar, one is obligated.’ You blind ones, which is greater, the gift, or the altar that makes the gift sacred? One who swears by the altar swears by it and all that is upon it; one who swears by the temple swears by it and by him (*Lord God*) who dwells in it; one who swears by heaven swears by the throne of God and by him who is seated on it.
 - a) Spiritually Blind

- b) Honor Material Instead of Spiritual
- 5) “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites. You pay tithes of mint and have neglected the weightier things of the law: judgment and mercy and fidelity. (But) these you should have done, without neglecting the others.
- a) Neglect Justice, Mercy, Honesty & Good Faith
- 6) “Blind guides, who strain out the gnat and swallow the camel!
- a) Picayune in Their Legalism
- 7) “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites. You cleanse the outside of cup and dish, but inside they are full of plunder and self-indulgence.
- a) Honor Human Traditions/Apearances
- b) Neglect the Heart / Soul
- c) Call to Repentance. “Blind Pharisee, cleanse first the inside of the cup, so that the outside also may be clean.
- 8) “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites. You are like whitewashed tombs, which appear beautiful on the outside (*Holy Appearance*), but inside are full of dead men’s bones (*Full of Evil & Hypocrisy*) and every kind of filth (*Sin*). Even so, on the outside you appear righteous, but inside you are filled with hypocrisy and evildoing.”
- a) Appear Righteous But Full of Sin
- c. Messiah-King Charges Officials of Persecuting Lord’s Prophets Matt. 23:29-36
- 1) “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites. You build the tombs of the prophets and adorn the memorials of the righteous, and you say, ‘If we had lived in the days of our ancestors, we would not have joined them in shedding the prophets’ blood.’ Thus you bear witness against yourselves that you are the children of those who murdered the prophets; now fill up what your ancestors measured out!
- a) Sons/Descendants of Those Who Murdered the Prophets
- b) Your Turn to Complete Their Task by Killing Messiah
- 2) “You serpents, you brood of vipers (*Symbols of Satan & Sin*), how can you flee from the judgment of Gehenna (*Hell*)?”
- 3) Jesus Predicts Jewish Persecution of His Church
- a) “Therefore, behold, I (*Messiah-Lord*) send to you prophets and wise men and scribes (*Jesus’ Disciples/Followers*); some of them you will kill and crucify, some of them you will scourge in your synagogues and pursue from town to town (*Examples: Acts 5:17-41; Acts 7:54-60; Acts 9:1-2*), so that there may come upon you all the righteous blood shed upon earth, from the righteous blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah, the son of Barachiah, whom you murdered between the sanctuary and the altar.
- Fathers Guilty of Blood of Old Covenant Prophets
 - You Will be Guilty of Blood of Messiah, His New Covenant Disciples & Followers
- b) “Amen, I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation.”
- d. Messiah-King’s Lament Over Jerusalem Matt. 23:37-39
- 1) “Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how many times I (*Son of God*) yearned to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her young under her wings, but you were unwilling!”
- 2) “Behold, your house will be abandoned, desolate” (*Without Lord’s Presence – Messiah Jesus*)
- a) Jesus Predicts the Destruction of Israel & Temple

(Fulfilled by Rome 70 AD)

- 3) Jesus Leaves Presence of Jewish Leaders: “I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.’ (Quoting Psa. 118:26).”

a) *Jesus Repeats the Crowd’s Proclamation when He Triumphantly Entered Jerusalem (Matt. 21:1-11) - Referring to His Second Coming when Jewish Authorities Will Recognize & Mourn Over their Messiah. Zech. 12:10*

Comment. I believe the Shekinah Glory of the Lord departed the Temple’s Holy of Holies before its destruction in 586 BC, as prophesied by Ezekiel (Ezek. 10), and did not return to the rebuilt Temple awaiting Messiah (See “Tabernacle & Temple – Part I” Study). Christ Jesus triumphantly enters the Temple precincts as Savior, cleansing it, performing the works of God, declaring His Offices and proclaiming His Kingdom. He is confronted by the religious authorities who reject Him and His message. Here (in Matt. 23:39), Christ leaves proclaiming His Second Coming, where He will again Triumphantly enter Jerusalem as King of Kings and Lord of Lords, taking His Throne within the Temple’s Holy of Holies (Ezek. 43:1-9; Zech. 14) (See “Tabernacle & Temple – Part II” Study).

PART V – CHRIST’S COMING KINGDOM**Matt. 24 - 25****A. Jesus’ Predictions of His Coming Kingdom**

Matt. 24:1-35

*(References: Mark 13; Luke 21:5-36)*1. Destruction of the Temple

Matt. 24:1-2

- a. Jesus Leaving Temple Area
- b. Disciples Approach Jesus Admiring Temple Buildings
- c. Jesus’ Prophecy Concerning the Temple: **“You see all these things, do you not? Amen, I say to you, there will not be left here a stone upon another stone that will not be thrown down.”**
- d. *Why was it Necessary that the Temple be Destroyed?*
 - 1) *Temple was the Lord God’s Residence on Earth*
 - a) *Lord’s Presence Among His People Israel*
 - *Personified by Jesus – Israel’s Messiah & Son of God*
 - 2) *Israel Failed to Recognize their Time of Visitation* *Luke 19:41-44*
 - a) *Israel’s Holy Anointed One – Jesus their Messiah*
 - 3) *Temple was Israel’s Place of Sacrifice*
 - a) *Jesus to Provide the Final, Holy & Eternal Sacrifice* *Heb. 10:1-18*
 - *Instituted at Passover (Holy Eucharist)* *Matt. 26:26-29*
 - *Fulfilled by His Death on Cross “It is finished”* *John 19:30*
 - e. *Christ’s Prediction Fulfilled in 70 AD*
 - 1) *Rome Destroys Temple & Jerusalem*
 - 2) *Following a Generation that the Lord Allowed for Israel to Transition to His New Covenant*
 - a) *Giving Jews Ample Opportunity to Accept their Messiah*
 - f. *Destruction of Temple Ended Jewish Sacrificial Worship*
 - g. *Destruction of Temple Ushers in Christ’s New Covenant “Time of the Gentiles”*
 - 1) *Gospel of Jesus Christ to be Spread Among Nations* *Matt. 28:18-20*
 - 2) *Remnant of Israel Accepts Messiah* *Rom. 11:1-10*
 - a) *Jewish Disciples & Followers Become the Church’s Foundation*
 - b) *Unbelieving Jews Become ‘Spiritually Blind’*

2. Christ’s Kingdom Spread to Gentile Nations (Entire World)

Matt. 24:3-14

“Time of Gentiles” (Church Age - Spread of Christianity)

- a. Jesus Sitting on Mount of Olives (*Full View of Temple Area*)
- b. Disciples Privately Ask Jesus: “Tell us, when will this happen, and what sign will there be of your coming, and of the end of the age?”
 - 1) When Will Temple be Destroyed?
 - 2) What are the Signs of His Second Coming & End of the Age? (*Establishment of Messianic Kingdom on Earth*)
 - a) Disciples Expected Jesus to Immediately Establish His Earthly Reign (Re: Acts 1:6-9)
- c. Jesus’ End Time Prophecies for Church Age
 - 1) Spiritual Warfare: False Messiahs, Impostors & Deception. **“See that no one deceives you. For many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am the Messiah,’ and they will deceive many.**
 - 2) Warfare Among Nations & Kingdoms. **“You will hear of wars and reports of**

wars; see that you are not alarmed, for these things must happen, but it will not yet be the end. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom;

- 3) Intensification of Famines & Natural Disasters. “there will be famines and earthquakes from place to place. All these are the beginning of the labor pains (*About to Give Birth to Messianic Kingdom on Earth*).
- 4) Persecution of Church. “Then they will hand you over to persecution, and they will kill you. You will be hated by all nations because of my name.
- 5) Increase of Evil. “And then many will be led into sin; they will betray and hate one another. Many false prophets will arise and deceive many; and because of the increase of evil-doing, the love of many will grow cold.
- 6) Promise of Redemption. “But the one who perseveres to the end will be saved.
- 7) Completion of Christ’s Commission: “And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached throughout the world as a witness to all nations, and then the end will come. (*End of Church Age & Christ’s Second Coming*)”

3. Israel’s Final Struggle

Matt. 24:15-28

(*Presumption: Time of Gentiles Fulfilled. Transition Period for Israel Leading to their End Time Conversion. Rom. 11:25-29*)

Jesus Continues Prophesying:

a. Israel Final Battlefield

1) Abomination of Desolation on Holy Ground (*Temple Mount in Jerusalem*)

a) “When you see the desolating abomination spoken of through Daniel the prophet standing in the holy place (*Temple Site*)

b) Referring to Daniel’s Intertwined Prophecies Dan. 11:28-45

- End Time Prophecies

- Prefigured by Seleucid King Antiochus IV Epiphanes’ Desecration of Temple in 168 BC, Partially Fulfilling Daniel’s Prophecy
1 Macc. 1:10-63

c) Warning to Flee Jerusalem. “then those in Judea must flee to the mountains, a person on the housetop must not go down to get things out of his house, a person in the field must not return to get his cloak. Woe to pregnant women and nursing mothers in those days.”

b. The Great Tribulation

1) “Pray that your flight not be in winter or on the sabbath, for at that time there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will be.

2) “And if those days had not been shortened, no one would be saved; but for the sake of the elect (*Christ’s Followers*) they will be shortened.”

c. Great Deceptions & Persecution

1) “If anyone says to you then, ‘Look, here is the Messiah!’ or, ‘There he is!’ do not believe it. False messiahs and false prophets will arise, and they will perform signs and wonders so great as to deceive, if that were possible, even the elect.

2) “Behold, I have told it to you beforehand. So if they say to you, ‘He is in the desert,’ do not go out there; if they say, ‘He is in the inner rooms,’ do not believe it.”

d. Rescued by Israel’s Messiah-King

1) “For just as lightning comes from the east and is seen as far as the west, so will the coming of the Son of Man be. Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures

will gather.”

- a) Jesus Christ Will Come Ending the Great Tribulation
Zech. 14:1-5 & 12-15; Rev. 19:11-21

4. Second Coming of Jesus Christ

Matt. 24:29-35

Jesus Prophecies His Coming as King of King & Lord of Lords (Rev. 19:11-16):

- a. Jesus will Return from Heaven in Glory. “Immediately after the tribulation of those days, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.
- b. Jesus Returns with Great Power & Authority. “And then the sign of the Son of Man (*Jesus Christ*) will appear in heaven, and all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming upon the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.
- c. Jesus Gathers His People (*Citizens*) into His Kingdom (1 Thess. 4:13-18). “And he will send out his angels with a trumpet blast, and they will gather his elect (*Christ’s Followers*) from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.
- d. Look for Signs of the Times
 - 1) Fig Tree Represents Nation of Israel. “Learn a lesson from the fig tree (*Symbol of Israel*). When its branch becomes tender and sprouts leaves, you know that summer is near
 - a) Young Maturing Nation
 - 2) Times of Gentiles Fulfilled (*See Part V.A.2 Above*)
 - 3) Israel’s Final Struggle (*See Part V.A.3 Above*)
 - 4) Same Generation that Witnesses Signs will be at Christ’s Second Coming.
 - a) “In the same way, when you see all these things, know that he is near, at the gates.
 - b) “Amen, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place.
- e. Son of God’s Assurance: “Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.”
 - 1) Christ’s Words are True - They are the Creative Force
(*i.e. What He Speaks is Brought into Existence*)

B. King’s Advice Concerning His Kingdom

Matt. 24:36 - 25:30

1. Be Watchful & Live in Anticipation of Christ’s Return

Matt. 24:36-42

- a. No One Knows the Day or Hour. “But of that day and hour (*Of His Second Coming*) no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone.”
- b. Christ’s Coming is Like Noah’s Flood. “For as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. In (those) days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day that Noah entered the ark. They did not know until the flood came and carried them all away. So will it be (also) at the coming of the Son of Man.”
 - 1) People Living Life Normally
 - 2) Unconcerned by Noah’s Prophecies
 - 3) Caught Unawares by Flood
- c. Christ’s Harvest of Humanity
 - 1) “Two men will be out in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken, and one will be left.

Rev. 14:14-20

- a) People Inheriting Christ's Kingdom Will be Taken
- b) People Remaining Will Experience God's Wrath
- 2) Jesus' Admonition: "Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come."

2. Thief in the Night Analogy

Matt. 24:43-51

- a. "Be sure of this: if the master of the house had known the hour of night when the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and not let his house be broken into.
- b. "So too, you also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man (*Jesus Christ*) will come."
- c. Continue the Lord's Work Until He Comes
 - 1) Faithful Servants Rewarded. "Who, then, is the faithful and prudent servant, whom the master has put in charge of his household to distribute to them their food at the proper time? Blessed is that servant whom his master on his arrival finds doing so. Amen, I say to you, he will put him in charge of all his property.
 - a) Kingdom Principle of Faithfulness
 - Those Faithful in Small Things – Lord Will Give Them Greater Things
 - 2) Wicked Servants Punished. "But if that wicked servant says to himself, 'My master is long delayed,' and begins to beat his fellow servants, and eat and drink with drunkards, the servant's master will come on an unexpected day and at an unknown hour and will punish him severely and assign him a place with the hypocrites, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth."

3. Parable of Ten Virgins

Matt. 25:1-13

Jesus Continues Teaching His Church to Look for His Return by the Telling Parable of 10 Virgins.

This Parable is Based on the Jewish Wedding Custom Familiar to 1st Century Jews. Christ is the Bridegroom & Church is His Bride (Isa. 62:2-5; Matt. 9:14-15)

- a. *First Phase of Jewish Wedding Custom {1}*
 - 1) *The Contract - Groom Contracts with Bride's Father*
 - 2) *The Price - Groom Pays Money to Bride's Father*
 - 3) *The Cup - Bride Accepts the Contract by Drinking the Cup*
 - a) *Bride Veils Herself & Remains Chaste*
 - 4) *The Departure of Bridegroom - Groom Departs to His Father's House & Builds Bridal Chamber*
 - a) *Promising: "I go to prepare a place for you, and then I shall come back to take you with me, that where I am you also will be"*
 - b) *Bride Anxiously Waits for Groom's Return*
 - 5) *This First Phase of Jewish Wedding Custom Relates to Christ's First Advent:*
 - a) *Christ Contracts with His Father for the Church (Jer. 31:31-34, Heb. 8:8-12)*
 - b) *Christ Paid the Price for Church with His Own Life (Luke 22:39-46)*
 - *"For you (Christians) have been purchased at a price (Blood of Christ) " (1 Cor. 6:19-20)*
 - c) *Church Accepts Christ's Offer by Celebrating Holy Communion (1 Cor. 11:23-26)*
 - *Church Veiled – Only God Can See into the Heart of Man & Knows Who is Really Saved/Born Again (John 3:3-8)*

- Church Chaste – Remains Faithful to Jesus Christ
- d) Jesus Departs for Heaven Promising: *“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me. In my Father’s house (Heaven) there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place (Bridal Chamber) for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be.”* John 14:1-3
- b. Second Phase of Jewish Wedding Custom {1}
 - 1) The "Stealing" of the Bride – Groom Returns, "Steals" His Bride & Takes Her to Bridal Chamber
 - a) Groom’s Entourage Announces His Coming with Shouts/Horns
 - 2) This Second Phase of Jewish Wedding Custom is the Setting for Christ’s Parable. It Relates to Church Age Where Church Waits for Jesus’ Return:
 - a) Jesus had Departed Earth by Ascending into Heaven Promising His Return at the Conclusion of the Church Age (Acts 1:6-11)
 - b) During this Age the Church Expands:
 - People Accepting Christ’s Proposal
 - Remaining Veiled & Chaste Waiting His Return
 - 3) Jesus Tells Parable of 10 Virgins Matt. 25:1-13
 - a) *“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones, when taking their lamps, brought no oil with them, but the wise brought flasks of oil with their lamps.”*
 - 10 Virgins = Church Waiting the Bridegroom’s (Jesus’) Return
 - Oil = Holy Spirit
 - Wise Virgins With Oil = People Indwelt by the Holy Spirit (John 16:5-16)
 - Foolish Virgins Without Oil = People Claiming to be Christians Without the Holy Spirit. Haven’t Personally Accepted Jesus as Lord & Savior. (John 1:10-13; John 3:3-6)
 - b) *“Since the bridegroom was long delayed, they all became drowsy and fell asleep.”*
 - Church Grows Weary Waiting for Christ’s Return
 - c) Jesus Returns for His Church. *“At midnight, there was a cry, ‘Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’ (Jesus will Return to Steal Away His Church with Shout of Archangel & Trumpet of God. 1 Thess. 4:13-17) Then all those virgins got up and trimmed their lamps.*
 - *“The foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’*
 - *“But the wise ones replied, ‘No, for there may not be enough for us and you. Go instead to the merchants and buy some for yourselves.’ (Man Can Not Unilaterally Give the Holy Spirit to Another Person)*
 - *“While they went off to buy it, the bridegroom (Jesus Christ) came and those who were ready (Filled with Holy Spirit) went into the wedding feast with him. Then the door was locked.*
 - *“Afterwards the other virgins came and said, ‘Lord, Lord, open the door for us!’ (Man Can Not Purchase the Kingdom of God)*
 - *“But he said in reply, ‘Amen, I say to you, I do not know you.’”*

- d) Jesus' Advice: "Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour."
- c. *Third Phase of Wedding Custom {1}*
Relates to the Uniting of Jesus Christ with His Church for Eternity.
- 1) *The Bridal Chamber - Bride & Groom Consummate their Marriage*
 - a) *Christ's Bride is Unveiled & Intimate with Jesus (2 Cor. 5:10)*
 - 2) *The Marriage Supper - Bride & Groom Celebrate with a Wedding Feast*
 - a) *Christ will Celebrate with His Bride (Rev. 19:1-10)*
 - 3) *Celebration Banquet - After the Celebration the Bride Lives with Groom*
 - a) *The Church Eternally Lives with Jesus as His Bride (Rev. 21 & 22)*
4. Parable of the Talents (Silver Coins) Matt. 25:14-30
In Parable of Talents, Jesus Tells His Church What to Do While Waiting His Return. Invest in God's Kingdom.
- a. Master Goes on Journey. "It will be as when a man who was going on a journey called in his servants and entrusted his possessions to them. To one he gave five talents; to another, two; to a third, one—to each according to his ability. Then he went away."
 - 1) *Master = Jesus Christ*
 - 2) *Servants = Individual Christians*
 - 3) *Distributed Funds = Talents, Resources, Abilities & Spiritual Gifts, etc.*
 - 4) *Master's Journey = Christ's Ascension into Heaven & Church Age*
 - b. Servants Invest in Master's Kingdom
 - 1) "Immediately the one who received five talents went and traded with them, and made another five."
 - a) *Propagated Gospel of Jesus Christ*
 - 2) "Likewise, the one who received two made another two."
 - a) *Propagated Gospel of Jesus Christ*
 - 3) "But the man who received one went off and dug a hole in the ground and buried his master's money."
 - a) *Buried – Ignored/Stifled Gospel of Jesus Christ*
 - c. Master's Return & Settlement of Accounts (*Re: 1 Cor. 3:10-15*). "After a long time the master of those servants came back and settled accounts with them."
 - 1) Those Who Invested in God's Kingdom are Rewarded
 - a) "The one who had received five talents came forward bringing the additional five. He said, 'Master, you gave me five talents. See, I have made five more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, my good and faithful servant. Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities. Come, share your master's joy.'"
 - b) "(Then) the one who had received two talents also came forward and said, 'Master, you gave me two talents. See, I have made two more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, my good and faithful servant. Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities. Come, share your master's joy.'
 - Kingdom Principle of Faithfulness
 - Faithful in Small Things – God Will Give You Greater Things
 - 2) Those Who Did Not Invest in God's Kingdom are Punished
 - a) "Then the one who had received the one talent came forward and said, 'Master, I knew you were a demanding person, so out of fear I went"

off and buried your talent in the ground. Here it is back.’ His master said to him in reply, ‘You wicked, lazy servant!..... Should you not then have put my money in the bank so that I could have got it back with interest on my return? Now then! Take the talent from him and give it to the one with ten.

- b) “For to everyone who has (*Investments in God’s Kingdom*), more will be given and he will grow rich (*Profits, Interest & Bonuses*); but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away.”
 - Kingdom Principle of Use
 - If You Use (Exercise) What Lord has Given You it will Grow (Multiplying God’s Gift)
 - If You Don’t Use What Lord has Given You it Will Diminish
- c) “And throw this useless servant into the darkness outside, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth.”

C. King’s Judgment of the Nations

Matt. 25:31-46

1. Jesus’ Prophecy: “When the Son of Man (Jesus Christ) comes in his glory (i.e. His Second Coming), and all the angels with him, he will sit upon his glorious throne, and all the nations will be assembled before him. And he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will place the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.”
 - a. Sheep Rewarded by Inheriting Kingdom of God. “Then the king will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.’ Then the righteous will answer him and say, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, And the king will say to them in reply, ‘Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.’
 - 1) Showed Compassion (Love) to Christ’s Brethren
 - 2) Aided the Advancement of God’s Kingdom on Earth
 - 3) Who are Christ Jesus’ Brethren?
 - a) Jews Since Jesus is an Israelite of the Tribe of Judah (*Matt. 1: 3-17*)
 - b) Christians Since they are Spiritual Brothers of Christ (*Rom. 8:14-17*)
 - b. Goats Condemned to Hell with Satan. “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you accursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, a stranger and you gave me no welcome, naked and you gave me no clothing, ill and in prison, and you did not care for me.’ Then they will answer and say, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry , and not minister to your needs?’ He will answer them, ‘Amen, I say to you, what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me.’ And these will go off to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”
 - 1) Showed No Compassion to Christ or His Brethren
 - 2) Obstacles to the Advancement of God’s Kingdom on Earth

PART VI - CHRIST SECURES HIS KINGDOM

Matt. 26 - 27

- A. Jesus Predicts His Crucifixion & Death (Paschal Sacrifice)** Matt. 26:1-2
1. Jesus Completes His Kingdom Discourses
 2. Jesus Prophecies: “**You know that in two days’ time it will be Passover, and the Son of Man will be handed over to be crucified.**”
- B. Religious Authorities Plot to Assassinate Jesus** Matt. 26:3-5
1. “Then the chief priests and the elders of the people assembled in the palace of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas, and they consulted together to arrest Jesus by treachery and put him to death.....”
 - a. Chief Priests & Elders Conspire to Arrest & Kill Jesus
 - b. Fulfilling Prophecy: “I (Messiah) hear the whispers of the crowd; terrors are all around me. They conspire against me; they plot to take my life.” Psa. 31:14
- C. Jesus’ Preparation for His Passion** Matt. 26:6-56
1. King Anointing for Burial Matt. 26:6-13
 - a. Jesus in Bethany in Simon the Leper’s House
 - b. Woman Approaches Jesus & Pours Expensive Perfume on His Head
 - c. Disciples Protest the Extravagance: “Why this waste? It could have been sold for much, and the money given to the poor.”
 - d. Jesus Honors Woman’s Action:
 - 1) “**Why do you make trouble for the woman? She has done a good thing for me. The poor you will always have with you; but you will not always have me.**
 - 2) “**In pouring this perfumed oil upon my body, she did it to prepare me for burial.**
 - 3) “**Amen, I say to you, wherever this gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be spoken of, in memory of her.**”
 2. Betrayal by One of Christ’s Officials Matt. 26:14-16
 - a. Judas Iscariot Goes to Priests
 - b. Judas’ Offer: “What are you willing to give me if I hand him over to you?”
 - c. Chief Priests Pay Judas 30 Pieces of Silver
 - 1) Fulfilling Prophecy: “I (Messiah) said to them, ‘If it seems good to you, give me my wages; but if not, let it go.’ And they counted out my wages, thirty pieces of silver.” Zech. 11:12
 - d. Judas Looks for an Opportunity to Hand Jesus Over to Jewish Authorities
 3. King’s Last Supper (Passover) with His Court Matt. 26:17-35
 (References: Mark 14:12-31; Luke 22:7-38)
 (See “Passover Festival” in “Holy Days, Festivals & Feasts – Parts I & II” Studies.)
 - a. Background of Passover
 - 1) Passover is a Celebration of Israel’s Deliverance from Egyptian Bondage
 Ex. 3 – 12
 - a) Israel was Enslaved in Egypt
 - b) God Sends 10 Plagues on Egypt to Release Israel
 - c) Tenth Plague - Death of First Born

- d) *Israel Sacrificed Paschal Lamb*
 - *Blood Spread on Doorposts & Lintels of Israelite Dwellings*
- e) *Death “Passed Over” Dwellings Covered with Blood*
- f) *Israel Released from Bondage*
- 2) *Jesus Christ Fulfills Israel’s Passover*
 - a) *Mankind is Enslaved by Sin*
 - b) *Jesus is First Born*
 - c) *Jesus Sacrifices His Body on Passover (Paschal Lamb of God)*
 - d) *Jesus’ Blood Covers Our Sins*
 - e) *Jesus Frees Us from the Curse of Sin*
 - f) *Jesus Gives Us Eternal Life – Death Passes Over Us*
- 3) *The Passover Supper is Celebrated on the 14th Day of 1st Month in Jewish Calendar (Lev. 23:4-5). The Jewish Day Begins at Sundown.*
 - a) *Jesus Celebrates the Passover Supper (“Last Supper”) with His Disciples, is Arrested, Tried & Executed on the Same Day, the 14th Day of 1st Month, When Paschal Lamb is Sacrificed in the Temple.*
- b. *Passover Feast Ritual: Presided Over by Father (Head of Family/Household) {1}*
 - 1st. *Houses Purged of Leaven*
 - 2nd. *White Linen & Utensils Set Out*
 - ◆ *Father Dons a White Priestly Robe*
 - 3rd. *Woman of the House Lights Candles*
 - 4th. *The First Cup (“Cup of Sanctification”)*
 - 5th. *The Hidden Bread*
 - 6th. *The Four Questions (Asked by Youngest)*
 - 7th. *Father Chants the Story of Exodus from Passover Book (“Haggadah”)*
 - ◆ *Answering the Four Questions*
 - 8th. *The Second Cup*
 - 9th. *The Meal*
 - 10th. *The Third Cup (“Cup of Redemption”)*
 - 11th. *The Fourth Cup (“Cup of Praise” or “Elijah’s Cup”)*
 - 12th. *The Hymn*

Passover Feast Ritual is Integrated into this Study to Complement the Account in Matt. 26:17-30.

Jesus, Head of God’s Household (Heb.3:1-6), Presides as Father Over the Last Passover Supper Celebrated with His Disciples.
- c. *Preparation for Passover Supper* Matt. 26:17-19
 - 1) *First Day of Feast of Unleavened Bread (14th Day of 1st Month. Lev. 23:4-5)*
 - 2) *Disciples Ask Jesus: “Where do you want us to prepare for you to eat the Passover?”*
 - 3) *Jesus Instructs Disciples: “Go into the city to a certain man and tell him, ‘The teacher says, “My appointed time draws near; in your house I shall celebrate the Passover with my disciples.”””*
 - 4) *Disciples Prepare for Passover Supper*
 - 1st. *House is Purged of Leaven (Leaven Symbolizes Sin)*
 - 2nd. *White Linens & Utensils Set Out (Symbolizing Righteousness & Purity)*
 - ◆ *Jesus will Preside as Father Wearing a White Robe (Symbolizing High Priest)*

3rd. Woman of the House Lights Candles (Jesus is the 'Light of the World')

- d. Jesus & His Disciples Celebrate Passover Feast Matt. 26:20-30
 1) Jesus & Disciples Recline at Table & Eat Passover Supper

4th. The First Cup ("Cup of Sanctification")

- ◆ *Father Pours & Serves First Cup*
- ◆ *Certifies Household is Prepared for Feast*
(Jesus Certified as God's Holy Sacrifice)

5th. The Hidden Bread (Unleavened Bread Represents Sinless/Righteous)

- ◆ *Father Takes 3 Loaves of Unleavened Bread*
 - *Places in Special White Linen Envelope with 3 Compartments*
(Symbolizing the Trinity: Father, Son & Holy Spirit)
 - *Bread: Flat (True), Marked with Stripes & Pierced with Holes*
(Symbolizing Christ & His Sacrificial Wounds)
- ◆ *Father Removes Middle Loaf*
(Representing Second Person of Trinity – Christ Jesus Son of God)
 - *Breaks It, Wraps in Separate Linen Napkin & Hides (Buries) It*
- ◆ *Ceremony Conducted Silently (Mystery)*
(Mystery to be Revealed by Jesus' Death & Resurrection)

6th. Youngest Asks 4 Questions:

(Answered During Recitation of "Haggadah" - See 7th Rite Below)

- ◆ *Question.* *"Why is this night distinguished from all other nights? On this night we eat only unleavened bread."*
Answer. *"Unleavened bread symbolizes purity." (Fulfilled by Christ Jesus the Pure Bread of Life)*
- ◆ *Question.* *"On all other nights we eat any kinds of herbs, but on this night only bitter herbs. Why?"*
Answer. *"Bitter Herbs remind us of the bitterness of slavery." (Represent the Bitterness & Bondage of Sin)*
- ◆ *Question.* *"On all other nights we do not dip, but tonight we dip twice. Why?"*
Answer. *"The first dip is Israel, going into the Sea and coming out unharmed." (First Dip Represents Baptism into Messiah's New Covenant)*
"The second dip is for the Egyptian army who tried to follow them." (Second Dip Represents Tears of Repentance, Death to Self & Sin)
- ◆ *Question.* *"On this night we all recline in our chairs at the table. Why?"*
Answer. *"The Jews can now recline, they are no longer slaves and can relax." (Christians are free from the Bondage of Sin, We Can Rest in Christ's Finished Salvific Work)*

7th. Father Chants Story of Exodus ("Haggadah")

Serving Ceremonial Foods as He Tells that Story, Answering the 4 Questions.
(Revealing How God Chose to Deliver His People)

- ◆ *Bitter Herbs (Symbolizing the Bitterness of Slavery)*
- ◆ *Shankbone of a Lamb (Representing the Slaughtered Paschal Lamb)*
- ◆ *Parsley Dipped in Dish of Salt Water*

- 2) Jesus Identifies His Betrayer Matt. 26:20-25
 a) Jesus Remarks: **"Amen, I say to you, one of you will betray me."**

- b) Each Disciple Asks: “Surely it is not I, Lord?”
- c) Jesus Dips Into Dish the Second Time (*Dip of Tears*)
 - “**He who has dipped his hand into the dish with me is the one who will betray me.**”
 - Jesus Gives Dipped Morsel to Judas Iscariot John 13:26
 - “**The Son of Man indeed goes (Referring to His Death), as it is written of him (In Scripture), but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed. It would be better for that man if he had never been born.**”
- d) Judas Iscariot Asks: “Surely it is not I, Rabbi?”
- e) Jesus Answers: “**You have said so.**”
 - Jesus Dismisses Judas Iscariot John 13:27-30
 - Prophecy Fulfilled: “**Even the friend who had my trust, who shared my table, has scorned me.**” Psa. 41:10

Jesus Continues Reciting the Haggadah:

- ◆ *Charoses (Sweet Mixture of Fruits & Spices) (Symbolizing Salvation)*
- ◆ *Roasted Egg*

8th. The Second Cup

- ◆ *Father Spills Wine into Everyone’s (White) Dish*
- ◆ *Recites Each Plague with Each Drop*
- ◆ *Remembering God’s Wrath & Suffering of Egyptian People*

9th. The Meal

- ◆ *The Whole Lamb is Eaten (Symbol of Jesus - Paschal Lamb of God)*
- ◆ *Joyful & Leisurely Celebration*

10th. The Third Cup (“Cup of Redemption”)

- ◆ *Father Retrieves Hidden Loaf*
 - *Blesses, Breaks & Serves the Bread*
- ◆ *Father Blesses & Serves the Cup*

3) Jesus Institutes the Holy Eucharist Matt. 26:26-28
(*Sacrament: Perpetual Body & Blood of Christ for the Forgiveness of Sins*)

- a) Jesus Takes the Bread (*“Hidden Loaf”*)
 - Blesses the Bread: “Blessed are You, Lord our God, King of the universe, Who brings forth bread from the earth.”
 - Breaks & Serves Bread to His Disciples: “**Take and eat; this is my body**”
- b) Jesus Takes the Cup (*“Cup of Redemption”*)
 - Blesses the Cup: “Blessed are You, Lord our God, King of the universe, Who creates the fruit of the vine.”
 - Serves Cup to His Disciples: “**Drink from it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed on behalf of many for the forgiveness of sins.**”
- c) Jesus Instructs Disciples: “**.....do this in memory of me**” Luke 22:19
 - **Old Covenant Fulfilled**
 - **Celebrate this New Covenant Passover (Holy Eucharist) in Remembrance of Jesus, Not Israel’s Exodus from Egypt.**

11th. The Fourth Cup (“Cup of Praise” or “Elijah’s Cup”)

- ◆ *Recalls Lord’s Promise to Send Elijah to Announce Messiah*

◆ *Empty Chair & Cup Left for Elijah*

- 4) Jesus & Disciples Do Not Drink the Fourth Cup (*Messiah Already There!*)
 a) “I tell you, from now on I shall not drink this fruit of the vine until the day when I drink it with you new in the kingdom of my Father.” Matt. 26:29

12th. *The Hymn*

◆ *Family Praise God with Songs*

- 5) Jesus & Disciples Sing a Hymn – Praising God Matt. 26:30
 e. Jesus Christ Head of the Church Matt. 26:31-35
 (*Church will Desert Him – Impotent Without their King*)
- 1) Jesus Tells His Disciples: “This night all of you will have your faith in me shaken, for it is written: ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be dispersed’ (Quoting Zech. 13:7); but after I have been raised up, I shall go before you to Galilee (Promise of Resurrection & Leadership).”
- 2) Peter Proclaims Steadfast Loyalty: “Though all may have their faith in you shaken, mine will never be.”
- 3) Jesus Foretells Peter’s Denials: “Amen, I say to you, this very night before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.”
- 4) Peter Insists: “Even though I should have to die with you, I will not deny you.”
- 5) Other Disciples Made Similar Statements
4. Jesus’ Agony in Gethsemane (*Garden of Decision*) Matt. 26:36-56
 (*References: Mark 14:32-52; Luke 22:39-53; John 17:1 – 18:12*)
- a. *Reversing Adam’s Decision in the Garden of Eden*
- 1) *Background:*
- a) *Adam was Created in the Image of God* Gen. 1:26-31
- *Adam was Given Dominion (Rule) Over Earth*
 - *Lord Over Nature*
 - *Father of All Humanity (Procreated in God’s Image)*
- b) *Adam’s Decision to Disobey & Defy God* Gen. 3
- *Adam’s Free Will Choice*
 - *Surrendering His Authority to Satan*
 - *Earth & Nature Cursed* Gen. 3:17-19
 - *His Offspring (All Mankind) Cursed*
 - *Ultimate Curse of Sin – Death & Separation from Creator God*
- c) *God’s Promise of Redemption*
- *Woman’s “Offspring” to Crush (Satan’s) Head (Symbolizing His Authority)* Gen. 3:15
 - *Innocent Animals Slaughtered to Cover their Shame* Gen. 3:21
- d) *Adam Expelled from the Garden* Gen. 3:23-24
- *Angel with Flaming Sword Guarding its Entrance & Tree of Life*
- b. *Jesus’ Agony*
- 1) Jesus and Disciples Go to the Garden of Gethsemane
- a) Jesus Tells His Disciples: “Sit here while I go over there and pray.” (Matt. 26:36)
- b) Jesus Takes Peter, James & John Deeper into Garden

- Begins to Feel Sorrow & Distress
 - Fate of All Mankind Rests on His Total Obedience to God
 - He Needs to Prepare Himself Through Earnest & Effectual Prayer
 - He Can Not be Interrupted Until He Fully Completes His Prayer
 - Says to Peter, James & John: “**My soul is sorrowful even to death. Remain here and keep watch with me.**” (Matt. 26:38)
- c) Jesus Goes Further into Garden by Himself (*Alone with Father God*)
- 2) Jesus Falls Prostrate (*Total Submission*) Before Father God & Prays
- a) “**My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me;**” (Matt. 26:39)
- b) Jesus Must Voluntarily Go Through Humiliation, Torture, Crucifixion & Death (*Holy Sacrifice for Sin*) In Order to Bring Salvation to Mankind
- He Must Suffer Without Presenting a Defense
 - He Must Suffer Without Complaint
 - He Must Suffer Without Hating His Accusers & Persecutors
 - He Must Suffer Without Crying for Mercy
 - He Must Suffer Without Sin or Any Appearance of Sin
 - Etc.
- c) Jesus Yields to His Father’s Will: “**..... yet, not as I will, but as You will.**” (Matt. 26:39)
- *Where Adam Disobeyed & Defied God; Jesus (Son of Man) Obeys & Honors God*
Rom. 5:12-19
 - *Jesus, Innocent of Sin, Offers Himself as a Holy & Perfect Sacrifice*
Heb. 10:5-10
 - *Jesus’ Obedience Gains Us Access to Tree of Life (Eternal Life)*
Heb. 5:7-10
 - *Each of Us Must Personally Decide to Accept Jesus’ Sacrifice & Follow Him*
John 3:16-19
- d) In Order to Provide Total Salvation, Jesus Had To:
- Take Upon Himself the Sins of the World
 - Take Upon Himself All the Effects of Sin (*e.g. Diseases*)
 - Take Upon Himself the Curse of Sin (*Death*)
- e) Jesus Presents Himself as God’s Holy & Perfect Sacrifice
- 3) Jesus Returns to Peter, James & John Finding Them Asleep (*No Human Support*)
- a) Jesus Says to His Chief Disciple (Peter): “**So you could not keep watch with me for one hour? Watch and pray that you may not undergo the test. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.**” (Matt. 26:40-41)
- 4) Jesus Withdraws a Second Time & Prays
- a) “**My Father, if it is not possible that this cup pass without my drinking it, your will be done!**” (Matt. 26:42)
- 5) Jesus Returns Again & Finds His Disciples Asleep
- 6) Jesus Withdraws a Third Time & Prays
- a) Intensity of Jesus’ Agony. “.....to strengthen him an angel from heaven appeared to him. He was in such agony and he prayed so fervently that his sweat became like drops of blood falling on the ground.” Luke 22:43-44
- b) Jesus’ Intercessory Prayer John 17
- His Earthly Life & Ministry Completed
 - He Prayed for His Disciples

- He Prayed for All Believers
- 7) Jesus Returns to His Disciples a Third Time & Finds Them Asleep
 - a) “Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Behold, the hour is at hand when the Son of Man is to be handed over to sinners.
 - b) “Get up, let us go. Look, my betrayer is at hand.” (Matt. 26:45-46)
 - The Appointed Time Had Arrived for Messiah to be Handed Over to Evil Men
- c. Jesus Arrested Matt. 26:47-56
 - 1) Judas Iscariot (the Betrayer) Arrives at the Garden
 - a) Accompanied by Crowd with Swords & Clubs
 - Sent by Chief Priests & Elders
 - b) Judas Arranged a Sign. “The man I shall kiss is the one; arrest him.” (Matt. 26:48)
 - 2) Judas Approaches Jesus
 - a) Greets Jesus “Hail Rabbi” & Kisses Him (*Gesture of Friendship*)
 - 3) Jesus Replies: “Friend, do what you have come for.” (Matt. 26:50)
 - 4) Crowd Lays Hands on Jesus & Arrest Him
 - a) Jesus Peacefully Submits to their Arrest
 - 5) One of Jesus’ Disciples Draws a Sword
 - a) Cuts Off Ear of High Priest’s Servant
 - b) Jesus Admonishes Disciple: “Put your sword back into its sheath, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Do you think that I cannot call upon my Father and he will not provide me at this moment with more than twelve legions (About 72,000) of angels? But then how would the scriptures be fulfilled which say that it must come to pass in this way?” (Matt. 26:52-54)
 - King of Heaven Voluntarily Lays Down His Life
John 18:33-37; John 19:9-13
 - c) Jesus Heals High Priest’s Servant (*Showing Forgiveness*) Luke 22:51
 - 6) Jesus Addresses the Crowd:
 - a) “Have you come out as against a robber (*Sinner*), with swords and clubs to seize me? Day after day I sat teaching in the temple area, yet you did not arrest me.
 - b) Messianic Scriptures Must be Fulfilled. “But all this has come to pass that the writings of the prophets may be fulfilled.” (Matt. 26:55-56)
 - 7) Jesus’ Disciples Flee
 - a) Fulfilling Jesus’ Prophecy. “This night all of you will have your faith in me shaken, for it is written: ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be dispersed’ (Quoting Zech. 13:7 & Applying to Himself)” (Matt. 26:31)

D. **King of Kings Tried**

Matt. 26:57 - 27:31

(References Mark 14:53 - 15:20; Luke 22:54 - 23:25; John 18:15 - 19:16)

1. Jesus’ Trial Before Religious Court

Matt. 26:57 – 27:2

- a. *Jesus Tried as Messiah (God’s Holy Anointed One of Israel) & Son of God*
 - 1) *Jewish Officials Who Tried Jesus*
 - a) *High Priest Caiaphas – Presides Over Trial*
 - b) *High Priest Emeritus Annas*

- c) *The Sanhedrin – Council of 70 Jewish Religious Leaders*
- d) *Jewish Scribes & Elders*
- 2) Jesus Arrested & Taken to High Priest Caiaphas
 - a) Religious Authorities Assemble for Trial
 - b) Peter Follows at a Distance
 - Enters High Priest’s Courtyard
 - Sits Down with Servants & Waits for Outcome of Trial
- b. Sanhedrin Tries Jesus Matt. 26:59-61
 - 1) Intent of Trial. “Then the chief priests and the elders of the people assembled in the palace of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas, and they consulted together to arrest Jesus by treachery and put him to death.” (Matt. 26:3-4)
 - a) To Convict & Sentence Jesus to Death
 - 2) Chief Priests & Sanhedrin Solicit Witnesses
 - a) To Obtain False Testimonies Against Jesus
 - Many False Witnesses Testify
 - Found No Testimony to Convict Jesus
 - No Two Witnesses Agree
 - Finally Two Witnesses Come Forward: “This man said, ‘I can destroy the temple of God and within three days rebuild it.’” (Matt. 26:61)
 - Misquoting Jesus, Who had Said: “**Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up.**” (John 2:19) (Jesus was Referring to His Body. John 2:13-22)
 - b) Prophecy Fulfilled. “**Malicious witnesses come forward, accuse me of things I do not know. They repay me evil for good and I am all alone (Without Counsel).**” Psa. 35:11-12
 - 3) Trial a Travesty of Jewish Law
 - a) Fulfilling Prophecy. Psa. 109:1-7
 - “..... for wicked and treacherous mouths attack me. They speak against me with lying tongues; with hateful words they surround me, attacking me without cause.
 - “In return for my love they slander me, even though I prayed for them. They repay me evil for good, hatred for my love.
 - “My enemies say of me: ‘Find a lying witness, an accuser to stand by his right hand, That he may be judged and found guilty, that his plea may be in vain’”
 - b) Law Requires Confirming Testimonies from 2 Witnesses Deut. 19:15-21
 - No Two Witnesses Agreed!
- c. High Priest Interrogates Jesus Directly Matt. 26:62-68
 - 1) High Priest Rises & Asks Jesus: “Have you no answer? What are these men testifying against you?” (Matt. 26:62)
 - 2) Jesus Remains Silent (See Note 1 Below)
 - a) Fulfilling Prophecy. “**Though he was harshly treated, he submitted and opened not his mouth; Like a lamb led to the slaughter or a sheep before the shearers, he was silent and opened not his mouth.**” Isa. 53:7
 - 3) High Priest Orders Jesus: “I order you to tell us under oath before the living God whether you are the Messiah, the Son of God.” (Matt. 26:63b)
 - a) *It Would have been Disrespectful of the Office of High Priest if Jesus, a*

Jew, Did Not Answer.

- 4) Jesus Answers: “**You have said so. But I tell you: From now on you will see ‘the Son of Man (Messiah) seated at the right hand of the Power (Son of God) (Referring to Psa. 110:1) ’ and ‘coming on the clouds of heaven (Quoting Dan. 7:13).’**” (Matt. 26:64)
 - a) Jesus Testifies that He Is the Messiah the Son of God
- 5) High Priest Tears His Robes (*Sign of Blasphemy*) & Declares: “He has blasphemed! What further need have we of witnesses? You have now heard the blasphemy; what is your opinion?” (Matt. 26:65)
- 6) Court’s Verdict: “He deserves to die!” (Matt. 26:66)
- 7) They Spit in Jesus’ Face, Strike, Blindfold & Mock Him: “Prophecy for us, Messiah: who is it that struck you?”
 - a) Fulfilling Prophecy. “**My face I did not shield from buffets and spitting.**”
Isa. 50:6b
- d. Chief Disciple Denies His King Matt. 26:69-75
 - 1) Peter Sitting in Courtyard
 - a) A Maid Says to Peter: “You too were with Jesus the Galilean.”
 - b) Peter Publicly Replies: “I do not know what you are talking about!”
 - 2) Peter Gets Up & Goes to Gate
 - a) Another Girl Says to Bystanders: “This man was with Jesus the Nazorean.”
 - b) Peter Responds with an Oath: “I do not know the man!”
 - c) Other Bystanders Remark to Peter: “Surely you too are one of them; even your speech gives you away.”
 - d) Peter Curses & Swears: “I do not know the man.”
 - Immediately a Cock Crows
 - 3) Peter Repents
 - a) Remembers Jesus’ Prophecy: “**Before the cock crows you will deny me three times.**”
 - b) Goes Out & Weeps Bitterly
- e. Israel Hands their Messiah-King Over to Gentile Authorities Matt. 27:1-2
 - 1) Chief Priests & Elders Took Counsel Against Jesus
 - a) Sentence Jesus to Death
 - 2) Jesus (the Author of Life) is Bound & Taken to Roman Governor for Execution

2. Judas Iscariot’s Change of Mind & Death

Matt. 27:3-10

- a. Judas Seeing Jesus Convicted - Regrets Betraying Him
- b. Judas Returns the Money to Chief Priests & Elders
 - 1) Says to Conspirators: “I have sinned in betraying innocent blood.”
 - 2) Conspirators Reply: “What is that to us? Look to it yourself.”
 - 3) Judas Throws Money into the Temple
 - a) Fulfilling Prophecy. “**But the LORD said to me, ‘Throw it in the treasury, the handsome price at which they valued me (Messiah-Lord).’ So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the treasury in the house of the LORD.**”
Zech. 11:13
 - 4) Chief Priests Gather the Money. “It is not lawful to deposit this in the temple treasury, for it is the price of blood.”
 - a) They Purchase a Burial Ground for Foreigners – Called “Field of Blood”

c. Judas Commits Suicide by Hanging Himself

3. Jesus' Trial Before World's (Criminal) Court Matt. 27:11-26
- a. *Jesus Tried as King & Son of Man*
 1) *Tried by Pilate - Roman (Earthly Empire) Governor of Judea (Jesus' Tribal / Ancestral Territory, Including Israel's Capital City Jerusalem)*
- b. Chief Priests & Elders Bring Accusations Against Jesus Luke 23:1-2
 1) "We found this man misleading our people; he opposes the payment of taxes to Caesar (*A Lie*) and maintains that he is the Messiah, a king."
- c. Pilate Questions Jesus Matt. 27:11-14
 1) Pilate Asks Jesus: "Are you the King of the Jews?" (*Matt. 27:11*)
 2) Jesus Answers: "**You say so.**" ("*Yes*" *Proclaiming Himself King of Jews*)
 3) Pilate Questions Jesus Further. "Do you not hear how many things they are testifying against you?" (*Matt. 27:13*)
 4) Jesus Remains Silent to Pilate's Amazement (*See Note 1 Below*)
 a) Fulfilling Prophecy. "**Though he was harshly treated, he submitted and opened not his mouth; Like a lamb led to the slaughter or a sheep before the shearers, he was silent and opened not his mouth.** *Isa. 53:7*
- d. Pilate Sends Jesus to Herod - Tetrarch of Galilee (*Jesus' Hometown Region*)
 Luke 23:5-12
 1) Herod Questions Jesus at Length
 2) Jesus Refuses to Answer (*See Note 1 Below*)
 3) Herod & Guards Mock & Abuse Jesus, then Return Him to Pilate
 a) "Clothing Him in Resplendent Garb (*Royal Robe?*)" (*Luke 25:11*)
- e. Pilate Offers to Release a Prisoner for Passover (Implying Jesus) Matt. 27:15-18
 1) Custom to Release a Prisoner During Passover
 a) Pilate Asks Crowd: "Which one do you want me to release to you, (Jesus) Barabbas, or Jesus called Messiah?" (*Matt. 27:17*)
 - Barabbas Convicted of Insurrection & Murder
 - Pilate Knows Jewish Authorities had Handed Jesus Over to Him Because of Envy / Jealousy
 b) Pilate Receives Message from His Wife
 - "Have nothing to do with that righteous man. I suffered much in a dream today because of him." (*Matt. 27:19*)
 c) Chief Priests & Elders Persuade Crowd to Ask for Barabbas' Release & Jesus' Execution
 d) Pilate Asks Crowd: "Which of the two do you want me to release to you?" (*Matt. 27:21*)
 - Crowd Replies: "Barabbas"
 - *Israel Chooses a Condemned Criminal Over their Messiah*
- f. Pilate Asks Chief Priests & People: "Then what shall I do with Jesus called Messiah?" (*Matt. 27:22*)
 1) Crowd Replies: "Let him be crucified!"
 2) Pilate Retorts: "Why? What evil has he done?" (*Matt. 27:23*)
 a) Crowd Shouts Back Louder: "Let him be crucified!"
 3) Pilate Sees a Riot is Breaking Out
 a) Washes His Hands in Front of Crowd, Saying: "I am innocent of this man's blood. Look to it yourselves." (*Matt. 27:24*)
 4) People Declare: "His blood be upon us (*These Individual People Condemning*)"

- Jesus*) and upon our children.” (*Matt. 27:25*)
- a) Fulfilling Prophecy. “When you spread out your hands (*Gesture of Priests*), I (*Lord*) close my eyes to you; Though you pray the more, I will not listen. Your hands are full of blood!” *Isa. 1:15*
- 5) Pilate Compromises to Please the Crowd
- a) Releases a Convicted Criminal – Barabbas
 - b) Condemns an Innocent Man – Jesus – to a Horrific Death
 - *Jesus Takes the Place of a Sinner*
- g. Pilate Orders Jesus Scourged (Roman “½ Death” Flogging) *Matt. 27:26b*
(Jesus Took All Our Infirmities Upon Himself – Conquering Them)
(See Note 2 Below)
- 1) Fulfilling Prophecy. “Many bulls surround me; fierce bulls (*Strong Soldiers*) of Bashan (*Gentiles*) encircle me. They open their mouths against me (*Mock Him*), lions that rend (*Tear His Flesh*) and roar.” *Psa. 22:13-14*
 - 2) Fulfilling Prophecy. “I gave my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who plucked my beard; The Lord GOD is my help, therefore I am not disgraced; I have set my face like flint (*Jesus Does Not Cry for Mercy*), knowing that I shall not be put to shame.” *Isa. 50:6-7*
 - 3) Fulfilling Prophecy. “Yet it was our infirmities that he bore, our sufferings that he endured, While we thought of him as stricken, as one smitten by God and afflicted. But he was pierced for our offenses, crushed for our sins, Upon him was the chastisement that makes us whole, by his stripes we were healed.” *Isa. 53:4-5*
- h. Jesus Sentenced to Death by Crucifixion (*A Criminal’s Execution*) *Matt. 27:26c*
- 1) Fulfilling Prophecy. “Oppressed and condemned, he was taken away, and who would have thought any more of his destiny? When he was cut off from the land of the living, and smitten for the sin of his people, A grave was assigned him among the wicked and a burial place with evildoers, Though he had done no wrong nor spoken any falsehood.” *Isa. 53:8-9*
- i. Jesus Humiliated, Mocked & Crowned with Thorns (*Earth’s Crown*)
Matt. 27:27-31
(Jesus Took the Curse of Nature Upon Himself – Conquering It.) (See Note 3 Below)
- 1) *God’s Curse of Man & Earth (Nature)* *Gen. 3:17-19*
 - a) “..... Cursed be the ground because of you (*Adam*)! In toil shall you eat its yield all the days of your life. Thorns and thistles shall it bring forth to you, as you eat of the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face shall you get bread to eat, until you return to the ground from which you were taken; For you are dirt, and to dirt you shall return.”
 - 2) Roman Soldiers Mock Jesus as King
Soldiers Unknowingly Foreshadow Messiah’s Earthly Kingship & Victory
 - a) Whole Cohort (About 300 – 600 Soldiers) Gather Around Jesus
 - *Represent Mankind Opposing God throughout Ages*
 - b) Soldiers Strip Jesus Naked
 - *As Adam, Ashamed of His Sin, was Naked & Hiding from God*
 - *So, Jesus, without Sin, was Stripped Naked before Men – Bearing Our Shame* *Rom. 10:11*
 - c) Soldiers Wrap a Scarlet Military Robe on His Bleeding Body
 - *Jacob’s Prophecy Over Judah - Fulfilled by Jesus (Tribe of Judah)* *Gen. 49:8-12*

- *“..... In wine he washes his garments his robe in the blood of grapes.” (Gen. 49:11)*
 - *Jesus’ Royal Robe is Stained with Blood Rev. 19:11-16*
 - *“He wore a cloak that had been dipped in blood, and his name was called the Word of God.” (Rev. 19:13)*
 - *Symbols of King Jesus’ Conquest by Sacrifice*
 - d) *Soldiers Crown His Head with Thorns*
 - *Crown is Symbol of a King*
 - *Thorns Represent Curse of Earth*
 - *Jesus Takes this Curse Upon Himself, Conquering it*
 - *Christ Jesus Gains Authority & Dominion Over All Nature*
 - e) *Soldiers Put a Reed in His Right Hand as a Scepter*
 - *Jacob’s Prophecy Over Judah - Fulfilled by Jesus (Tribe of Judah) Gen. 49:8-12*
 - *“The scepter shall never depart from Judah*” (Gen. 49:10)
 - *Reed (Sways in Breeze) Symbol of Instability*
 - *Jesus Will Rule with a “Rod of Iron” Psa. 2*
 - f) *Soldiers Genuflect before Him Proclaiming: "All Hail, King of the Jews"*
 - *All Creation will Bow Before King of Kings. “..... God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” Phil. 2:5-11*
 - g) *Soldiers Spit on Him & Strike His Head with the Reed*
 - *Fulfilling Prophecy. “I gave my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who plucked my beard; My face I did not shield from buffets and spitting.” Isa. 50:6*
 - h) *Prophecy Fulfilled. Isa. 52:14-15*
 - *“Even as many were amazed at him— so marred was his look beyond that of man, and his appearance beyond that of mortals (Jesus Beaten Beyond Recognition)”*
 - *“So shall he startle many nations, because of him kings shall stand speechless; For those who have not been told shall see, those who have not heard shall ponder it.”*
- 3) *Soldiers Rip Robe Off His Body, Redressed Him & Lead Him Away to be Crucified*

Trial Notes & Comments.

1. *Why didn’t Jesus answer in his defense?*

- *Spiritual Perspective. Jesus voluntarily laid down his life: 1) in total obedience and submission to Father God, 2) in fulfillment of Scriptures, 3) in compliance with the prescribed sacrificial laws for atonement of sin, and 4) confirming and effecting His own teachings and prophetic predictions.*
- *Human Perspective. I believe that Jesus had the intellect, skills, power and authority to deliver a defense that would have convinced his accusers and the presiding judges to acquit Him. I also believe that Jesus had the option and power to call upon Heavenly Hosts to rescue Him at any time during His passion. Such an acquittal or rescue would have truncated the Lord God’s Plan of Salvation, where a sinless Messiah would take our sins upon Himself and die in our place. Such a truncation would have resulted in: 1) Satan retaining dominion over Earth, and 2) all*

mankind remaining guilty of sin, defenseless before a Holy God and eternally damned. Because of His love for us, Jesus choose to remain silent, suffer and die as a holy and perfect sacrifice. His holy and perfect sacrifice satisfied God's justice, securing for us forgiveness of sins, salvation and eternal life. (John 3:16-18; John 15:13; Acts 20:28; Rom. 3:21-26; Heb. 9:11 – 10:18)

2. *I believe that all disabilities, sickness, disease, fatigue and frailties suffered by man are a result of Man's Sinful State associated with the Curse of Sin – Death. The Roman Scourge was an horrendous torture, which when applied to Jesus (Son of Man) gave Satan the opportunity to break Jesus' human spirit /will. Any cry for mercy by Jesus would have subjected Him to man's pity/will. Jesus; however, remained silent during this ordeal, totally conquering it. Here, Jesus took all our infirmities upon Himself, conquering them, redeeming us from that curse and granting us health and strength in His Name. We, as Christians, should confidently ask and expect the Lord to heal our infirmities (James 5:13-16). When King Jesus returns to earth, all disabilities, sickness, disease, fatigue and frailties will be eliminated at His presence (Mal. 3:19-20; Mal. 4:1-3 KJV).*
3. *God gave Adam dominion over the Earth. When Adam sinned, God cursed the Earth (Nature) along with Adam, making Man subject to it. It is only through toil and hard work that man can sustain himself, while nature itself competes for its own resources (i.e. weeds, thorns, insects, flood, drought, etc.). The Roman Soldiers mockingly crown Jesus (the Author of Life) with thorns, but Jesus overcomes them by taking the curse of nature upon Himself, conquering it and gaining His (Son of Man's) authority over nature, as God originally intended for Adam. Jesus not only has power and authority over nature, but over the implied curse of poverty. Jesus is our source. Our life's work should be serving Him in accordance with His will, grace and providence. In His Messianic Reign, all nature will be subject to its King (Jesus – Messiah) and in harmony with itself and man (See "Messianic Kingdom" Study), as originally intended in creation.*

E. King's Execution

Matt. 27:32-66

(References Mark 15:21-47; Luke 23:26-56; John 19:16-42)

Examples of Old Testament Prophecies

Psa. 22; Isa. 53

1. Jesus' Way to the Cross (Messiah's Death March)

Matt. 27:32-34

- a. Soldiers Order Simon of Cyrene to Carry Jesus' Cross
(Represents Man Carrying the Burden of Sin)
 - 1) Jesus Physically Weakened by Severe Beating & Scourging
 - 2) Soldiers Wanted to Make Sure Jesus had Enough Strength to be Crucified
 - 3) Fulfilling Prophecy. **"Oppressed and condemned, he was taken away (to be Executed), and who would have thought any more of his destiny? When he was cut off from the land of the living, and smitten for the sin of his people"**
Isa. 53:8
- b. They Arrive at Place of Execution - Golgotha ("Skull Place")
(Representing Death & Hell – The Curse of Sin)
- c. Soldiers Offer Jesus Wine Mixed with Gall (To Lessen Pain & Extend Dying)
 - 1) Prophecy Fulfilled: **"Insult has broken my heart, and I am weak; I looked for compassion, but there was none, for comforters, but found none. Instead they put gall in my food; for my thirst they gave me vinegar."** Psa. 69:21-22
 - 2) Jesus Tastes & Refuses to Drink
 - a) He Will Not Compromise the Full Measure of His Sacrifice
 - b) He Will Not Yield Control Over His Life

2. Messiah-King Crucified (*Sacrificial Libation*) Matt. 27:35-44
- a. Jesus Publicly Crucified
 - 1) Jesus Nailed to Cross by His Hands & Feet
 - a) Fulfilling Prophecy: “Many dogs (*Gentiles*) surround me; a pack of evildoers (*Sinners*) closes in on me. So wasted are my hands and feet [“they pierce my hands and my feet.....” Psa. 22:16 KJV] that I can count all my bones.” Psa. 22:17-18
 - 2) Jesus Hangs Suspended on Cross – Suffocating by His Own Body Weight
 - a) Fulfilling Prophecy. “Like water my life drains away; all my bones grow soft (*Weakening*). My heart has become like wax, it melts away within me (*Suffocating*). As dry as a potsherd is my throat (*Dehydrating*); my tongue sticks to my palate; you lay me in the dust of death.” Psa. 22:15-16
 - b. Jesus’ Remaining Worldly Possessions Stolen & Gambled Away
 - 1) “After they (*Roman Soldiers*) had crucified him, they divided his garments by casting lots; then they sat down and kept watch over him there.” (Matt. 27:35-36)
 - a) Fulfilling Prophecy. “They stare at me and gloat; they divide my garments among them; for my clothing they cast lots.” Psa. 22:19
 - c. Rome’s (*World’s Empire*) Declaration
 - 1) Soldiers Place a Plaque Over Jesus’ Head (*King’s Banner*): “This is Jesus, the King of the Jews”
 - d. Jesus Executed Between Two Revolutionaries/Criminals (*Sinners*)
 - 1) Fulfilling Prophecy.
 - a) “A grave was assigned him among the wicked and a burial place with evildoers, Though he had done no wrong (*Without Sin*) nor spoken any falsehood (*Spoke Only Truth*).” Isa. 53:9
 - b) “..... he surrendered himself to death and was counted among the wicked; And he shall take away the sins of many, and win pardon for their offenses.” Isa. 53:12
 - e. Messiahship (*Son of God / King of Israel*) Mocked
 - 1) Israelite People: “You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself, if you are the Son of God, (and) come down from the cross!” (Matt. 27:40)
 - 2) Chief Priests, Scribes & Elders: “He saved others; he cannot save himself. So he is the king of Israel! Let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He trusted in God; let him deliver him now if he wants him. For he said, ‘I am the Son of God.’” (Matt. 27:42-43)
 - 3) “The revolutionaries who were crucified with him also kept abusing him in the same way” (Matt. 27:24)
 - 4) Fulfilling Prophecy: “All who see me mock me; they curl their lips and jeer; they shake their heads at me: ‘You relied on the LORD—let him deliver you; if he loves you, let him rescue you.’” Psa. 22:8-9
3. Jesus Christ’s Death Matt. 27:45-54
- a. Darkness Covers the Land
 - 1) “From noon onward, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon.” (Matt. 27:45)
 - a) The Light of the World (John 8:12) was Dying
 - 2) Fulfilling Prophecy. “On that day (of Messiah’s Sacrifice), says the Lord GOD,

I will make the sun set at midday (Noon) and cover the earth with darkness in broad daylight. I will turn your feasts (i.e. Passover Festival) into mourning and all your songs into lamentations. I will cover the loins of all with sackcloth and make every head bald. I will make them mourn as for an only son (Jesus a Fellow Jew), and bring their day to a bitter end.” Amos 8:9-10

- b. Jesus' Loud Cry (*Cry of the Burden of Sin*)
- 1) “And about three o'clock Jesus cried out in a loud voice, ‘Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?’ which means, ‘My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?’” (*Matt. 27:46*)
 - a) Jesus Quotes Scripture Applying it to Himself (*Word of God*). “My God, my God, why have you abandoned me? Why so far from my call for help, from my cries of anguish?” Psalms 22:1 or 2
 - b) Jesus Became Our Sin on the Cross Gal. 3:13; 1 Pet. 2:21-24
 - “We had all gone astray like sheep, each following his own way; But the LORD laid upon him the guilt (*Sins*) of us all.” Isa. 53:6
 - c) A Holy God Can Not Look Upon Sin
 - d) Father God Turned Away from His Dying Son
 - So, He Would Not Turn Away from Us Sinners - Who Ask Forgiveness & Life in Jesus' Name John 3:14-18; 2 Cor. 5:21
 - 2) Some Bystanders Remark: “This one is calling for Elijah.” (*Matt. 27:47*)
 - a) One Bystander Soaks a Sponge in Wine (Sour Wine – Vinegar)
 - Puts it on Reed & Gives to Jesus to Drink
 - Fulfilling Prophecy. “.....for my thirst they gave me vinegar.” Psalms 69:22
 - b) Others Say: “Wait, let us see if Elijah comes to save him.” (*Matt. 27:49*)
- c. Jesus' Groan of Death (*Groan of All Mankind Because of the Curse of Sin*)
- 1) “But Jesus cried out again in a loud voice, and gave up his spirit.” (*Matt. 27:50*)
 - a) Jesus Completed His Salvific Mission: “**It is finished**” John 19:30
 - b) Jesus Releases His Spirit & Dies: “**Father, into your hands I commend my spirit**” Luke 23:46
 - **Quoting Scripture with His Dying Breath** Psalms 31:6
- d. At Jesus' Death the Temple Veil is Rent from Top (*Heaven*) to Bottom (*Earth*) Heb. 9:1 – 10:18
- 1) “And behold, the veil of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom.” (*Matt. 27:51a*)
 - a) Veil Isolates the Holy of Holies (*God's Dwelling Place*) from Israelites
 - b) God is Released from His Dwelling - Jesus' Body
 - c) Atonement for Sin Paid in Full Lev. 16
 - God's Paschal Lamb (*Jesus*) Slain John 1:29
 - d) The Spirit of God Becomes Available to All John 1:12-13; 1 Cor. 3:16
- e. Physical Earthly Manifestations at Jesus' Death (*Creation Groans - Creator Has Died*)
- 1) “The earth quaked, rocks were split” (*Matt. 27:51b*)
- f. Tombs Open at Jesus' Death (*Christ - Victor in His Death*)
- 1) “tombs were opened, and the bodies of many saints who had fallen asleep were raised. And coming forth from their tombs after his resurrection, they entered the holy city and appeared to many.” (*Matt. 27:52-53*)

- a) Righteous Dead Raised
- b) Redeemed & Set Free (*Released from Curse of Sin*)
- g. Roman Soldiers Terror-Stricken
 - 1) “The centurion and the men with him who were keeping watch over Jesus feared greatly when they saw the earthquake and all that was happening, and they said, “Truly, this was the Son of God!” (*Matt. 27:54*)
- h. Prophecy Fulfilled. “But the LORD was pleased to crush him in infirmity. If he (*Jesus Christ*) gives his life as an offering for sin, he shall see his descendants (*Church / Believing Christians*) in a long (*Eternal*) life, and the will of the LORD shall be accomplished through him. Because of his affliction he shall see the light (*Divinity*) in fullness of days (*Eternity*); Through his suffering, my servant shall justify many, and their guilt he shall bear. Therefore I (*Father God*) will give him his portion (*Messiah-King*) among the great, and he shall divide the spoils with the mighty, Because he surrendered himself to death and was counted among the wicked; And he (*Jesus-Savior*) shall take away the sins of many, and win pardon for their offenses.” *Isa. 53:10-12*
- i. Prophetic Promise to the Crucified One. “All the ends of the earth will worship and turn to the LORD; All the families of nations will bow low before you. For kingship belongs to the LORD, the ruler over the nations. All who sleep in the earth will bow low before God; All who have gone down into the dust will kneel in homage. And I will live for the LORD; my descendants will serve you. The generation to come will be told of the Lord, that they may proclaim to a people yet unborn the deliverance you have brought.” *Psa. 22:28-32*

4. Jesus' Burial

Matt. 27:55-66

- a. Faithful Women Witness Jesus' Death
 - 1) Mary Magdalene
 - 2) Mary the Mother of James & Joseph
 - 3) Mary the Mother of Zebedee's Sons (James & John)
- b. Joseph of Arimathea Asks Pilate for Jesus' Body
 - 1) Pilate Orders Jesus' Body Given to Him
- c. Joseph Prepares & Buries Jesus' Body
 - 1) Body Wrapped in Linen (*Symbol of Purity*)
 - 2) Corpse Laid in Borrowed Tomb (*Awaiting Resurrection*)
 - a) Joseph's New Tomb Hewed Out of a Rock
 - 3) Large Stone Rolled Across Tomb Entrance
- d. Mary Magdalene & Other Marys Sat Facing the Tomb
- e. Jesus' Tomb Physically Secured *Matt. 27:62-66*
 - 1) Chief Priests & Pharisees Approach Pilate & Request
 - a) “Sir, we remember that this impostor while still alive said, ‘**After three days I will be raised up.**’
 - b) “Give orders, then, that the grave be secured until the third day, lest his disciples come and steal him and say to the people, ‘He has been raised from the dead.’ This last imposture would be worse than the first.” (*Matt. 27:63-64*)
 - 2) Pilate's Response: “The guard is yours; go secure it as best you can.” (*Matt. 27:65*)
 - 3) Jesus' Tomb is Secured by Sealing the Entrance Stone & Stationing Guards

On the 15th Day of the 1st Month in the Jewish Calendar, the Jews Celebrate the “Feast of Unleavened Bread” (Lev. 23:6) – the Second Feast of the Passover Festival. On that Day, the Dead Body of Jesus Christ (“The Bread of Life”) Lays in the Tomb.

Jesus Promised to Triumph Over Death by Rising from the Dead:

- “The Son of Man is to be handed over to men, and they will kill him, and he will be raised on the third day.”
Matt. 17:22-23
- “Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death, and hand him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and scourged and crucified, and he will be raised on the third day.”
Matt. 20:18-19

PART VII - CHRIST'S ETERNAL KINGDOM**Matt. 28****A. King's Resurrection (Jesus Christ's Victory Over Sin & Death)** Matt. 28:1-15
(References Mark 16:1-14; Luke 24:1-45; John 20)

1. Jesus Raised from the Dead Matt. 28:1-10
 - a. Dawn on First Day of Week (Sunday) – Day after Passover Sabbath
 - 1) *The Day Jews Celebrate the Feast of First Fruits* Lev. 23:9-14
 - a) *Feast of First Fruits Commemorates Israel's 1st Harvest in Promise Land*
 - b) *Feast Fulfilled by Jesus Christ Rising from the Dead (See A.3.c Below)*
 - *Jesus is the First of the Harvest of Souls to be Resurrected unto Eternal Life.*
 - b. Women Go to the Tomb
 - 1) Mary Magdalene
 - 2) Other Mary (Mother of James & Salome)
 - c. There was a Great Earthquake
 - d. An Angel Descended from Heaven
 - 1) Angel Rolled Back the Stone from Tomb Entrance & Sat On It
 - 2) Angel's Appearance Like Lightning with Clothing White as Snow
 - e. Guards at Tomb Immobilized with Fear
 - f. Angel Testifies to Women:
 - 1) "Do not be afraid! I know that you are seeking Jesus the crucified. He is not here, for he has been raised just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay
 - a) Shows Women the Empty Tomb
 - 2) "Then go quickly and tell (testify to) his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him.' Behold, I have told you." (Matt. 28:5-7)
 - a) Tells Women to Testify of Jesus' Resurrection
 - g. Women Run to Tell Disciples
 - h. Jesus Appears to Women: "**Do not be afraid. Go tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me.** (Testify to His Disciples)" (Matt. 27:10)
 - i. Jesus' Resurrection from Dead Fulfills Prophecy

Examples:

 - 1) "I keep the LORD always before me; with the Lord at my right, I shall never be shaken. Therefore my heart is glad, my soul rejoices; my body also dwells secure, For you (Father God) will not abandon me to Sheol (Nether World), nor let your faithful servant (Messiah) see the pit (Physical Corruption). You will show me the path to life (Resurrection), abounding joy in your presence, the delights at your right hand forever (Eternal Life at God's Right Hand)." Psa. 16:8-11
 - 2) "Into your hands I commend my spirit (Jesus' Statement as He Releases His Spirit & Dies); you will redeem (Resurrect from Dead) me, LORD, faithful God." Psa. 31:6
 - 3) "Because of his affliction (Jesus' Suffering & Death) he shall see the light in fullness of days (Resurrection & Life); Through his suffering, my servant shall justify many, and their guilt (Sins) he shall bear (Promise of Redemption through Christ's Suffering, Death & Resurrection)." Isa. 53:11

- j. Jesus Resurrected in Accordance with His Own Predications
(Other References: Matt. 12:38-41; Mark 8:31; Mark 9:31; Mark 10:33-34; Luke 9:22; Luke 11:29-30 & 32; Luke 18:31-33)
- 1) “**Just as Jonah was in the belly of the whale three days and three nights, so will the Son of Man be in the heart of the earth three days and three nights.**”
(Matt. 12:40)
 - 2) “From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer greatly from the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed and on the third day be raised.” Matt. 16:21
 - 3) “**The Son of Man is to be handed over to men, and they will kill him, and he will be raised on the third day.**” Matt. 17:22-23
 - 4) “**Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death, and hand him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and scourged and crucified, and he will be raised on the third day.**” Matt. 20:18-19
2. Conspiracy to Discredit Jesus’ Resurrection Matt. 28:11-15
- a. Guards from Tomb Go to Chief Priests (*Jesus’ Accusers*)
 - 1) Tell All that Happened at Tomb Site
 - a) Great Earthquake,
 - b) Angel Appears from Heaven & Rolls Away the Stone from Tomb,
 - c) Guards Immobilized by Fear,
 - d) Jesus’ Tomb Empty, and
 - e) Whatever Else They Witnessed.
 - b. Chief Priests Counsel with Elders
 - 1) Agree on a Cover-Up
 - a) Disregarding Guards’ Testimony
 - 2) Bribe Guards to Lie: “You are to say, ‘His disciples came by night and stole him while we were asleep.’ And if this gets to the ears of the governor, we will satisfy (him) and keep you out of trouble.” *(Matt. 28:13-14)*
 - c. Soldiers Took Money & Did as Instructed
 - 1) Lie Circulated Among Jewish Community
3. Jesus Christ Our Resurrected King
- a. Jesus Christ Appeared To:
 - 1) The Women at the Tomb Matt. 28:8-10; John 20:11-18
 - 2) Two Disciples on Road to Emmaus Later that Day Luke 24:13-35
 - 3) His Disciples in Jerusalem that Evening Luke 24:36-53; John 20:19-25
 - 4) His Disciples in Jerusalem a Week Later John 20:26-29
 - 5) His Disciples in Galilee John 21
 - 6) More than 500 People Over 40 Day Period
 - a) “..... He (*Jesus*) presented himself alive to them (*Disciples*) by many proofs after he had suffered (*and Died*), appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.” Acts 1:1-3
 - b) “..... Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures; that he was buried; that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures; that he appeared to Kephaz, then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at once, After that he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. 1 Cor. 15:1-7

- 7) To His Disciples When He Ascended into Heaven
Mark 16:19-20; Luke 25:50-53; Acts 1:6-9
- 8) To Paul on the Road to Damascus Acts 9:1-9
 - a) After Jesus Ascended into Heaven
- b. Jesus Christ Conquers Death & Offers Us Eternal Life
 - 1) Proving He is Victorious Over Sin & Its Curses
 - 2) Proving He has Power & Authority Over Death
 - 3) He is Our Guarantee of Resurrection & Eternal Life
- c. Jesus Christ the “First Fruits” 1 Cor. 15:20-58
 - 1) “But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep (*Died Believing in Christ*). For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead came also through a human being. For just as in Adam all die, so too in Christ shall all be brought to life, but each one in proper order: Christ the firstfruits; then, at his (*Second*) coming, those who belong to Christ; then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to his God and Father, when he has destroyed every sovereignty and every authority and power.” (*1 Cor. 15:20-24*)

B. King Commissions His Apostles (*Church's Marching Orders*) Matt. 28:16-20
(*References: Mark 16:15-20; Luke 24:46-53; John 21; Acts 1:1-11*)

- 1. Jesus Prepared His Disciples to Expand His Kingdom
 - a. He Trained His Disciples During His Ministry
 - b. Disciples Witnessed His Anointed Ministry
 - c. He Fully Prepared the Way into His Kingdom (Salvation)
 - 1) By His Ministry, Suffering, Death & Resurrection
 - d. He Appeared to His Disciples for 40 Days After His Resurrection
 - 1) Training & Preparing them for Anointed Ministries
- 2. Jesus Commissions His Church to Expand His Kingdom Matt. 28:16-20
(*Other References. Mark 16:15-18; Luke 24:46-48; Acts 1:8*)
 - a. Jesus Meets with His 11 Disciples in Galilee
 - 1) At Mountain Jesus Designated
 - 2) Disciples Worship Jesus (*Acknowledging His Divinity.*)
 - b. Jesus' Commission to Evangelize the World Matt. 28:18-20
 - 1) **“All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me** (*Christ Jesus - Omnipotent King*).
 - 2) **“Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations** (*Evangelize All Mankind*),
 - 3) **“baptizing them** (*Bring them into the Kingdom*) **in the name of the Father, and of the Son** (*Christ Jesus Equal with Father God - Yahweh*), **and of the holy Spirit** (*Trinity*),
 - 4) **“teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you** (*Prepare Citizens to Live as Christ Jesus & Expand the Kingdom*).
 - 5) **“And behold, I am with you always** (*Christ the Omnipresent King - Center of His Kingdom*), **until the end of the age** (*Christ the King's Final, Total & Eternal Victory*).”

C. Epilog

Apostles Creed: “..... He ascended into heaven, sits at the right hand of God, the Father

almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.”

Catholic Profession of Faith: “..... On the third day He rose again in fulfillment of the Scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end.”

1. Christ Jesus’ Ascension into Heaven

Mark 16:19-20; Luke 24:50-53; Acts 1:1-11

- a. “When they (*Jesus’ Disciples*) had gathered together they asked him (*Jesus*), “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”
- b. He answered them, “**It is not for you to know the times or seasons that the Father has established by his own authority. But you will receive power when the holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.**”
- c. “When he had said this, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him from their sight.” (*Acts 1:6-9*)

2. Christ Jesus’ Glorification & Enthronement in Heaven

John 17:4-5; Phil. 2:5-11; Col. 1:15-20; Heb. 1

- a. “In times past (*Under Old Covenant*), God spoke in partial and various ways to our ancestors through the prophets; in these last days, he spoke to us through a son (*Jesus Christ – Son of God*), whom he made heir of all things and through whom he created the universe, who is the refulgence (*Reflection*) of his glory, the very imprint of his being, and who sustains all things by his mighty word.
- b. “When he had accomplished purification from sins (*Jesus’ Sacrifice, Death & Resurrection*), he took his seat at the right hand of the Majesty on high (*Glorified & Enthroned at God’s Right Hand*), as far superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.” (*Heb. 1:1-4*)

3. Christ Jesus & His Church

- a. Christ is Our High Priest Heb. 2:14-18; Heb. 4:14 – 5:10; Heb. 9
- b. Christ Empowered His Church by Sending the Holy Spirit Acts 1:8; Acts 2; 1 Cor. 12:1-11
- c. Christ is the Head of His Church (*Mystical Body of Christ*) 1 Cor. 12:12-31; Eph. 1:22-23; Eph. 4; Rev. 1 – 3

4. Promise of Messiah’s Return to Earth to Reign as King of Kings & Lord of Lords

Psa. 96 & 96; Isa. 61 – 64; Zech. 14:1-11; Matt. 24:29-42; Matt. 25:31-46; Matt. 26:24; 1 Cor. 15:20-28; 1 Cor. 15:50-57; 1 Thess. 4:13-17; Rev. 19 & 20

- a. “The Spirit (*Holy Spirit*) and the bride (*Church*) say, ‘Come.’ Let the hearer say, ‘Come.’ Let the one who thirsts come forward, and the one who wants it receive the gift of life-giving water.” Rev. 22:17
- b. Jesus: “**Yes, I am coming soon.**” Rev. 22:20
 - 1) Church Answers: **“Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!”**

(See “Messianic Kingdom” for a Closer Study of Jesus Christ’s Kingdom)