



# **MATTHEW**

## **JANUARY 2017**

Read on your own or with others,  
which ever you prefer.

This leaflet is just a brief overview of the 'big picture' of this book. If you have been reading the Bible for sometime you will be aware there is much more to them than you'll find here.

If you are new to reading the Bible don't worry too much if there are details you do not quite get at the moment - focus on the 'big picture'.

# **INTRODUCTION**

Matthew's Gospel is about the Lord Jesus Christ coming into the world to save his people from their sins (Matthew 1:21). The book begins with a genealogy, the family line, from Abraham to Jesus.

Over 2000 years before the birth of Jesus, God had made a promise to a man called Abraham that he would bless the world through him and his descendants (Genesis 12:1-3). Jesus is descended from Abraham and he is the one who will fulfill the promise.

## **OUTLINE**

### **CHAPTERS 1 AND 2: JESUS COMES INTO THE WORLD**

The frequent references to the Old Testament prophets and the use of the title, 'Christ' (a Greek word meaning God's promised King) remind us that Jesus' coming into the world is God's plan being fulfilled.

### **CHAPTERS 3 AND 4: JESUS BEGINS HIS PUBLIC MINISTRY**

In these chapters we see the beginning of the public ministry of Jesus. Here are some key points:

- Jesus has no sin, but by being baptized for the forgiveness of sin he is identifying with our sin.
- At Jesus' baptism we see the wonder of one God, three persons. Here the Father speaks, the Son is baptized and the Holy Spirit descends to equip Jesus for the task ahead.
- Jesus is tempted in the wilderness, as the nation of Israel was, but he does not sin. He is the sinless redeemer.
- The message of Jesus is a call to turn away from sin and follow him (Matthew 4:12-22).

### **CHAPTERS 5 TO 7: JESUS' TEACHING (THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT)**

Although Jesus performed many miracles the main part of his ministry was to teach people God's truth (Matthew 4:23 – notice the order). In these chapters we get to listen in as Jesus teaches his disciples. Here are some key things to look for:

- Jesus has come to fulfil the Old Testament prophecies (Matthew 5:17).
- Jesus is concerned with the sinful state of our hearts, not just our outward behavior (Matthew 5:21-22).
- Salvation depends on a relationship with the Lord Jesus, not on our works (Matthew 7:21-23).

## **CHAPTERS 8 TO 20: WHO IS JESUS**

In this section we read various incidents in the life of the Lord Jesus that reveal who he is and why he came.

Key sections are:

- Matthew 12:15-21. Matthew explains to us that Jesus is the one promised in the Old Testament to bring hope to the nations.
- Matthew 16:13-20. Peter, and the other disciples, begin to grasp who Jesus really is.
- Matthew 16:21-28. Jesus predicts that he will be killed and will be raised to life. (He repeats this teaching in chapter 20 verses 17-19).

## **CHAPTERS 21-28: THE CLIMAX OF JESUS' MINISTRY**

The events around the death of the Lord Jesus are important. Nearly 30% of the book of Matthew deal with the last week in the life of the Lord Jesus.

- On the cross the Lord Jesus experienced the wrath of the Father (Matthew 27:45-46).
- He did this to destroy the divide between sinful people and a Holy God. This is symbolized by the tearing of the curtain in the temple (Matthew 27:51).
- Jesus is alive! On the Sunday morning after his death the tomb is empty, the sealed stone rolled away, the Roman guards have fled and Jesus appears to his followers.
- Jesus teaches the disciples, and us, that it is our role to take the good news of what Jesus has done to others. In this way God's promise to Abraham that he would bless the nations is being fulfilled (Matthew 28:16-20)

## **ASKING THE QUESTIONS THE BIBLE WANTS YOU TO ASK**

What does this book teach you about Jesus? (Luke 24:45-47)

What does this book teach you about yourself? (James 1:23 & 2 Tim 3:16-17)

How were you encouraged? (2 Tim 3:16-17)

How were you corrected? (Romans 15:4)

What difference do the truths of this book make in your life (Matthew 7:24-27)