THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

Introduction
The Gospel of Matthew presents Jesus as Israel’s Messiah. The account alternates between Jesus’ activities of healing and casting out demons, and major blocks of his teaching, including the Sermon on the Mount (chs. 5–7), the Parables of the Kingdom (ch. 13), and the Olivet Discourse (chs. 24–25). The Sermon on the Mount includes the Beatitudes (5:3-12) and the Lord’s Prayer (6:5-15). The book closes with the Great Commission (28:18-20). A recurring theme is the conflict between Jesus and the religious leaders, culminating in his pronouncement of “seven woes” upon them (ch. 23). As do all four Gospel accounts, Matthew focuses on Christ’s three-year ministry and his death and resurrection. Matthew probably wrote his Gospel in the 50s or 60s A.D.

The Genealogy of Jesus Christ
1 The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.
2 Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram, and Ram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David the King.

And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asaph, and Asaph the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

12 And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Mattathias, and Mattathias the father of Jacob, and Jacob the son of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ.

17 So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations.

The Birth of Jesus Christ
18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.
19 And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly.
20 But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.
21 She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”

1 Greek Aram; also verse 4 2 Asaph is probably an alternate spelling for Asa; some manuscripts read Aso; also verse 8 3 Amos is probably an alternate spelling for Amon; some manuscripts read Amon; twice in this verse 4 Greek Salathiel; twice in this verse 5 Some manuscripts of the Christ 6 That is, legally pledged to be married
The Flight to Egypt

Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” 14 And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt 15 and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, “Out of Egypt I called my son.”

Herod Kills the Children

Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. 17 Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet:

The Return to Nazareth

But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, 19 saying, “Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child’s life are dead.” 20 And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. 21 But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. 22 And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled: “He shall be called a Nazarene.”

John the Baptist Prepares the Way

In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, 3 saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” 4 For this reason John said to them, “Next me comes one mightier than I, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to unloose. 5 I myself have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.” 6 And as John was walking along the road and baptizing, he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism. 7 And John said to them, “You cannot baptize with water what is to the Lord and his people. 8 A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be comforted, because they are no more.”
The Temptation of Jesus

4 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. 2 And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. 3 And the tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” 4 But he answered, “It is written, 5 “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.””

5 Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple 6 and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, 7 “He will command his angels concerning you, 8 and 9 “On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.””

7 Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, 8 “You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.”” 9 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. 10 And he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” 11 Then Jesus said to him, “Be gone, Satan! For it is written, 12 “You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.””

11 Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

Jesus Begins His Ministry

12 Now when he heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee. 13 And leaving Nazareth he went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, 14 so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

15 “The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, 16 the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—the people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light,”

1 Or crying: Prepare in the wilderness. 2 Some manuscripts omit to him. 3 Or my Son, my (or the) Beloved. 4 Isa. 40:3. 5 For 3:13-17 see parallels Mark 1:9-11, Luke 3:1-14; John 1:23, 22 6 For 4:1-11 see parallels Mark 1:12, 13; Luke 4:1-13 7 Deut. 6:3 8 Ps. 91:11, 12 9 Deut. 6:16 10 Deut. 6:13 11 Isa. 1:2, 23 12 Matthew 4:16
and for those dwelling in the region
and shadow of death,
on them a light has dawned."
17 From that time Jesus began to preach, say-
ing, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is
at hand.”

Jesus Calls the First Disciples
18 While walking by the Sea of Galilee,
he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called
Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net
into the sea, for they were fishermen. 19 And
he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make
you fishers of men.” 20 Immediately they left
their nets and followed him. 21 And going on
from there he saw two other brothers, James
the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in
the boat with Zebedee their father, mending
their nets, and he called them. 22 Immediately
they left the boat and their father and fol-
lowed him.

Jesus Ministers to Great Crowds
23 And he went throughout all Galilee,
teaching in their synagogues and proclaim-
ing the gospel of the kingdom and healing
every disease and every affliction among
the people. 24 So his fame spread through-
out all Syria, and they brought him all the
sick, those afflicted with various diseases
and pains, those oppressed by demons,
epileptics, and paralytics, and he healed
them. 25 And great crowds followed him
from Galilee and the Decapolis, and from
Jerusalem and Judea, and from beyond the
Jordan.

The Sermon on the Mount
5 Seeing the crowds, he went up on the
mountain, and when he sat down, his
disciples came to him.

The Beatitudes
2 And he opened his mouth and taught
them, saying:
3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs
is the kingdom of heaven.
4 “Blessed are those who mourn, for they
shall be comforted.
5 “Blessed are the meek, for they shall
inherit the earth.
6 “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst
for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

6 “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall
receive mercy.
8 “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they
shall see God.
9 “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they
shall be called sons of God.
10 “Blessed are those who are persecuted
for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the king-
dom of heaven.
11 “Blessed are you when others revile you
and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil
against you falsely on my account. 12 Rejoice
and be glad, for your reward is great in heav-
en, for so they persecuted the prophets who
were before you.

Salt and Light
13 You are the salt of the earth, but if salt
has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be
restored? It is no longer good for anything
except to be thrown out and trampled under
people’s feet.
14 You are the light of the world. A city set
on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do people
light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on
a stand, and it gives light to all in the house.
16 In the same way, let your light shine be-
fore others, so that they may see your good
works and give glory to your Father who is
in heaven.

Christ Came to Fulfill the Law
17 “Do not think that I have come to
abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not
come to abolish them but to fulfill them.
18 For truly, I say to you, until heaven and
earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will
pass from the Law until all is accomplished.
19 Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least
of these commandments and teaches oth-
ers to do the same will be called least in the
kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them
and teaches them will be called great in the
kingdom of heaven. 20 For I tell you, unless
your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes
and Pharisees, you will never enter the king-
dom of heaven.

Anger
21 “You have heard that it was said to those
of old, 22 “You shall not murder; and whoever
murders will be liable to judgment.” 22 But I
say to you that everyone who is angry with

1 Greek huo; see preface 4 For 4:18-22 see parallel Mark 1:16-20 6 Ex. 20:13; Deut. 5:17
his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be liable to the hell of fire. So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison. Truly, I say to you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

Lust

27 “You have heard that it was said, 28 ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ 29 But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. 30 If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell. 31 And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell.

Divorce

31 “It was also said, 32 ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ 33 But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

Oaths

33 “Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.’ 34 But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, 35 or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. 36 And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black.

37 Let what you say be simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything more than this comes from evil.

Retaliation

38 “You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ 39 But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. 40 And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. 41 And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. 42 Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you.

Love Your Enemies

43 “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ 44 But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. 46 For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? 47 And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? 48 You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Giving to the Needy

6 “Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.

2 “Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. 3 But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, 4 so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

The Lord’s Prayer

5 “And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and...