

The Birth Announcement that Changed the World

Sunday, September 18/22 --- Matthew 1 – 2

- I. Introduction to Gospel of Matthew
 - a. Outline of our Study: Five Discourses about the Kingdom of God
 - Key Phrase: *'When Jesus had finished saying these things'...* (7:28; 11:1; 13:53; 19:1; 26:1)
 - b. Timeline of our Study: September 2022 to Easter 2024
 - c. Key Thought in Introduction: *Jesus succeeds where Israel has failed!*

- II. Before Christ (BC) – The King is Coming! (1:1 – 17)

- III. Introducing... Jesus! – The King is Born! (1:18 – 25)

- IV. After Christ (AD – anno Domini) – The King has Come! (2:1 – 23)

Discussion Questions:

Matthew is intent on introducing Jesus in a way that is fit for a KING.

There were misconceptions and rumours floating around about who Jesus was and where He had come from, so Matthew provides a truthful record of the life of Jesus in preparation for an equally precise record of His teaching and what it means to be His follower. The inauguration of the new King requires a new way of thinking if we are going to live under His Lordship and rule.

- *What strikes you most about the way Matthew introduces Jesus?*
- *If we take the 'Hallmark Christmas' out of it, what is the real mood / backdrop of the story of Jesus' birth?*

- *How important is it for you that Jesus came to succeed where Israel had failed? Do you have faith to believe that He can succeed in you to live a God-glorifying life where you have failed?*

Challenge: Pray to the Lord Jesus and tell Him about the areas where you have tried and failed. Then ask Him to reign on the throne of your heart as King and Lord even when life is messy.