

# MATTHEW

(from *Written to be Heard*)

## **Message #1: God is in control of Israel's history and its witness to the nations (28.18-20).**

“An account of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham....”

(1.1); 3 epochs, 14 generations each: the mathematical precise structure=*God in control!*

“from Abraham to David are fourteen generations;

- from David to the deportation to Babylon, fourteen generations;
- from the deportation to Babylon to the Messiah, fourteen generations” (1.17).
- “Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way...” (1.18).

--Confirming divine control, a follow-up with overlapping patterns (1.19-4.16): (1) heavenly dreams mapping earthly ways; (2) stars above directing traffic below; (3) Scripture fulfilled.

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## **Message #2: The “gospel” in Matthew is “the good news of the kingdom” taught and demonstrated by Jesus (It's near, and here! 4.17; 4.23-24).**

The main body of Matthew (chs 5-25) is structured around 5 teachings (“discourses”).

1	Kingdom: Law as Covenant Attitude and Action	<i>to Everyone</i>	(5-7)
2	Kingdom: Mission	<i>to Disciples</i>	(10.1-42)
3	Kingdom: Snapshots & Responses	<i>to Everyone</i>	(13:1-52)
2*	Kingdom: Mission	<i>to Disciples</i>	(18:1-35)
1*	Kingdom: Law as Covenant Attitude and Action	<i>to Everyone</i>	(23-25)

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## **Message #3: To be saved—to enter this kingdom—one's righteousness must exceed that of the religious rulers (5.20). Salvation requires repentance, a daily changing of heart (D.B. Hart).**

--“Change your heart,” says John, “for the kingdom of heaven has come near” (3.2).

--“Change your heart,” says Jesus, “for the kingdom of heaven has come near” (4.17).

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## **Message #4: Righteousness means following the law as fulfilled—expanded upon—by Jesus.**

--“I have come not to abolish but to fulfill [the law]” (5.17). How so? By extending its demand to deal with one's heart & fundamental orientations (repentance)—not just keeping the rules..

--The Law: “You shall not murder”; Spirit of Law: “If you are angry...liable to hell” (5.21-22).

--The Law: “Love your neighbor...”; Spirit of Law: “Love your enemies...” (5.43-44).

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## **Message #5: Jesus's death provides “blood of the covenant...poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins,” for those faithful to the covenant, striving to obey its fulfilled law.**

The covenant faithful are those who “strive for the kingdom of God and his righteousness,” a righteousness taught by Jesus (6.33).

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## **Message #6: Being saved through a righteous that strives to follow the law updated by Jesus is impossible for mortals—but nothing is impossible for God. (19.26)**

Salvation, entering the kingdom, is possible through divine empowerment: Matthew frames his entire story with indicators that with God being saved is possible:

- (a) 1.23 “They shall name him *Emmanuel*, which means, ‘God with us.’”
- (b) 28.20 “And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”