

## WHO IS JESUS ACCORDING TO MATTHEW?

1. Jesus is the fulfilment of all God's promises to ancient Israel:
  - a. He is the descendant of Abraham and David (1:1-17; Gen. 12:2f.; II Sam. 7:11ff.).
  - b. He is the Son of the virgin (1:23; Isa. 7:14) "God with us" (Isa. 7:14).
  - c. He is the Ruler, the Shepherd of Israel born in Bethlehem (2:6; Mic. 5:2).
  - d. He was God's reason for calling Israel out of Egypt (2:15; Hos. 11:1).
  - e. He is what it means to be called a Nazarene (2:23; cf. Ps. 22; Isa. 53; 49:6f.).
  - f. He is the Lord for whom John the Baptist must prepare (3:3; Mal. 3:1ff.).
  - g. He is the greater than John, who must immerse with the Holy Spirit and with fire unquenchable (3:11, 12; Mal. 3:2; 4:1; Joel 2:28ff.).
  - h. He is God's Son possessed of the Spirit of God (3:17; Isa. 61:1, 2; 42:1).
  - i. He is willing to do anything God requires (3:15; 4:1-11).
  - j. He is the great light to the Gentiles (4:12-17; Isa. 9:1, 2).
  - k. He is the fulfilment of the Law and Prophets (5:17-48).
  - l. He is the great Servant of Jahweh who bears our infirmities (8:17; Isa. 53:4).
  - m. He is the great Servant of Jahweh in whom Gentiles may hope (12:15-21; Isa. 41:1, 2).
  - n. He is Zion's true King (21:5; Zech. 9:9).
  - o. He is Jahweh incarnate whose praise on the lips of children silences His enemies (21:16; Ps. 8:2).
  - p. He is the stone the builders rejected (21:42, 44; Ps. 118:22, 23).
  - q. He is David's Son and David's Lord (22:44f.; Ps. 110:1).
  - r. He is the Pierced One over whom Israel would bitterly wail (24:30; Zech. 12:10-14).
  - s. He is the great "Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory." (24:30b; Dan. 7:9-14; Matt. 26:64).
  - t. He is the stricken Shepherd (26:31; Zech. 13:7).
  - u. He is the Servant of God sold for the price of a slave (27:9f.; Zech. 11:12f.; Jer. 32:6-9).
  - v. He is the despised and afflicted Servant of God (27:46; Ps. 22:1ff.).

To the discerning reader, well-schooled in Old Testament literature, Jesus would appear to be everything God had taught Israel to expect, even if Matthew did not explicitly cite every possible reference.

## WHO IS JESUS ACCORDING TO MATTHEW?

2. Beyond what had specifically been prophesied, Jesus is One greater than Moses, the Law and the Temple, the Sabbath.
  - a. While demanding a standard that is higher than Mosaic legislation (Matt. 5:22, 28, 32, 34, 39, 44), He expected men to be perfect as God (Matt. 5:48). He blessed people who suffered for His sake (5:11; 16:24-27; 10:18-39; 24:9, 13)
  - b. He not only expected that men accept His teachings as the rock-foundation of their lives (7:24-27), but proclaimed Himself the divine Judge with whom all must have to do at the final Day (7:21-23).
  - c. He possessed the right of earth to forgive sins which only God could do (9:1-7).
  - d. He demands absolute loyalty to Himself, a loyalty evidenced by public confession and rewarded by presentation personally to the Heavenly Father (10:32, 33, 37-39). To receive the least disciple in Jesus' name is to receive God (10:40-42)!
  - e. Moses could point men to the Law and Prophets (Deut. 18:15-18), but Jesus invited men to Himself (11:28-30), because the Father had intrusted everything to Him (11:27).
  - f. Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath and must do what is good in it (12:1-14). He introduced principles greater than the Temple (12:6).
  - g. Jesus claimed a unique Sonship to God, unshared with any other (7:21; 10:32f.; 11:25-27; 12:50; 15:13; 16:27; 18:10, 19, 35; 20:23; 21:37ff.; 22:2; 26:53; 26:39, 42).
  - h. Jesus is the Owner of the world (13:24-30, 37-43).
  - i. He did not correct men who confessed Him to be God's Son (cf. 8:29), but rather praised them (14:33; 16:16f.). See also 27:54.
  - j. Jesus is to be heard, while Moses and Elijah must forever fade into the background (17:3, 5, 7).
  - k. Jesus and His Apostles will judge all Israel (19:28) not Moses and the Prophets.
  - l. Jesus is the One whose life must be given as a ransom for many (20:28).
  - m. Jesus is the Sender of the New Testament prophets, wise men and teachers (23:34).
  - n. Jesus, as Son of Man in the Danielean sense, is final judge of the entire human race (25:31-46).
  - o. Jesus' blood ratifies the covenant, because poured out for the forgiveness of sins of many people (26:28).

## THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

3. Jesus is Someone greater than the great ones of the Old Testament.
  - a. He is greater than Jonah who brought Ninevah to its knees before God (12:39-41).
  - b. He is greater than Solomon whose God-given wisdom brought the Queen of the South to hear him (12:42).
4. Matthew's conclusion (28:1-20).
  - a. Jesus is risen from the dead (28:1-10).
    - (1) Vindicated by angels (28:1-7).
    - (2) Seen by women (28:8-10).
  - b. Jesus' greatness denied by Jewish gold and Roman lies (28:11-15)
  - c. Jesus' Great Commission (28:16-20).
    - (1) Jesus' authority is universal and the basis of His final orders.
    - (2) Jesus' final commission is to disciple every nation and edify the baptized believers by committing to them everything Jesus taught the original witnesses.
    - (3) Jesus' promise to be with His people till the very end.