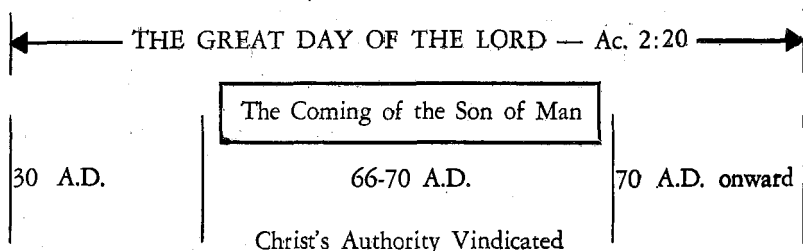


THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

In view of the foregoing, consider the following

SKETCH OF THE ESCHATOLOGICAL CONCLUSIONS REPRESENTED



Descent of the Holy Spirit	Preaching of the Gospel to all nations for a testimony to them	Final rupture between the Church and Judaism	Church of Christ alone vindicated as the only authorized bearer of the divine oracles
Pentecost	Persecutions False Christs National disorders Wars, natural upheavals	Destruction of Temple Fall of Jerusalem End of Classic Judaism Dispersion of Jews	Unsuccessful Uprisings and final dispersion of Jews (general: 115-117; Bar-Kochbah, 132-135)

Jewish Theocracy finally repudiated by God

SOME FURTHER COMMENTS ON ARGUMENTS FOR JESUS' DEITY AND AUTHORITY

I. HIS PRECISION AS A PROPHET

G. C. Morgan (*Matthew*, 104): "One of the most profound reasons for trusting Christ today in the matter of all Christian service

is that here and elsewhere He revealed His perfect knowledge of conditions which no man could forecast, and which yet have transpired exactly as He foretold them." What is more significant, as Morgan declares, is that the keenest of human foresight could not foresee the distinct changes of direction that history, in direct relationship to His disciples, would have taken. "Let us notice that the change of conditions created by the crucifixion of Jesus, and again by the fall of Jerusalem, are self-evident. The position of these men was greatly changed after the crucifixion of Jesus; and it was greatly changed again when the principal force in persecuting them was broken. It is perfectly clear that the King foresaw these things, and that He understood perfectly the whole movement of the years that stretched before Him."

## II. HIS CANDOR, HONESTY AND COMPASSION

Barclay (*Matthew I*, 385): "Here is my task for you—at its grimmest and at its worst—do you accept it?"

McGarvey, (*Matthew-Mark*, 95): "There is a contrast between Jesus and the originators of earthly enterprises, whether secular or religious. It is the custom of the latter to paint in glowing colors the brighter prospects of the causes they plead, and to conceal from both themselves and others the darker side of the picture. But Jesus presents faithfully before His disciples all of the hardships and sufferings which await them, not omitting death itself—and death, it may be, on the cross. The foreknowledge displayed is proof of His divinity, while the compassion and the candor which accompany it are such as we would expect in the Son of God."

Notice that His revelations of the brutal realities in the fearful future are not given in a brutal manner. The Lord compassionately shows the help available in time of need.

Though it is not the usual way to win followers, nevertheless Jesus appeals to that adventurer hidden in the heart of every man. In the long run, one does not attract MEN to the easy way by inducements of comfort, advancement, ease, and fulfilment of worldly ambitions. It is the honest challenge of the heroic that ultimately appeals to men. The Church softens this approach and waters her message to her peril!

## III. HIS ROYAL DEMANDS

Plummer (*Matthew*, 157): "For My sake.' Again we have a claim which is monstrous if He who makes it is not conscious of

## THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

being Divine. Who is it that is going to own us or renounce us before God's judgment-seat (32, 33)? Who is it that promises with such confidence that the man who loses his life for His sake shall find it? And these momentous utterances are spoken as if the Speaker had no shadow of doubt as to their truth, and as if He expected that His hearers would at once accept them. What is more, thousands of Christians, generation after generation, have shaped their lives by them and have proved their truth by repeated experience."

### IV. HIS ASSUMED AUTHORITY

Bengel, (cited in *PHC*, 242): "Great is the authority of conferring authority." Notice how simply Jesus is reported to have done it. (Mt. 10:1) There is no great apologetic which lists reasons why Jesus should have the right to confer authority upon His disciples. Matthew says, "He simply did it, and that was that!"

Note His claim, everywhere implicit in the chapter, that our faith in Jesus determines our standing before God.

Other points suggested by Lewis and Booth, *PHC*, XXII, 245:

V. THE CONSISTENCY OF THE SAVIOR—The prayers He enjoins, the provisions He makes, the instructions He gives, are all of a piece.

VI. THE CONSIDERATION OF THE SAVIOR.—He does not set His workmen to begin at the top of the ladder. He does not ask them at first what, to many among them, will not be too easy at last. Not first apart from Him, but first by His side.

VII. THE FORETHOUGHT OF THE SAVIOR.—He sets them at first to that which will help to qualify them for what has to be done at the last.

## CHAPTER ELEVEN OUTLINES

### Section 24

### JESUS RECEIVES QUESTIONS FROM JOHN AND PREACHES SERMON ON JOHN (11:2-19)