

MATTHEW

from *Written to be Heard*

Message #1: God is in control of Israel's history and its witness to the nations.

(1.1-18; 28.18-20)

"An account of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham...."(1.1)
(3 epochs, or "ages": 14 generations each: 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).

This last of 4 epochs, inaugurated by Israel's Messiah, is the kingdom age—ending at Judgment Day (*"So it will be at the end of the age: the angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous,"* 13.49).

God's control of all 4 ages shown through interwoven patterns of repetition (Intro 1.19-4.16):

- heavenly dreams mapping earthly ways;
- stars above directing traffic below;
- Scripture fulfilled

Message #2: The gospel in Matthew is the law & kingdom taught and shown by Jesus.

"Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people" (4.23).

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

Message #3: To be saved—to enter the kingdom—requires repentance, a daily changing of heart. (D.H. Hart translates "repent" as "change your heart.")

- *"Repent,"* says John, *"for the kingdom of heaven has come near"* (3.2).
- *"Repent,"* says Jesus, *"for the kingdom of heaven has come near"* (4.17).

Message #4: Righteousness requires a rightly oriented heart, following the "fulfilled law" taught by Jesus—which results in covenant fidelity. (5.17, 5.21 & ff., especially 5.43-44)

- *Blessed are the poor in spirit, those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, the merciful, the pure in heart* (Matthew 5ff). Blessed with the salvation of kingdom entrance are those who love not just their neighbor but their enemy as well (5.43).
- Covenant righteousness begins with purity of heart and ends in superior behavior (7.12).

Message #5: Jesus's death is the blood of the covenant poured out for the forgiveness of the sins of the righteous, the covenant faithful (26.28; superior "covenant behavior," Wright, 5.20).

Message #6: Salvation, entering the kingdom, is possible only through divine empowerment

The righteousness needed for salvation "is impossible, but for God all things are possible" 19.26).

- "They shall name him *Emmanuel*, which means, 'God with us'" (1.23).
- "And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age" (28.20).