

Matthew
The Heavenly King
and
Heaven's Kingdom

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See also: Matthew Chapter Titles by Tod Kennedy

Key Words & Phrases

- **Kingdom** (~55 times)
- **Kingdom of Heaven** (32 times)
 - Occurs only in Matthew in the N.T.
 - 3:2; 4:17; 5:3
- **Kingdom of God** (4 times)
 - (6:33—variant: his kingdom); 12:28; 19:24; 21:31, 43
- **King** (19 times)
 - 2:2; 5:35; 21:5; 27:11, 29, 37

Theme

- Jesus is the Messiah
 - Chs. 1-7 show who he is, his qualifications and his message
 - Jesus' royal lineage (1), birth and childhood (2), his immersion (3), his testing and calling disciples (4) and his message on kingdom righteousness (5-7)
 - You are the Christ (16:13-20)
 - Jesus quotes Psalm 110 (22:41-46)
 - He is identified as King of the Jews (27:37)

Theme

- Emphasis is on the Kingdom of Heaven (32 times) of the Kingdom of God (4 times)
- Matthew encourages Jewish believers that they have a future even though the Jews and Romans crucified their Messiah—he is alive and will establish the promised kingdom
- Citizens of the heavenly kingdom are to spread the gospel (28:19-20)

Date

- He wrote after the crucifixion and resurrection which was in AD 30 (27-28)
- He wrote before the destruction of the temple (AD 70) which was still standing (24:1-3) and Matthew makes no comment that it had been destroyed
- Some time had passed since the crucifixion and resurrection had taken place—he uses the phrase “to this day” (27:7-8) and “to this very day” (28:12-15)

Characteristics of Matthew

- Quotes extensively from the Old Testament—about 50 direct quotes and about 75 allusions to the Old Testament
 - 1:23 → Is. 7:14; 2:6 → Mic. 5:2
 - 2:15 → Hos. 11:1; 2:17-18 → Jer. 31:15
- There are at least 5 main discourses and each concludes with a summary statement
 - 5:1-7:27 [7:28]; 10:1-42 [11:1]; 13:1-53 [13:53]; 18:1-35 [19:1]; 24:1-25:46 [26:1]

Verses to Remember

- 1:21
- 5:17, 20
- 16:24-28
- 28:18

Outline

Section 1: Christ and His Kingdom (1-11)

Ch. 1: Genealogy of Christ

Ch. 2: Infant; Child; Herod

Ch. 3: John the Immerser and Jesus

Ch. 4: Temptation and Proclamation

Chs. 5-7: Sermon on the Mount

Ch. 8: Miracles: Leper; Paralytic; Fever; Sea; Demons

Ch. 9: Miracles: Paralytic; Dead Daughter; Blind; Mute

Ch. 10: Disciples are Taught and Sent

Ch. 11: John in Prison; Yoke of Christ

Outline

Section 2: Opposition and Rejection Builds (12-15)

Ch. 12: Pharisees Criticize; Jonah Sign

Ch. 13: Kingdom of Heaven Parables

Ch. 14: Loaves; Fish; Walk on Water

Ch. 15: Wash Hands

Section 3: Preparation of the Disciples (16-20)

Ch. 16: Leaven; Keys; On to Jerusalem

Ch. 17: Transfiguration

Ch. 18: Children; Forgiveness

Ch. 19: Divorce; Rich Man

Ch. 20: Landowner; Jesus Nears Jerusalem

Outline

Section 4: Opposition and Rejection Climax (21-25)

Ch. 21: Jesus Enters Jerusalem

Ch. 22: Wedding Feast; Pharisees and Scribes Silenced

Ch. 23: Woe to Scribes, Pharisees and Jerusalem

Ch. 24: Sign of Jesus' Coming; Sign of the End

Ch. 25: Christ's Return; Judges Nations

Section 5: The Cross (26-27)

Ch. 26: Supper; Arrest; Trials

Ch. 27: Trials; the Cross

Section 6: Resurrection & Commission (28)

Ch. 28: Resurrection; Commission

Misunderstood Passages

- To mention just a few in Matthew:
 - 5:32
 - 16:18—“And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it”
 - 16:19 (future perfect passive)—“whatever you bind on earth will have been bound in Heaven and whatever you loose on earth will have been loosed in Heaven”

Understanding Mt. 5:32

**“But I say to you that everyone dismissing his wife, excluding an account of fornication, causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a dismissed woman commmits adultery”
(Mt. 5:32, translation mine)**

Understanding Mt. 5:32

Two Propositions

1. Anyone who dismisses his wife (excluding an account of fornication) causes her to commit adultery
2. Any man who marries a woman who is dismissed by her husband commits adultery

Understanding Mt. 5:32

1. Anyone who dismisses his wife (excluding an account of fornication) causes her to commit adultery
 - Proposition 1 states that the action of dismissing one's wife has the ultimate effect of causing her to commit adultery, given that she would inevitably marry another

Understanding Mt. 5:32

2. Any man who marries a woman who is dismissed by her husband commits adultery

- Proposition 2 is an independent clause (a stand alone statement) indicating that any man who marries a dismissed woman commits adultery
- Mal. 2:16; Mt. 19:6, 9; Mk. 10:11-12; Lk. 16:18; 1 Cor. 7:11-13

Understanding Mt. 5:32 Exemption to Blame, Not Permission to Divorce

- Jesus is giving an exemption to blame rather than permission to divorce
- In this context Jesus is not endorsing divorce—he is saying that a man who divorces his sexually pure wife is making her a victim of adultery (it is assumed she will remarry)

Understanding Mt. 5:32

- In the case that the wife was fornicating, the husband does not bear the blame because she made herself an adulteress—the husband did not make or cause her to become an adulteress—she did that to herself
- Jesus addresses how men were victimizing women by divorcing them—Jesus is not addressing whether or not it is right to divorce specifically related to "a matter of fornication"

What God Wants Us to Understand about Divorce & Remarriage

- “...whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery” (Mt. 19:9)
- “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her. And if a woman divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery” (Mk. 10:11-12)
- “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced from her husband commits adultery” (Lk. 16:18)

Paul on Divorce

1 Corinthians 7

- There is no favorable approval for the believer to initiate divorce either with a believing spouse or with an unbelieving spouse, seen by the two specific words used for both “separate” [χωρίζω (chōrizō)] and “abandon/leave” [ἀφίημι (aphiēmi)] (1 Cor. 7:10-15)
- If the unbelieving spouse leaves, there is also no favorable approval for the believer to marry another
 - Jesus explicitly and consistently states, “and marries another commits adultery” (Mt. 19:9; Mk. 10:11-12; Lk. 16:18)

Paul on Remarriage

Rom. 7:2-3

“For the woman who has a husband is bound by the law to her husband as long as he lives. But if the husband dies, she is released from the law of her husband. So then if, while her husband lives, she marries another man, she will be called an adulteress; but if her husband dies, she is free from that law, so that she is no adulteress, though she has married another man”

- “bound...as long as he lives” (v. 2)
- “if the husband dies, she is released” (v. 2)
- She is an adulteress if she remarries while her husband lives (v. 3)

Memory Verse Review (Habakkuk—Malachi)

- Hab. 2:4b—“The just...”
- Zeph. 2:3—“Seek the Lord...”
- Hag. 1:7—“Thus says...”
- Zech. 6:12b—“Behold...”
- Mal. 4:2—“To you...”

Memory Verse for Matthew

5:17

“Do not think that I came to destroy the Law
or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy
but to fulfill”