

October 30, 2016

Introduction

Intro

- Foundational information...

Authorship: Divine/Human

God is the Divine Author

2 Tim 3:16-17 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.

- This is the most fundamental truth about the Bible.
- The Bible is God's Book, written to His people in which He reveals: Himself, His purpose for us, our natural condition, the Remedy, our hope of New Life in Christ, and our eternal future with Him in the New Heaven and New Earth.

Matthew is the Human Author

2 Peter 1:20-21 Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. 21 For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit

- This particular Gospel account is ascribed to Matthew. Several of the earliest church fathers recognized him as its author (Irenaeus, Eusebius, Jerome & Augustine).

A Theological Biography

- Matthew is not a *chronological* biography. It is a theological picture of the life and ministry of Jesus.

The Audience

- Matthew was written primarily to his Jewish countrymen to prove through Old Testament Scripture that Jesus was God's promised Messiah.

"...to fulfill..." 1:22; 2:15; 8:17; 12:17; 13:35; 21:4

The Message

- The central message is the Gospel of the Kingdom of God (**Matt. 4:23**). Matthew shows that Jesus is Israel's long expected Messiah/King.
- Matthew immediately connects the Person and ministry of Jesus to the Genesis account of the creation of Adam. Jesus is the fulfillment of God's original purpose for Adam.
- Matthew sets forth five qualifications for Jesus to be God's Messiah/King:
 - Jesus has to be the son of God: 3:17; 8:29; 14:33; 16:16; 17:5; 27:54
 - Jesus has to be the son of Man: 16:13, 28; 20:28; 23:30; 24:27; 26:64
 - Jesus has to be the son of David: 1:1; 9:27; 12:23; 15:22; 20:30-31; 22:41-46
 - Jesus has to be suffering Servant: 12:17-21
 - Jesus has to be risen and ruling Son of Man: 28:18-20

- When we read this account, we need to keep in mind that we are witnessing the life and ministry of the One God has sent to restore His people unto Himself. He is *Immanuel* (**Is. 7:14; Matt. 1:23**).

The Structure

- Several options for outlining Matthew:

Sermon Option

- Matthew can be outlined around the five sermons. Each of these sermons ends with a summary statement: “...when [after] Jesus had finished...” 7:28; 11:1; 13:53; 19:1; 26:1.

Ministry option

- There are three subdivisions that are set apart by the statement: “... From that time on Jesus began to preach [explain]...” 4:17; 16:21.
 - 1st section: 1:1-4:16 [no sermons]
 - 2nd section begins with ... From that Time on Jesus began to preach...4:17-16:20 [three sermons, ch. 5-7, 10, 13].
 - 3rd section begins with ... From that Time on Jesus began to preach explain...16:21-28:20 [two sermons, ch. 18, 23-25].

My Option

1. The announcement of God’s Messiah/King>>ch.1-2
2. The presentation of God’s Messiah/King>>ch.3

3. The confrontation of God's Messiah/King>>ch.4
4. The proclamation of God's Messiah/King>>ch. 5-25
5. The emulation of God's Messiah/King>>ch.26-27
6. The vindication of God's Messiah/King>>ch.28

Jesus' Titles:

- Matthew accentuates Jesus' credentials by using His four titles, each of which reflects an aspect to His Person and ministry:
 - Son of David: Jesus' earthly lineage
 - Son of Man: Jesus' earthly ministry
 - Son of God: Jesus' Heavenly origin
 - Lord: Jesus' comprehensive authority

Unique Material

- Although Matthew is a synoptic Gospel, about 42% of his material is unique to his account:
 - Jesus' genealogy: 1:1-17
 - Wise men: 2:1-12
 - Slaughter of the babies: 2:16-18
 - Jesus going to Egypt: 2:13-15
 - Peter walking on water: 14:28-33
 - Jesus' reply to Peter's confession: 16:17-19
 - The word *church*: 16:18 & 18:17
 - The bribing of soldiers at the tomb: 28:11-15
 - Jesus' appearance to the women: 28:9-10

November 6, 2016

The Announcement of Jesus, God's Messiah/King Ch 1:1-17

Intro

- Jesus: Israel's promised Messiah/King
- **1 Cor 15:3-4** *For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures...*

The Announcement of God's Messiah/King: Ch.1-2

Ch1:1-17, God's Messiah/King announced in the genealogy

The terminology of this genealogy seems to be more than just a listing of ancestors

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ...biblos genesios
The book of the beginnings, of the genesis of Jesus Christ

The birth [genesis] of Jesus is connected with God's original purpose in the original Book of beginnings, Genesis

In 17 verses, the entire O.T. is collapsed to show that Jesus is the One about Whom the entire O.T. spoke and anticipated and in Whom all of God's purpose is fulfilled

Col.2:17 17 *These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ.*

These verses serve as a bridge between Genesis and the Incarnation

God's purpose was that in humanity, His nature and character would be clearly and truthfully imaged throughout the earth as Adam fulfilled [obeyed] the three mandates from God

1. **Genesis 1:28** | Adam was to be God's king who was given authority to
 - a. ...subdue and have dominion
 - b. ... to establish the Kingdom of God in the earth

2. **Genesis 1:28** | Through Adam's obedience, God's Kingdom was to
 - a. ...Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth...

3. **Genesis 2:15** | As God's king, Adam was to
 - a. ...work
 - b. ...minister
 - c. ...and keep [guard, Num 3:7-8] the Garden

But [Gen. 3:6] Adam's disobedience set in motion God's rescuing grace through the blood of an innocent [Gen. 3:21] as promised in Gen. 3:15

1 Cor. 15:45 *Thus it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit.*

The rest of the O.T. records God's unrelenting move to fulfill His Genesis purpose

These verses also record God's faithfulness to His promises to Abraham that he would be the father of nation

Gen 12:1-3 *Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. 2 And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.*

Gen 17:4 *"Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations.*

Gen 1:28 *And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."*

Four gentiles are included in this genealogy to show that God's intention as promised to Abraham is fulfilled in Christ

- Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar | **Gen.38**
- Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab | **Joshua 2 & 6**
- Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth | **Ruth**
- The father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah (Bathsheeba) | **2 Samuel 11**

Immediately the Holy Spirit is showing us that the coming of God's Messiah/King is the consequence of God's promised grace to His people...that what He has promised, He is always faithful to accomplish

Phillipians 1:6 *And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.*

November 13, 2016

Jesus Announced to Joseph and Mary

Matthew 1:18-25

Intro

- Foundational information...

The Announcement of Jesus' Birth

- Matthew uses five Scriptural references to show that the birth of Jesus was the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies:
 - v. 18-23 (Is.7:14) in v. 23: the birth of the Messiah/King
 - ch. 2:1-12 (Micah 5:2) in v. 6: the light to the Gentiles [Magi]
 - v. 13-15 (Hosea 11:1) in v. 15: the family flees to Egypt
 - v. 16-18 (Jer.31:15) in v. 18: the opposition of Satan through Herod
 - v. 19-23: no specific verse but probably Is.11:1 in v. 23: the family settles in Nazareth
- **V. 18-25:** Matthew announces the betrothal of Mary and Joseph, as he explains God's purpose for this child (**Is. 7:14**).

"with child from the Holy Spirit"

Gen.2:7 ...the Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being

Job 33:4 The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life

Ezekiel 37:1-10; 36:25-27

“of Jesus Christ”

- ...*Christos*... Anointed One / Messiah
- Jesus is God’s Second Adam, anointed to fulfill Adam’s responsibilities of inaugurating the Kingdom of God upon the earth.
- “Anointed” = set aside by God for His special work, as signified by the pouring on of oil of anointing, a picture of the Holy Spirit.

Ex 29:7 Take the anointing oil and anoint [Aaron] by pouring it on his head.

- With the birth of Jesus, the New Creation has begun on earth.
- **V. 19-21:** Joseph is a son of David.

Isa 11:1-2 There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. 2 And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

“you will call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins”

- Ja [...I AM...Exodus 3:14] + Hoshea [deliverer [Num. 13:16] = Jehoshua or Jesus (Matt. 20:28)

- **V. 22-23:** Matthew uses this phrase, “to fulfill,” to indicate that what he has just said is in fulfillment of the prophesied Word of God.

Is. 7:14 Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel

“the virgin”

- The birth of Jesus was a Creational miracle.

Gen 1:2 Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters...

Gen 11:30 Now Sarah was barren; she had no children...

Gen 25:21 Isaac prayed to the Lord on behalf of his wife, because she was barren...

Gen 29:31 Rachel was barren...

1 Sam 1:2 Hannah had none [no children]...

Isa 9:6-7 For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His Name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 Of the increase of His government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over His kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

“Immanuel”

- “God with us.” God’s ultimate purpose for humanity is that He would share with humanity Himself in such a way that we would become partakers of the Divine Nature (**2 Peter 1:3**).
- **V. 24-25:** Joseph obeyed the Lord and married Mary. God’s sovereignty works through man’s responsibility (**Phil. 2:12-13**).

November 20, 2016

Jesus Announced to the Magi and Herod

Matthew 2:1-23

2:1-12: The Gentiles Have Seen a Great Light

- *Wise men*: Astrologers who studied the stars, looking for signs from God about the present and the future.

- The *star*:

Num 24:17 ...a star shall come out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel...

Micah 5:2 ...but you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for Me One Who is to be Ruler in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

- **Light: 1) God's creational activity.**

Gen.1:3 ...let there be light...

Ex 20:18 ...now when all the people saw...the flashes of lightning.

Acts 9:3 Now as he [Saul] went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him...

2 Cor 4:6 For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ

Eph 5:8 ...Walk as children of light

- **Light: 2) God's presence.**

Exodus 25:37 ...the lamps shall be set up so as to give light on the space in front of it...

- The light of the Minora was to shine on the 12 loaves, which represented the 12 tribes of Israel. God was recreating his Gen. 1-2 purpose.

Num 6:24-26 The Lord bless you and keep you; 25 the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; 26 the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

Rev 21:3; 22:4 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place [Tabernacle] of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God...and they will see His Face..."

Psalm 16:11 in Your presence there is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Deut 16:15 ...for the Lord your God will bless you in all your harvest and in all the work of your hands, and your joy will be complete.

Isa 58:13-14 ...if you keep your feet from breaking the Sabbath and from doing as you please on my holy day, if you call the Sabbath a delight and the Lord's holy day honorable, and if you honor it by not going your own way and not doing as you please or speaking idle words, 14 then you will find your joy in the Lord.

John 15:9-11 *As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. 10 If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love. 11 I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.*

Isa 9:2 *The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned*

November 27, 2016

The Response to Jesus' Birth

Matthew 2:3-12

God's Light Leads

- *Two aspects of Light: God's leading and illuminating ministry.*

Ex 13:21 And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead them ...to give them **light**, that they might travel by day and by night

1 Cor 4:5 ...[the Lord] will bring to **light** the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart...

Eph 1:18 ... having the eyes of your hearts **enlightened**

- The Messiah's birth produces two opposing results:

Matthew 2:3-12 When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; 4 and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 5 They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judaea, for so it is written by the prophet: 6 "'And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.'" 7 Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. 8 And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." 9 After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. 10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. 11 And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. 12 And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

The Reaction of the Magi

Joy

v. 10 *When they saw the star, they **rejoiced** exceedingly with great joy*

- The response of those who are being led by the Spirit by the Message of the Gospel is joy.

John 8:56 *Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad.*

Galatians 5:22-23

Worship

v. 11a *And going into the house they saw the Child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped Him.*

- The reason for Israel's deliverance from Egypt was that ...*they may worship Me...* (Ex. 4:23; 7:26; 8:1,10; 9:1,13; 10:3).

Giving

v. 11b *Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.*

- This is reflective of the heart of God's generous giving of His Son.

- *Gold*: associated with royalty (**Ps. 45:9**)
 - *Frankincense*: associated with the worship of God (**Ex. 30:34**)
 - *Myrrh*: A perfume associated with anointing and with the preparation of a body for burial (**Ex. 30:23; John 19:39**)
- In **Genesis 14**, Abram's initial response to the Lord's goodness in rescuing Lot was to express his gratitude by giving a tithe.

***Heb 7:1-3** This Melchizedek was king of Salem and priest of God Most High. He met Abraham returning from the defeat of the kings and blessed him, 2 and Abraham gave him a tenth of everything. First, his name means "king of righteousness"; then also, "king of Salem" means "king of peace." 3 Without father or mother, without genealogy, without beginning of days or end of life, like the Son of God he remains a priest forever*

- As a result of their worship, they were protected from being deceived by Herod (**v. 2**).
- Our lives are to reflect the giving heart of God.

***Matt 25:35-40** For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, 36 I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' 37 Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? 38 And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? 39 And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' 40 And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'*

December 4, 2016

The Opposition to Jesus' Birth

Matthew 2:13-23

Herod's Antichrist Fury

- In Herod's reaction to the birth of Jesus, we see a type of the antichrist spirit that is in the world through Satan.

1 John 2:18 ...many antichrists have come...

- The spirit of antichrist is the malevolent and often violent opposition to the purposes of God in His people.
- The original antichrist is Satan through his deceptive schemes (**Gen. 3:1-4**), but the Lord's purpose will never be thwarted because of God's promise in **Gen. 3:15**. Every prophecy moves this promise toward its fulfillment in the Messiah:

Jer. 3:15 ...I will give you shepherds after My own heart, Who will lead you with knowledge and understanding...

- The antichrist spirit is the spirit of lawlessness at work in the world to undo the work of God in His people:

2 Thess 2:7 ...the mystery of lawlessness is already at work

Gal. 5:17 For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other...

- Examples of the antichrist Spirit in the Old Testament:

Tower of Babel

Gen 11:4 *Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves..."*

Pharaoh

Ex 8:22 *Every son that is born to the Hebrews you shall cast into the Nile, but you shall let every daughter live.*

Ex 4:22-23 *"Thus says the Lord, Israel is my firstborn son, 23 and I say to you, "Let my son go that he may serve me." If you refuse to let him go, behold, I will kill your firstborn son."*

Haman the Agagite

Est 3:6 *Haman sought to destroy all the Jews...*

The Amalekites

Exodus 17

- Fighting over water (**Gen. 21:25; 26:18-20**)

John 7:38 *Whoever believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him*

Rev 21:6 *...the water of life...*

- The antichrist opposition of Satan stirred up Amalek to disallow Israel from benefitting from the flowing water in an attempt to destroy God's promise in **Gen. 3:15**.

Nebuchadnezzar

Dan 3:1, 4-6 King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold, whose height was sixty cubits and its breadth six cubits. He set it up on the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon...4 And the herald proclaimed aloud, "You are commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages, 5 that when you hear the sound of the [1] horn, [2] pipe, [3] lyre, [4] trigon, [5] harp, [6] bagpipe, and every kind of music, you are to fall down and worship the golden image that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. 6 And whoever does not fall down and worship shall immediately be cast into a burning fiery [Satan's fury] furnace."

- In Herod's opposition, we see that Jesus' ministry will be characterized by continual and severe demonic opposition.

Matthew 2:17-18 Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: 18 "A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be comforted, because they are no more." [**Jer. 15:31**]

The Family Flees to Egypt

- God rescues His Son from Herod as He rescued Moses from Pharaoh in **Ex. 2:1-10** and Israel in **Ex. 4:23**.

The Family Settles in Nazareth

- A Nazarene. A "branch."

Isa 11:1-2 There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from His roots shall bear fruit. 2 And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him [Is. 61; Luke 4], the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

December 11, 2016

The One Crying in the Wilderness

Matthew 3:1-12

Intro

- The Preparation for the Messiah (v. 1-12)
- The Anointing of the Messiah (v. 13-16)
- The Accreditation of the Messiah (v. 17)

Preparing the Way for the Messiah (v. 1-12)

The Prophet (v. 1): *John the Baptist*

- The time had come for God to raise up a prophet who would prepare the way for His Prophet (**Deut. 18:15**).
- To signify the coming in of the new creation in the Kingdom of God, John's birth was the result of God's creative power in Elizabeth who was barren.

Luke 1:7 ... they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren; and they were both well along in years

Luke 1:13 ...your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John...

- How Zechariah announced the birth of his son John:

***Luke 1:76-80** And you, child [Is.7:14; 9:6], will be called the prophet [Deut.18:15] of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways [Isaiah 40:3], 77 to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins, 78 because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high 79 to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace." 80 And the child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day of his public appearance to Israel.*

- Jesus' assessment of John:

***Matt 11:11** Among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist...*

- From the Fall of man, the prophets had been pointing to the Day when Jesus would appear, but John pointed to Jesus Himself (**John 1:29**).

The Place (v. 1): The Wilderness

- In the Old Testament, the wilderness is usually the place of chaos, death—the place away from the Presence of God.

***Gen 3:23-24** ...therefore the Lord God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. 24 He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life*

- The Wilderness was the place of God's judgment and testing / sanctification of Israel (**Deut. 8:2-3; Num. 14:26-35**).

The Message (v. 2): *Repent*

- God's message to people who live in the wilderness is *repent*.
- John's message of repentance anticipated the coming God's King to inaugurate the kingdom of Heaven.
- *Repentance* has to do with a change of mind about our living in the wilderness of sin.

Acts 20:21 ...both Jews and Greeks...must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus.

- It is a revelation of the Spirit (**John 16:8**) to cause us to come to our senses about our sin so that we will turn away from our sin and return to God.

Luke 15:17-18 I will arise and return to my father...

The Prophecy (v. 3): *Isaiah 40:3-5*

Isaiah 40:3 Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. 2 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. 3 A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. 4 Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. 5 And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

The Attire (v. 4)

- John's clothing and austere diet were reminiscent of the Old Testament prophets, in particular Elijah (**2 Kings 1:81**).

Mal 4:5 I will send you the prophet Elijah before that great and dreadful day of the Lord comes...

Matt 11:14 ...if you are willing to accept it, [John] is the Elijah who was to come.

The Audience (v. 5-10)

- Many were coming to be baptized (**v. 5-6**). However, there were also a small group of Pharisees and Sadducees who came to the Jordan (**v. 7-10**).
 - *Sadducees*
 - *Pharisees*
- John perceived by the Spirit that these men did not come to be baptized but to "evaluate" him and his message.

December 18, 2016

The Messiah Anointed

Matthew 3:11-17

Baptism

Baptism with Water for Repentance

- John was sent into the wilderness to prepare the way for the coming of the Messiah by baptizing those who repented of their sin.

Ps 51:7 ...wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow

- Water baptism was a picture of God's washing His people of the pollution of their sin and of His judgment against sinners.

- God's judgment in the deluge

Gen 6:12 And God saw the earth, and behold, it was corrupt, for all flesh had corrupted [God's] way on the earth...

- God's washing His people from the defilement of Egypt at the Red Sea

Ex 19:4-6 I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself...6 and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation...

*1 Peter 2:9-10 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation...
10 Once you were not a people [like Israel in Egypt], but now you are God's people...*

1 John 1:7b ...the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies [washes] us from all sin

- Israel was saved to be God's Adamic nation, walking with God in such a way as to be used as His testimony to the world—leading all nations to trust in the Lord so that the earth would be filled with the glory of God (**Num. 14:21**).
- Water baptism as a picture of God's judgment and cleansing:

John 13:3-11 *Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, 4 rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. 5 Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him. 6 He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?" 7 Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand." 8 Peter said to him, "You shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no share with me." 9 Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" 10 Jesus said to him, "The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you.*

- The ministry of God's Spirit was also pictured by the use of water:

John 7:37-39 *"If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. 38 Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'" 39 Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified...*

Titus 3:5-7 *[God] saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing [baptism] of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, 6 Whom He poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior...*

One Who will Baptize with the Holy Spirit and with Fire

- John understood by revelation that his ministry of baptism anticipated the appearance of the Messiah.

***John 1:29-34** The next day [John] saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sin of the world! 30 This is He of Whom I said, 'After me comes a Man who ranks before me, because He was before me [remember John was older than Jesus].' 31 I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that He might be revealed to Israel." 32 And John bore witness: "I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on Him. 33 I myself did not know Him, but He [God] Who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on Whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is He Who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' 34 And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God."*

- The baptism of Jesus is the beginning of God's judgment work of separating the chaff from the wheat (**v. 12**).

The Preparation for Anointing of the Messiah

- Why did the sinless Son need to be baptized? "To fulfill all righteousness."
- Jesus came to fulfill all the righteous requirements of God on behalf of His people, so that they could be restored to God's original intention lost in Adam (**1 Cor. 15:45**).
- Jesus would obey the will of God completely. He would bear the full consequences of Adam's fall, in the fire of the cross, so that God's people would be purged of their sin and made fit for the Presence of God—the Heavenly Eden (**Ex. 18:20; Rom. 6:23**).

January 8, 2017

The Messiah Anointed (2)

Matthew 3:16-17

The Anointing of the Messiah

Jesus' Baptism

- Matthew's goal is to prove through the use of Scripture and historical evidence that Jesus is none other than God's anointed Messiah (**Gen. 3:15**).

- Jesus' baptism is further proof that he has come "to save his people from their sin" (**1:21**).

- Jesus' baptism shows that He is:
 - God's Royal Priest
 - The Baptizer of God's People
 - The One in Whom God's Trinity is revealed

God's Royal Priest

- Jesus was being anointed by the Spirit as God's Royal Priest who had come to fulfill Adam's role as God's royal agent (**Gen. 1:28**) and priest (**Gen. 2:15**).
- The basis of Adam's ability to fulfill his mandates was his obedience (**Gen. 2:16-17**).
- Jesus' royal role:

*...the throne of His father David, 33 and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end **Luke 1:32-33; Is.9:6-7***

- Jesus' anointing fulfilled the picture of David's:

***1 Sam 16:13** Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed [David] in the midst of his brothers [publically]. And the Spirit of the Lord rushed upon David from that day forward...*

2 Sam 7:12-13** ...I will raise up your offspring [Seed-Gen.3:15] to succeed you, Who will come from your own body, and I will establish His Kingdom. 13 He is the One Who will build a House for My Name, and I will establish the throne of His Kingdom forever... **Ps. 89:20-29

- Jesus is consecrated by the Spirit as David's Royal Son to establish God's Kingdom in keeping with Adam's mandate (**Gen. 1:28; 1 Peter 4:11, 5:11; Jude 25; Rev. 1:6**).

***Acts 10:38** ...God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit [Matt.3:16] and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him...*

- Jesus came to be anointed to accomplish God's eternal purpose as *Immanuel*:

Isa 7:14 Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel

- This title communicates God's purpose for His people.

2 Peter 1:3-4 ...His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him Who called us to His own glory and excellence, 4 by which He has granted to us His precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the Divine nature...

John 1:18 No one has ever seen God; the only God, Who is at the Father's side, He has made Him known..

- Jesus came to take us back to the closest fellowship with God—to enjoy the Father's love and joy (**John 17:26; Rev. 22:4**).

January 15, 2017

The Messiah Anointed (3)

Matthew 3:16

The Old Testament Priest as Type

- The LORD called Moses to deliver Israel from Pharaoh's rule (**Col. 1:13**) through the blood of the Passover lambs (**Ex. 12**). Why?

Ex 4:23 Let my son go that he may serve me..

- The LORD gave them the gracious gift of His Law in order to accomplish this purpose:

Ex 19:5-6 ...if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; 6 and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation...

- What if they failed? God provided the Tabernacle and the Levitical legislation as mediated by the priesthood Sabbath by Sabbath to make them fit to enter the Holy presence of God in fellowship.

Lev 11:44 ...consecrate yourselves and be holy, because I am holy...

- The High Priest became an Adamic figure who fulfilled **Gen. 2:15**.

*Ex 40:12-13 Bring Aaron and his sons to the entrance to the Tent of Meeting and wash them with water. 13 Then dress Aaron in the sacred garments, anoint him and consecrate him so he may **serve** Me as priest...*

- As high priest, Aaron administered the sacrifices on the Day of Atonement on behalf of the people so they could come into the presence of God vicariously.

Ex 28:29 Whenever Aaron enters the Holy Place, he will bear the names of the sons of Israel over his heart on the breast piece of decision as a continuing memorial before the Lord...

Genesis 3:24 was being reversed...

- The entry way (gate) into God's Garden presence had been barred but now would be open again.

Ps 24:3-5 Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? or who shall stand in his holy place? 4 He [who?] that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully. 5 He [who?] shall receive the blessing from the Lord, and righteousness from the God of his salvation.

- All of the daily sacrifices were gathered into the one great sacrifice on the Day of Atonement when the high priest shed the blood of one goat and confessed the sin of the people upon the other goat sending it into the wilderness, never to return (**Lev 16:1-22**).

Jer 31:34 For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.

- The two goats stood as one symbol for Israel's sin.

Ps 103:12 ...as far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us

- At the end of the ceremony, Aaron appeared at the gate of the Tabernacle and pronounced the Lord's blessing upon the people:

Num 6:24-26 the Lord bless you and keep you; 25 the Lord make His Face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; 26 the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

God's True High Priest

- All of this was on Jesus' mind as He approached John to be baptized "to fulfill all righteousness."
- Once baptized (anointed in conformity to **Lev. 8:12**), Jesus was authorized to fulfill His Adamic role (**Gen. 2:15**) to become Israel's true High Priest who would offer Himself as the atoning (propitiating: **Rom.3:25; Heb. 2:17; 1 John 2:2; 4:10**) Lamb on our behalf.

Heb 9:12 ...[Jesus] entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, having obtained eternal redemption...

- As blameless Adam would have been the only acceptable substitute to atone for his wife's sin, so also Jesus presents himself to God as the only acceptable substitute for the sin of his bride.

Eph 5:25-27 ...Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her 26 to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, 27 and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless...

Heb 4:14-16 *Therefore, since we have a great High Priest Who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. 15 For we do not have a High Priest Who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have One Who has been tempted in every way, just as we are — yet was without sin. 16 Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need*

January 22, 2017

The Messiah Anointed (4)

Matthew 3:16

The Baptizer of God's People

- As God's High Priest, Jesus would fulfill Adam's priestly role as prescribed in **Gen. 2:15** by fulfilling in Himself and by Himself all the Levitical duties of the sacrificial system.

Lev 16:15-16 He shall then slaughter the goat for the sin offering for the people and take its blood behind the curtain and ...sprinkle it on the atonement cover and in front of it. 16 In this way he will make atonement for the Most Holy Place because of the uncleanness and rebellion of the Israelites, whatever their sins have been.

Lev 16:20-22 When Aaron has finished making atonement for the Most Holy Place, the Tent of Meeting and the altar, he shall bring forward the live goat. 21 He is to lay both hands on the head of the live goat and confess over it all the wickedness and rebellion of the Israelites — all their sins — and put them on the goat's head. He shall send the goat away into the desert in the care of a man appointed for the task. 22 The goat will carry on itself all their sins to a solitary place.

- Jesus would fulfill the Old Testament type by being both the Priest and the Sacrifice (**John 1:29**).

Heb 9:11-12 But when Christ appeared as a High Priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect Tent ... 12 He entered once for all into the Holy Places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of His own blood [Lev. 16: 15-16], thus securing an eternal redemption [Lev. 16: 20-22]

Eph 5:25-27 *Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, 26 that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 27 so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish...*

- In the same way that Aaron appeared at the gate of the Tabernacle to pronounce the Lord's blessing upon the people (**Num. 6:24-26**), Jesus, after making *eternal redemption* on behalf of His people, appeared to His people as the fulfillment of this blessing.

John 20:19 *On the evening of that day.. Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you [...the Lord lift up His Face upon you and give you peace...]*

- Finally, God's people were permitted into His presence in the risen Messiah who has made them fit for His presence.

Rom 12:5 *...in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others..*

Ezekiel 36:25-27 *I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols 26 I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. 27 And I will put my Spirit in you...*

Joel 2:28 *I will pour out [like water] My Spirit on all people...*

- The outpouring of the Spirit upon God's people is the goal of the Incarnation and the *joy set before Him* when Jesus offered Himself as the sacrificial Lamb for the redemption of the Father's people.

John 20:22 *...He breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit...*

Acts 2:38-39 – The Day of Pentecost

- The outpouring of the Spirit was promised since the Fall:

Gen. 3:15; 12:1-7; 17:6-8; 16-21; Ex. 6:6-8; Deut. 31:6, 8; 2 Sam. 7:12-13; Isaiah 41:18; 53:4; Jeremiah 31:31-33; Ezekiel 36:25-27

1 Peter 2:10 *Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God...*

- As a result, God's people can now worship God *by the Spirit (Phil. 3:3)*. In this way, **Gen. 3:24** is reversed and God's people are able to re-enter His Heavenly Garden by the Spirit.

John 14:1-3 *Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. 2 In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also...*

- The pouring fourth of the Spirit was prophesied:

Ezek 47:1-12 *The man brought me back to the entrance of the temple, and I saw water coming out from under the threshold of the temple toward the east (for the temple faced east). The water was coming down from under the south side of the temple, south of the altar. 2 He then brought me out through the north gate and led me around the outside to the outer gate facing east, and the water was flowing from the south side...5 a river that no one could cross...12 Fruit trees of all kinds will grow on both banks of the river. Their leaves will not wither, nor will their fruit fail. Every month they will bear, because the water from the sanctuary flows to them. Their fruit will serve for food and their leaves for healing...*

John 4:9-14 *The Samaritan woman said to Him, ..."How can you ask me for a drink?" ...10 Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water." ...13 Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, 14 but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life....23 Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks...*

John 2:6-10; 3:3-8 & 7:37-38

February 5, 2017

The Messiah Tested

Matthew 4:1-11

- The announcement of God's Messiah/ King (ch.1-2)
- The presentation of God's Messiah/ King (ch.3)
- **The confrontation of God's Messiah/ King (ch.4:1-11)**
- The proclamation of God's Messiah/ King (ch.4-25)
- The immolation of God's Messiah/ King (ch.26-27)
- The vindication of God's Messiah/ King (ch. 28)

The Leading of the Spirit

- After being anointed by the Spirit to fulfill His Adamic purpose, the Spirit leads Jesus into the wilderness to be tempted by Satan.

- As a result of Adam's sin (**Gen. 2:17**), all humanity came under the curse of DEATH.

***Rom 5:12** Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and DEATH through sin, and so DEATH spread to all men because all sinned [in Adam]...*

- For God's people to be freed from the curse of DEATH, Divine Justice demanded that another Man Who was innocent and obedient, pay the penalty God's wrath on behalf of God's people.

***Rom 5:19** For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous...*

- As all humanity died in Adam, for God's people to LIVE, they would be represented in the Son of God Who would take to Himself a Human body and Soul in order to be tempted in His Humanity on the behalf of His people who would be in Him.

1 Cor 15:22 For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive [the reversal of the curse]...

Gal. 2:20 I have been crucified with [in company with] Christ...

- Jesus entered the wilderness to face Satan as God's last Adam, to obey where Adam disobeyed, to be qualified to pay the full penalty of Adam's sin on behalf of God's people at the cross.

"To Be Tempted by the Devil"

- "Tempted" = 1) to test for refining 2) to entice to do wrong.
 - When used for testing, the word is translated *test*.

1 Peter 1:7 ...the tested genuineness of your faith — more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire — may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ

- When Satan is the subject it has to do with tempting, enticing to sin.

1 Cor. 10:13 ...God will not let you be tempted [enticed] beyond your ability...

God is never the Author of temptation: **James 1:13**

- Jesus' 40 days of testing echoes Israel's 40 years in the Wilderness. This period was to prove that Jesus is God's genuine obedient Son, the test that Israel failed (**Ex.32:4**).
- Satan does not deny Jesus' identity, but seeks to entice Jesus to use His power for His personal benefit rather than God's.
- Jesus foils the arrow of temptation by quoting Scripture.

***Deut. 8:3** ...man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live.*

- Satan was asking Jesus to make sure He was God's Son by a personal test (**v.5-6**) Jesus had already heard the Father's testify that He was His believe Son (**3:17**) but now Satan tempts Jesus to verify what He had heard.
- Jesus once again goes to the Scriptures for His defense (**v. 7**).

Deut. 6:16

- Satan's true motive behind every temptation was that Jesus should forsake the true worship of God to worship him.

***Ex. 20:3** You shall not have any other gods before Me...*

February 12, 2017

The Messiah Tested (Pt. 2)

Matthew 4:1-11

The Stage is Set

- Having been anointed for this very purpose, Jesus is now ready to undo the effects of Adam's disobedience by His own obedience (**Rom. 5:19**) and thus set the stage for being qualified to be the atoning sacrifice (propitiation: **Rom. 3:35; Heb. 2:17; 1 John 2:2; 4:10**) for the sin of the Father's children (**John 1:29**).

- "To be tempted by the devil." The word for *tempted* is used in two ways:

"Tempted" = 1) to test for refining 2) to entice to do wrong.

- When used for testing, the word is translated *test*.

1 Peter 1:7 ...the tested genuineness of your faith — more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire — may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ

- When Satan is the subject it has to do with tempting, enticing to sin.

1 Cor. 10:13 ...God will not let you be tempted [enticed] beyond your ability...

God is never the Author of temptation: **James 1:13**

- Satan's strategy: to tempt Jesus to idolatry as he did Adam.
 - *Idolatry*: the preferring of something or someone apart from the will of God so that it becomes a substitute to some degree for God Himself.

John 4:23-24

- Idolatry was Satan's goal in the Garden:
 - It started with a simple question: "*Hath God said?*" (**Gen. 3:1**). But shrouded in this was a deadly statement: You can find something of benefit apart from God's presence and provision.
 - The goal of his question: "*Your will be like God*" (**Gen. 3:4**). The heart of idolatry.

Gen 3:6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise...

- Satan had succeeded in turning Eve's attention away from God to something for and about herself, causing her to become attracted to the forbidden fruit of disobedience.

1 John 2:16 ...the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and the boastful pride of life...

1 John 5:21 Little children, guard yourselves from idols

- Even though Eve was deceived, Adam purposefully decided to agree with her against God—choosing to listen to his wife rather than to God’s Word.

Matt 10:37-39 *Anyone who loves his father or mother more than I is not worthy of Me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of me; 38 and anyone who does not take his cross and follow Me is not worthy of Me. 39 Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for My sake will find it...*

Ex. 20:3 *You shall have no other gods before Me...*

- In order to save God’s people from the curse of their disobedience and enslavement to idolatry, Jesus came to face the same temptation to idolatry on behalf of God’s people.

First Temptation and Response

- After 40 days of food deprivation, Jesus is at the most vulnerable place for temptation (**v. 2**).
- Satan does not deny Jesus’ identity, but he seeks to entice Jesus to use His power for His own personal benefit apart from God’s will (**v. 3**).

1 John 2:16 *...the lust of the flesh... - Covet comfort for yourself*

- Jesus takes up the Shield of faith and cuts through the temptation with the Word of God. (**v. 3; Eph. 6:16-17**).

Deut. 8:3 *...man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live*

Second Temptation and Response

- Now that Jesus used the Word as His defense, Satan will use the Word as his offense (v. 5-6), quoting **Psalm 91:11-12**.

- The temptation: Use your identity for your own benefit.

1 John 2:16 ...the pride of life... - Covet a name for yourself

- Jesus once again goes to the Scriptures for His defense (v. 7). **Deut. 6:16; Ex. 17:2**.

Third Temptation and Response

- Satan tempted Jesus to see the world in a pleasing way, not in a saving way (v. 8-9).

1 John 2:16 ...the lust of the eyes... - Covet the worship of men

- Each of these temptations was Satan's attack against the First Commandment (**Ex. 20:3**).
- Jesus commands Satan to be gone, having obeyed where Adam had disobeyed. Now Jesus can begin to destroy the works of Satan (**1 John 3:8**).