

## THE TITLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW'S GOSPEL

1. Jesus' personal name "Jeshua" or "Jehoshua" means "Javeh is salvation" or "Javeh saves," a fact made specific by Matthew's citation of the angel's words: "He will save His people from their sins" (1:21).
2. Jesus is "the son of David" by virtue of His genealogy (1:1-17), a fact underlined by the angel's address to Joseph: "Joseph, son of David . . ." (1:20), and stated by others elsewhere. (Cf. 9:27; 15:22; 20:30; 21:9, 15; 22:41-46.)
3. Matthew considered it essential for even Hebrew readers to see the significance of Jesus' fulfilment of the prophecy about the Virgin Birth (Isa. 7:14), whereby the child born is evidence of "God with us," "Emmanuel" in Hebrew (Matt. 1:23).
4. From the Gospel's title forward, Matthew speaks of Jesus as "Christ," God's Anointed (1:1, 16, 17, 18; 2:4; 11:2; 16:16, 20; 22:42; 23:10; 24:5, 23; 26:63, 68; 27:17, 22).
5. Jesus is "Lord" (3:3; 7:21f.; 21:3; 24:42, 48; 25:11, 19). There are many texts in Matthew where people address Jesus as "Lord," however with the common meaning of "Sir" or "Mister." Yet, there is also a growing importance evident in some of the uses of this title, especially when used in conjunction with other titles. (Cf. 8:25; 14:28, 30; 15:22; 20:31).
6. Jesus is the Ruler of God's people (2:6).
7. Jesus is God's Son (2:15; 3:17; 8:29; 14:33; 16:16; 17:5; 26:63; 27:40, 43, 54). Jesus proves Himself a genuine "Son of God" by His obedience to the Father's will (4:3, 6).
8. Although not a specific title, Jesus is, however, pictured as "the Forgiver of sins on earth" (9:6).
9. He is "the Servant of Javeh" (12:18).
10. He is, upon reflection, the Owner of the world. (Cf. 13:24, 27, 37, 38.)
11. Jesus is "the prophet" (21:11).
12. Jesus is addressed as, or described as "Teacher" (8:19; 9:11; 10:24f.; 12:38; 17:24; 19:16; 22:16, 24, 36; 23:8; 26:18). He thinks of Himself as the disciples' "one Leader" (23:10).
13. Jesus pictures Himself as "the King" of the Kingdom of God judging the servants of God (25:31-34, 40). In His meek Messianic entry into the Holy City He fulfilled the style of Kingship pictured in Zechariah 9:9 which sees Him as Israel's King (21:5).

THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

14. Jesus calls Himself "the Son of Man" (8:20; 9:6; 10:23; 11:19; 12:8, 32, 40; 13:37, 41; 16:13, 27, 28; 17:9, 12, 22; 19:28; 20:18, 28; 24:27, 30, 37, 39, 44; 25:31; 26:2, 24, 45, 64). Because of the evident allusion to the Danielic vision of "the Son of man" (Dan. 7:13, 14) and the greatness of that personage who comes on the clouds of heaven, and because Matthew's Gospel was written after Jesus' vindication in His resurrection, ascension and glorification, should not all of the "Son of man" passages be read in this light? Granted that the original hearers of this expression would not have understood this much, what would this prove? They did not understand many things about the other titles either.