

Read the New Testament in a Year.

Hi fellow travellers.

I've offered to write brief notes to accompany our daily reading through the New Testament.

This is a trial - if you find it helpful I'll attempt to keep up to date. If not, I will happily stop!!

Please give me some feedback. Too short? Not clear enough? Too long? Whatever. If there are specific questions please ask. If I can't answer I'll forward it to the Super!

My email is revkensykes@netscape.net OR you can put comments on my Facebook page (use the message option), OR I'm on WhatsApp (ask for details).

Here we go.

Matthew's Gospel

Introduction

Matthew's Gospel is:

a book about Jesus – Saviour.

Immanuel - God with us.

Son of God. Son of David. (i.e. God and man)

The long-awaited Messiah - Anointed One

King of the Jews.

Rabbi -Teacher.

Lord.

He fulfils all God's promises to Israel.

Calls everyone, everywhere to follow Him.

He is the King who dies and rises again so that we can be His people.

The Jesus we are going to meet is gentle, compassionate, uncompromising, expects nothing less than a 'greater righteousness' (what does He mean by that?), and provides the resources to live that way.

We're going to discover His teaching on family relationships, church life, money, dealing with conflict and more.

Let's read on and meet King Jesus who rules with authority.

But don't start if you don't want your lifestyle to be challenged!!

Chapter 1

A selective genealogy to show that Jesus was the climax of Israel's history. Jesus being the goal.

But it's not trying to say only who He is, but also why He came.

Look out for unexpected players in the list. (especially the women)

What does this say about God's Good News?

[1. God can use whoever He see fit to use (even if we might reject them).

2. Salvation is for all - whatever race, gender, background or breeding.]

Chapter 2

Matthew is the gospel of the Old Testament. How many times is it referred to here? (Check Numbers 24:17 as well.)

Nothing takes God by surprise. In Jesus the OT promises are fulfilled - shadows become reality.

Notice too how God knows just where to find us. The wise men while they're star gazing, Joseph when he's dreaming, Then there's Zechariah in the temple, the shepherds in the fields. I wonder where might He find us?

Finally, it's amazing how the Gentiles travel thousands of miles to find a foreign King yet no-one from Jerusalem went looking! Would we go out of our way to find Jesus?

Chapter 3

30 years later Cousin John announces that the King who would deliver them had come – after 400+ years waiting.

John's two point sermon. 1. He's so great we can only do everything He asks of us.

2. He'll resource us with all that we need to do it – purifying fire and energizing Spirit.

Then King Jesus comes on the scene. He stands with us in our need for Salvation. He is anointed for His work with a symbol of innocence, purity, weakness, poverty and gentleness.

And the One Sermon God preaches, Look, Listen, Love my Son Jesus.

Chapter 4

Our position power and privilege is not for our own benefit – resist the temptation!

John preached, "Change your hearts and lives, because The King is here."

Jesus preaches, "Change your hearts and lives, because The Kingdom is here." - You can't have one without the other.

If Jesus had failed He couldn't have saved us. And if we yield to temptation...?

'Leave everything and follow me' is His call – not sit and listen to me!

What does 'follow' mean for us personally and practically?