



PRECEPT
UPON
PRECEPT®

English Standard Version

Matthew

PART 1

THE KING AND
THE KINGDOM
OF HEAVEN
(CHAPTERS 1–13)

PRECEPT UPON PRECEPT®

English Standard Version

MATTHEW PART 1

THE KING AND THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
(CHAPTERS 1–13)

ISBN 978-1-62119-112-4

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1st edition

Printed in the United States of America



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HELPFUL STUDY TOOLS

ARTHUR, KAY; ARTHUR, DAVID; DE LACY, PETE

How to Study Your Bible

Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 1994/2010

The New Inductive Study Bible—English Standard Version

Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 2013

Word Study Tools

(The following is a list of helpful Word Study Tools:)

VINE, W. E.; UNGER, MERRILL F.; AND WHITE, WILLIAM, JR

Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words

Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1985

RICHARDS, LAWRENCE O.

Expository Dictionary of Bible Words

Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 1985

RECOMMENDED COMMENTARIES

CARSON, D. A.

The Expositor's Bible Commentary: Matthew Vol I

Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 1995

WENHAM, G. J.; MOTYER, J. A.; CARSON, D. A.; FRANCE, R. T

New Bible Commentary

Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 1994

WALVOORD, JOHN F.; ZUCK, ROY B., EDS.

The Bible Knowledge Commentary, New Testament

Colorado Springs, Colorado: David C. Cook, 1983

RECOMMENDED SOFTWARE

Logos Bible Software

Powerful search engines and up to 4,000 electronic Bible study resources (commentaries, lexicons, Bible dictionaries etc.) make it fast and easy to do simple and complex searches of multiple sources, then pull materials together for orderly presentation—excellent for word and topical studies based on English or original Hebrew and Greek. Available at www.logos.com.



LESSON ONE

Chapters One and Two

THIS LESSON INCORPORATES The following located in the Appendix:
Observation Worksheets of Matthew 1–4
“Matthew at a Glance” chart
Herod’s Family Tree
Map
Cross-references

As you finish reading the Old Testament, you are left with a sense of expectancy. There’s a mediator of a new covenant on the horizon. Messiah is coming suddenly to His temple. The kingdom of God will be inaugurated on earth.

Yet the promises are followed by silence. No recorded word from God for about four hundred years until angels bring God’s message to Zacharias the father of John the Baptist, a young virgin by the name of Mary, a troubled man named Joseph who finds his wife-to-be with child, and shepherds watching their flocks, and until wise men see His star in the east.

The promise through the prophet Isaiah of a Child who is to be born, the Son who is to be given, is about to come to pass.

And when the account of it all is written down in the Gospels which will begin a collection of what will someday comprise the rest of the Scriptures, the New Testament, how important are those first recorded words in Matthew? Why was this Gospel the first to open this second and final portion of the Scriptures? What is its message? What does God want His people to know as He transitions from the Old Covenant to the New? What is on His heart for you, for us, for all who will take up the book and read His message? What are we to understand? How are we to live?

This, beloved of God, is what you will discover in this pivotal book breathed by God.



DAY
ONE

Matthew is believed by many to be the first of the Gospels. However, whether it was written first or not, it does hold first place in the canon of the New Testament books.

Assuming God's sovereignty over the selection and order of the books of the Bible, how does our Father introduce the mediator of the New Covenant? As you are about to see for yourself, it is *not* without purpose, nor Divine design.

Take your study time today to read through the first four chapters of Matthew. These set the stage for the classic Sermon on the Mount found in Matthew 5, 6 and 7, a stunning teaching that even captured the mind of Gandhi, a devout Hindu who played a historically significant role in the independence and restructuring of India.

1. Read Matthew 1-4 and summarize the general content of each chapter below.

Matthew 1

Matthew 2

Matthew 3

Matthew 4

2. Did you see any common theme that ties these four chapters together? If you aren't prepared to answer this question yet, then leave it until later in this week's study and then come back to it.

DAY
TWO

Our objective this week is to study Matthew 1 and 2. As you may have observed, they have a common theme.

1. Let's see what Matthew 1 is about. Do your Observation Worksheet on Matthew 1. Observation Worksheets, the text of Matthew chapter by chapter, are found in the Appendix of this notebook.



- a. Note how the chapter begins. Color-code or mark *Messiah* and *David* throughout this chapter, each in its own way; however, do not mark any pronouns or synonyms. You'll want to see where Matthew uses these **key words** throughout his Gospel.

Key words are important words the author uses throughout a chapter, a segment of scripture, or an entire book. They help unlock the meaning of the text. Color-coding them and/or marking them in a distinctive way helps you see how often and when they are used.

It is helpful to list these important words on what we call a **Key Word Bookmark** and mark them as you will do throughout the book or the Bible. You can use the back of the perforated card on the back cover of your Precept book. Marking suggestions for some frequently used words in the Bible are on the front of the card.

Once you mark keywords, it is helpful to **list** what you learn from the use of the word in the text to glean insight into the 5 Ws and an H: who, what, when, where, why and how.

- Who is the central person in this chapter?
- Who are the other key players in the events in this chapter?
- What is this chapter about?
- When is it happening?
- Where?
- Why is it happening? Or why is the author telling you what he is telling you? Giving you the information he does?
- How is it taking place?

Add *David* and *Messiah (Christ)* to your **bookmark**.

- b. Mark **references to time**. Some of us draw a green circle around words that tell you when and/or give you a sequence of time such as *then, when, until, after*, etc.
- c. Mark all **geographical locations** in a distinctive way as this will help you greatly in this study. Some double underline references to **where** in green.
- d. Other key words which you will want to list on your Key Word Bookmark and mark in Matthew are:
- 1) *Holy Spirit*
 - 2) *angel*
 - 3) *righteous (just)*
 - 4) *prophet* (You may want to mark the phrase *written or spoken of through the prophet(s)* or anything similar to it.)



- e. Also mark *Jesus*. (We will not always have you mark references to *Jesus* or to *God* unless you specifically want to. Since there are so many references to Them in Matthew, it can defeat the purpose of having key words stand out in their setting; however, in some chapters such as chapter 1, we believe it will be helpful.)
 - f. There are many **quotes from the Old Testament** in the Gospel of Matthew. You will find it helpful to mark each quote in a distinctive way, such as highlighting it or drawing a box around it.
2. Where does Matthew 1 divide? Record that and then write out what each division is about.
 3. Now, list the main things you learn about Jesus from Matthew 1. Once again, ask the 5 Ws and an H: e.g., who is He, what do you learn about Him, when is this happening, where is it happening, why, and how.
 4. Finally, summarize Matthew 1 in as few words as possible. This will be the theme of the chapter. For a historical book like Matthew, many times the theme will be the main event(s). Record the theme on the “Matthew at a Glance” chart in the Appendix. You will do this for each chapter. When you finish, you’ll have a brief synopsis of the book.

Good! Look at what you’ve discovered on your own at this point simply by observing the text. This is going to be such an incredible life-shaping study. We’re not going to tell you why at this point because we want you to see it for yourself; but we can assure you that if you take it to heart, it will change the way you view the world.



DAY
THREE

The New Testament was originally written in Koine (common) Greek without chapter and verse divisions. Chapters and verses were added later for the sake of being able to reference the Word of God with greater ease.

1. Since you might have already seen how Matthew 1 and 2 relate to one another and then the change in Matthew 3 and maybe even its connection with Matthew 4, let's observe chapter 2 before you go any further.
 - a. Add *king (ruler)* to your key word bookmark and then mark the text.
 - b. The term *Child* is used throughout Matthew 2. Mark all references to *the Child* including synonyms and pronouns; however, do not put this on your keyword bookmark.
 - c. Add *written* to your bookmark. It is not used a lot, but when it is, it is significant, so give it the attention it deserves.
 - d. Don't miss marking one single geographical reference. **Where** is very important in this chapter as are the references to time. There is a map in the Appendix that you need to consult as you read so you will become familiar with the geographical locations mentioned in Matthew.
2. Record what happens in each paragraph of Matthew 2.
 - a. 2:1-6
 - b. 2:7-12
 - c. 2:13-15
 - d. 2:16-18
 - e. 2:19-23
3. When are these events taking place? Look at the time references you marked.



And what is He telling us about His Son in this first Gospel? He begins with words that are key to his Gospel! Read verse 1 and list your observations.

2. What does Messiah mean? Check a Greek dictionary.

3. “The son of David” (Matthew 1:1). What does this mean? Why is it important? Let’s do some research. Look up the following verses and record any insights you get into the term “son of David.” We are not going to give you any scriptures that were written *after* the birth of Jesus; we simply want you to see what the people of Israel would have known.
 - a. 2 Samuel 7:8-13, 16

 - b. 2 Chronicles 13:5; 21:7 (Watch for the word *covenant*. A covenant is a solemn binding agreement. Thus what transpired in 2 Samuel is referred to as the Davidic Covenant—God’s agreement with David.)

 - c. Psalm 89:3-4, 29



7. Finally, if you have time, you might want to look up the passages Matthew quotes and mark them in your Bible. You could simply highlight them in yellow as they shed light on the promised Messiah—or the times of His life!
 - a. Matthew 1:23 with Isaiah 7:14
 - b. Matthew 2:5-6 with Micah 5:2
 - c. Matthew 2:15 with Hosea 11:1
 - d. Matthew 2:17-18 with Jeremiah 31:15

DAY FIVE

Our focus in this study is the Gospel of Matthew rather than the life of Christ in its totality as recorded in all four Gospels. We really want you to understand Matthew, its distinctive purpose and place among the four Gospels. For this reason we will not study the other Gospels a lot. Nor are we going to tell you what we believe you can discover on your own through this inductive method—we want you to discover truth for yourself.

So in our final day of study of Matthew 1 and 2, let's hit some highlights of these two chapters.

1. First, according to Matthew 1:15-25:
 - a. Whose genealogy is this? Joseph's or Mary's?
 - b. Who will Joseph be to Jesus?
 - c. What role does Mary play in this?
 - d. What do you learn about Mary in Matthew 1? What does Matthew stress about her; what kind of a woman was she morally?
 - e. Who gets the instructions from God in dreams with respect to Jesus? Joseph or Mary?



- f. Would Mary’s or Joseph’s genealogy show the “legal” right to the throne of David?
- g. According to **Jewish custom**, a betrothal preceded the actual consummation of a marriage. Marriage was a contract, a covenant agreement, for a man and woman to become husband and wife. This was unbreakable except for evidence of immorality, a lack of virginity on the woman’s part. Therefore the agreement was made at least a year before the marriage was consummated when the bridegroom would go with his friends in a celebration of great joy to the house of his betrothed and take her to his home and his bed. The waiting period assured the woman was not pregnant with the child of another man. A woman’s virginity was a sacred gift to be guarded. The laws with respect to virgins given in Deuteronomy make that very clear. In fact, if a woman was immoral or a man took a virgin who was betrothed to another, one or both would be put to death depending on the circumstances. Sobering, isn’t it?—especially in comparison to the times in which we live!
2. It is very unusual to include women in a genealogy. Yet four women are included in Matthew 1. What do you know about these women? Read the following passages and note briefly what you learn about them.
- a. **Tamar**—Genesis 38:1-30. It will only take a few minutes to read through the chapter. Don’t get bogged down. It’s an interesting read.
- b. **Rahab**—Joshua 2:1-14; 6:22-25
- c. **Ruth** 1:1-4; 4:13-22



- d. **Bathsheba** (You probably know her—even Hollywood does!) 2 Samuel 11:3-5, 26-27 and 2 Samuel 12:24.
3. According to Matthew 1,
- a. how long does Mary remain a virgin? Which verse tells you?

 - b. Why is Mary’s virginity an issue? Besides being the fulfillment of the prophecy in Isaiah 7:14, why no earthly father for Jesus? Look up the following verses and see what you can learn from them:
 - 1) Romans 5:12

 - 2) Romans 6:23
4. Now, let’s reason together. If Jesus were born of a human father, then He would inherit sin, be a sinner, and He would have to die for His own sins. So why did Jesus become a man, a human being, the Son of Man—born of God through the Spirit of God? Look up the following verses. Note what you learn.
- a. Hebrews 10:4-5



- d. Matthew does not tell us **Herod's genealogy**; only that of Jesus. Herod was an Edomite who bore the title, "King of the Jews." Edomites were the descendents of Esau, the brother of Jacob. Jacob and Esau were sons of Isaac, the son of Abraham.

In the Appendix is a chart taken from the *New Inductive Study Bible* (NISB), "Herod's Family Tree." Herod the Great at the head of this tree is the Herod in Matthew 2. This chart is a great tool to have so you can keep your "Herods" straight. You will find it fascinating when you have time to learn what you can about Herod the Great and why he was called great.

- e. Did Herod know about Messiah? What did he know? And what did he learn? As you answer these questions, give the verse number in Matthew 2 that gives you the answer.
- f. Did Herod really want to worship Jesus? If he did, what would Herod have to acknowledge?
- g. Do you think this might be the problem a lot of people in this world have with Jesus? If He is "the King" and we worship Him, then what must we be willing to do?

6. Now that you've studied chapters 1 and 2 of Matthew for yourself, you are better prepared to evaluate what others say. You may want to read what commentaries say about these two chapters and make any pertinent notes below or on separate paper.



MATTHEW 1

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

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,
- 3 and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram,
- 4 and Ram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon,
- 5 and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse,
- 6 and Jesse the father of David the king.
And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah,
- 7 and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asaph,
- 8 and Asaph the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah,
- 9 and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah,
- 10 and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josiah,
- 11 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,
- 13 and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor,



- 14 and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud,
- 15 and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob,
- 16 and Jacob the father 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.
- 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.”
- 22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:
- 23 “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call his name Immanuel”
- (which means, God with us).
- 24 When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife,
- 25 but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.



MATTHEW 2

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

- NOW after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem,
- 2 saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”
 - 3 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 Judea, 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.
- 13 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.”
- 16 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 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.”
- 19 But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt,
- 20 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.”
- 21 And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel.
- 22 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.
- 23 And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, so that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, that he would be called a Nazarene.



MATTHEW 3

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

- I**N those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea,
- 2 “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”
- 3 For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said,
- “The voice of one crying in the wilderness:
 ‘Prepare the way of the Lord;
 make his paths straight.’ ”
- 4 Now John wore a garment of camel’s hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey.
- 5 Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him,
- 6 and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.
- 7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?
- 8 “Bear fruit in keeping with repentance.
- 9 “And do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham.
- 10 “Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.
- 11 “I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.
- 12 “His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”



- 13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him.
- 14 John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?”
- 15 But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented.
- 16 And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him;
- 17 and behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”



MATTHEW 4

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

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,

‘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,

‘He will command his angels concerning you,’

and

‘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, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ”

8 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory.

9 And he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.”

10 Then Jesus said to him, “Be gone, Satan! For it is written,

‘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.
- 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,
the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—
- 16 the people dwelling in darkness
have seen a great light,
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, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”
- 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 followed him.
- 23 And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people.
- 24 So his fame spread throughout 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.



MATTHEW AT A GLANCE

Book Theme:

	Segment Divisions	Chapter Themes
Author:		1
		2
		3
Date:		4
		5
		6
Purpose:		7
		8
		9
Key Words:		10
		11
		12
		13





