**Survey New Testament**

**The Relationship of the Gospels**

1. Matthew is primarily Jewish and presents Christ as the King (1:1: “the Son of David”).
2. Mark is primarily Roman and presents Christ as the Servant.
3. Luke is primarily for the Greeks and presents Christ as the perfect Son of Man.
4. John is universal in appeal and presents Christ as the eternal Son of God.

**Book of Matthew**

Nowhere in the four Gospels do we find a single recorded word that Matthew spoke. Yet in his Gospel, he gives us the words and works of Jesus Christ, “the Son of David, the Son of Abraham” (Matt. 1:1). If a Bible reader were to jump from Malachi into Mark, or Acts, or Romans, he would be bewildered. Matthew’s Gospel is the bridge that leads us out of the Old Testament and into the New Testament.

The theme of the Old Testament is given in Genesis 5:1: “This is the book of the generations of Adam.” The Old Testament gives the history of “the Adam family,” and it is a sad history indeed. But the New Testament is “The book of the generations of Jesus Christ” (Matt. 1:1). Jesus is the last Adam (1 Cor. 15:45), and He came to earth to save the “generations of Adam.”

**Matthew 1**

In the first ten chapters of Matthew, we have “The Revelation of the King.” He reveals Himself to the Jews as to His Person (1–4), His principles (5–7), and His power (8–10). Remember that Matthew is seeking to prove that Jesus Christ is the King, “the Son of David.” In this first chapter, he gives the human ancestry of Christ (vv. 1–17), then describes the birth of Christ (vv. 18–25). Thus, Jesus is the “root and the offspring of David” (Rev. 22:16). He is “the root” in that He is eternal God and brought David into being; He is the “offspring” in that His humanity is linked to David in His birth (Rom. 1:1–4).

**The Faithful Providence of God (1:1–17)**

1. Providence is God’s control of circumstances so that His will prevails and His purposes are fulfilled. Think of Satan’s attacks against Israel and how he sought to prevent Christ from coming! Because of Abraham’s disobedience, Sarah was almost lost and the promised seed ruined (Gen. 12:10–20). At one time, the royal seed was all slain, except for young Joash (2 Kings 11). This genealogy is not a dull list of names. It is a record of the faithfulness of God in preserving the children of Abraham as a channel through whom Christ could come into the world.
2. Matthew’s genealogy is of Joseph and Luke gives Mary’s genealogy. Mary and Joseph were both descendants of David. You can see the grace of God in this list of names. Note the four women mentioned: Tamar (v. 3, see Gen. 38); Rahab (v. 5, see Josh. 2; Heb. 11:31); Ruth (v. 5, see the Book of Ruth); and Bathsheba (v. 6, see 2 Sam. 12). Mary is also mentioned. These women illustrate the grace of God. Tamar was guilty of whoredom, yet God permitted her to be listed in the ancestry of Christ. Rahab was both a harlot and a foreigner. She was saved by her faith. Ruth was a Moabitess; and according to Deut. 23:3–6, she was excluded from the nation of Israel. Bathsheba was partner to David’s awful sin, yet God forgave her and permitted her to be one of Christ’s ancestors through Solomon.

**The Fulfilled Promise of God (1:18–25)**

1. “Betrothal” (engagement) among the Jews was as binding as marriage. When Joseph discovered Mary’s condition, he naturally assumed she had been unfaithful to him. Note his prudence: “While he thought on these things” (v. 20). How important it is to be “slow to wrath” and to consider matters thoughtfully! (see Prov. 21:5)
2. According to Deut. 22:23–24, Mary could have been stoned. It took great faith for Joseph to believe God’s message in the dream. His love for God and for Mary made him willing to “bear reproach” for Christ.
3. The name Jesus means “Savior” and is a Greek version of the Hebrew name “Joshua.” In the OT, there are two well-known Joshuas: the soldier who led Israel into Canaan (see the Book of Joshua), and the high priest mentioned in Zech. 3. Christ is our Captain of Salvation, leading us to victory. He is our Great High Priest, representing us before the throne of God.
4. We must admire Joseph’s immediate obedience (v. 24). He was careful to keep his relationship with Mary pure. In the Bible, only four ways are noted to get a body: (1) without a man or a woman—as Adam did, made from the dust of the earth; (2) with a man, but no woman—as Eve did, made from Adam’s side; (3) with a man and a woman—as all humans are born; or (4) with a woman, but no man-as Jesus was born, having an earthly mother but no biological father. It was important that Jesus be born of a virgin that He might have a sinless nature, conceived by the Holy Spirit (see Luke 1). Since He existed before the creation of man, how could He ever be born of a human father and mother?

**Matthew 2:1–12 The Respect shown to the King**

1. These “wise men” were Oriental astrologers who studied the stars and sought to understand the times.
2. Jesus’ title, “King of the Jews,” raised suspicion because Herod feared anyone who threatened his throne. He was a ruthless monster who even killed his own children to protect his throne. He had nine (or ten) wives and was known for his treachery and lust. An Edomite, he had a natural hatred for the Jews. Herod did not know God’s Word, but had to ask the scribes. The scribes knew the Word, but did not act upon it. The wise men were both hearers and doers of the Word! How close the priests were to the Messiah, yet they did not go.

**Matthew 2:13–23 The Hatred Against the King**

1. Just as Satan had tried to keep Christ from being born, now he tried to destroy Him after He was born (see Rev. 12:1–4). Joseph obeyed God and cared for both Mary and Jesus. Matthew quoted Hosea 11:1 to show that Christ would come out of Egypt. Herod had all the male babies two years and under killed. Matthew saw in this a fulfillment of Jer. 31:15.
2. Joseph did not return to Judea. God affirmed the decision, and the family moved to Nazareth. Matthew refers to what “was spoken by the prophets” (v. 23, note the plural) but does not give any specific references.

**Matthew 3**

In the first ten chapters, Matthew is recording the revelation of the King to the nation Israel. In chapters 1 and 2 he gave the ancestry and birth of the King, showing from the prophets that Jesus Christ is the King of Israel. In chapter 3 he introduces Jesus through His “forerunner” John the Baptist.

**John the Baptist Came**

1. His message (vv. 1–2). As the forerunner of the King, John is asking the people to repent and prepare for the King. Jesus preached this message (4:17) and so did the disciples (10:7). When the nation rejected the King, the kingdom was taken from them (21:42–43).
2. His authority (v. 3). John fulfilled the prophecy of Isa. 40:3. He was the last of the OT prophets (Luke 16:16). No prophet had been heard for 400 years.

**The Pharisees and Sadducees Came (3:7–12)**

1. On three occasions, the Pharisees were called “generation of vipers” by John the Baptist, and by Jesus (12:34 and 23:33). Satan is a serpent, and these men were children of Satan (John 8:44).
2. They depended on their human relationship to Abraham to save them (see Rom. 9:6 and Gal. 3:7). Like Nicodemus in John 3, they stumbled at the truth that they needed to be born again.

**Jesus Came (3:13–17)**

1. The Spirit descends on Jesus like a dove as John baptized him. This was the sign God had promised to give John to identify Christ (John 1:31–34).
2. Jesus and the Father (v. 17). This is the first of three occasions when the Father spoke to the Son from heaven (see Matt. 17:5 and John 12:28). We have the Trinity revealed here: the Son is baptized, the Spirit descends like a dove, and the Father speaks from heaven.

**Matthew 4 The Temptation of Jesus**

1. The first temptation. Satan appealed to the body, the desires of the flesh. Christ met this temptation with Deut. 8:3. Feeding the inner spiritual person is far more important than feeding the physical.
2. The second temptation. Satan “dares” Jesus to prove the faithfulness of God. “Since You believe the Word of God,” implies Satan, “then why not prove one of God’s promises?” Satan then quotes—or misquotes—Ps. 91:11–12. “If You really believe in God’s care, then throw Yourself off the temple and let the angels catch You!” Christ answered him from Deut. 6:16. Satan left out the important phrase “in all Your ways” (Ps. 91:11, NKJV). God keeps His promises when we keep His ways.
3. The third temptation (vv. 8–10). Satan offers Christ an “easy way” to become King. According to Ps. 2:6–9, God had already promised these kingdoms to Christ. But He would have to die on the cross to gain this kingdom. Satan was trying to tempt Him away from the cross. Christ defeated Satan with Deut. 6:13. Whatever we worship is the god we serve.

**Matthew 5 The Sermon on the Mount**

1. The first sixteen verses of Matthew 5 describe the true Christian and deal with character. The rest of the Sermon on the Mount deals with conduct that grows out of character. Character always comes before conduct, because what we are determines what we do.
2. In Matt. 5:1–16, Jesus shows us that true righteousness is inward, and in 5:17–48, He points out that sin is also inward. Thus, He exposed the false righteousness of the Pharisees, who taught that holiness consisted of religious actions, and that sin was what you did outwardly.
3. “Beatitudes”—the attitudes that ought to be in our lives if we are true Christians.

A. “Poor in spirit” (v. 3). Our attitude toward ourselves in which we feel our need and admit it.

B. “Mourn” (v. 4). Our attitude toward sin, a true sorrow for sin.

C. “Meek” (v. 5). Our attitude toward others; we are teachable; we do not defend ourselves when we are wrong.

D. “Hunger and thirst” (v. 6). Here our attitude toward God is expressed; we receive His righteousness by faith because we ask for it.

E. “Merciful” (v. 7). We have a forgiving spirit and love others.

F. “Pure in heart” (v. 8). We keep our lives clean; holiness is happiness to us, and we want no substitutes.

G. “Peacemakers” (v. 9). Christians should bring peace, between people and God and between those who are at odds with each other.

H. “Persecuted” (v. 10). All who live godly lives will suffer persecution.

**Matthew 5:13–48 Salt and Light**

1. There are two pictures of the Christian: salt and the light. Salt speaks of inward character that influences a decaying world; light speaks of the outward testimony of good works that points to God.

**Matthew 5:17-48 The Old and the New**

1. Having declared the meaning of true righteousness, the Lord then explained the meaning of sin. He pointed out that He was not abandoning or nullifying the law but fulfilling it. The OT law dealt only with outward actions; but in the kingdom, we must beware of sinful inward attitudes.
2. Jesus fulfilled the law in His life, for nobody could accuse Him of sin; and He fulfilled it in His death and resurrection. God’s people do not obey Him because of outward constraint but because of an inward life, the power of the Spirit of God.  Jesus deals with several sins and explains how we must overcome them.