

THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

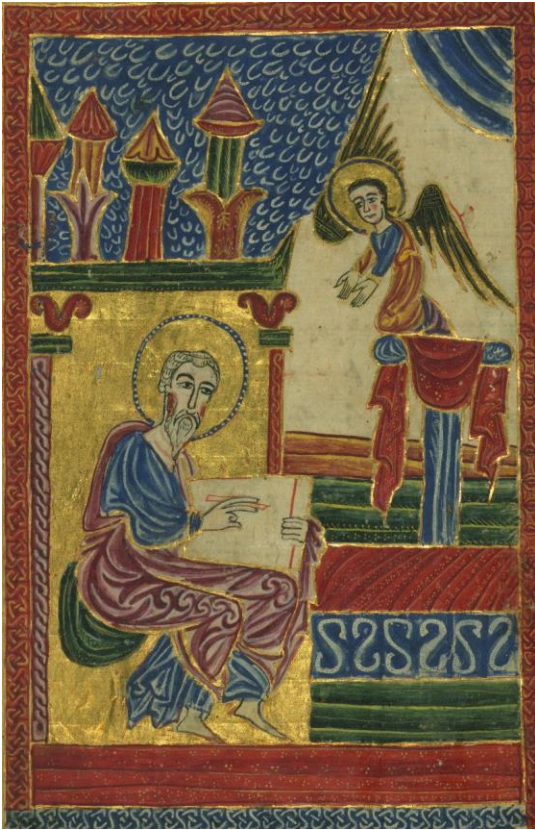
A Bible Study Guide

David L. Keys
 dlkeys@yahoo.com
 www.davidkeys.com

The Gospel of Matthew

Τὸ κατὰ Ματθαῖον εὐαγγέλιον

INTRODUCTION



Written in a polished Semitic "synagogue Greek", the author draws on three main sources: 1. the Gospel of Mark, 2. the hypothetical collection of sayings known as the "Q source", and 3. the material unique to his own community, called the "M source" or "Special Matthew".

The divine nature of Jesus was a major issue for the Matthaean community in the early Christian community. It is the crucial component in distinguishing them from their Jewish neighbors. While Mark begins with baptism and transfiguration, Matthew goes back further, showing Jesus as the Son of God from his birth, and emphasizing the fulfillment of Old Testament messianic prophecies (1:22; 2:15,23; 4:14;5:17; 8:17; 12:17; 13:14,35; 21:4; 27:9). The title, Son of David, identifies Jesus as the healing and miracle-working Messiah of Israel (it is used exclusively in relation to miracles). As Son of Man he will return to judge the world, a fact his disciples recognize but of which his enemies are unaware. As Son of God, he is God revealing himself through his son, and Jesus proving his divinity through his obedience and example.

The gospel reflects the struggles and conflicts between the evangelist's community and the other Jews, particularly with its rather severe criticism of the Scribes and Pharisees. Prior to the Crucifixion the Jews are called Israelites, the honorific title of God's chosen people; after it, they are called Jews, a sign that through their rejection of the Christ the "Kingdom of Heaven" has been taken away from them and given instead to the Christian Church.

AUTHOR

The book of Matthew entered the Christian canon of the New Testament because it was considered to have apostolic authority. In other words, the apostles or those near to the apostles agreed that the book was authoritative. This in and of itself does not prove that Matthew wrote the book. A large number of liberal scholars and a smaller number of conservative scholars say it is not likely he wrote the book. However, many others are more or less convinced he did. Without the manuscript (actual original) of the gospel, we will have to be content with knowing that tradition tells us that the Apostle Matthew wrote the gospel. And what is sufficient to know is that the Gospel of Matthew was accepted by the church in the first century as authoritative and inspired.

DATE WRITTEN

The most widely accepted theory is that both Matthew and Luke used Mark as a source. Matthew even reproduced about ninety percent of Mark, while Luke reproduced about sixty percent. Without going into much detail on the dating of Mark's Gospel, it was probably written somewhere between AD 50 and AD 55.

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Consequently, Matthew's Gospel could have reasonably been written anywhere between AD 55 and AD 60. This date allows time for Matthew to have access to Mark's Gospel, and suggests that he completed the Gospel before the destruction of the temple in AD 70. It would seem strange for the author not to mention this event in light of chapter 24:1-2. This dating also allows time for Luke to use Matthew's Gospel in composing his own Gospel, as well as its sequel, the book of Acts.

OUTLINE

1. The birth and childhood of Jesus - Mt 1:1-2:23

- a. Genealogy of Christ - Mt 1:1-17
- b. Birth of Christ - Mt 1:18-25
- c. Visit of the Magi - Mt 2:1-12
- d. Flight into Egypt and massacre of the infants - Mt 2:13-18
- e. Residence at Nazareth - Mt 2:19-23

2. The preparation for the ministry of Jesus - Mt 3:1-4:11

- a. The forerunner of Christ - Mt 3:1-12
- b. Baptism of Christ - Mt 3:13-17
- c. Temptation of Christ - Mt 4:1-11

3. The ministry of Jesus in Galilee - Mt 4:12-18:35

- a. Residence at Capernaum - Mt 4:12-17
- b. Call of four disciples - Mt 4:18-22
- c. General survey of the Galilean ministry - Mt 4:23-25
- d. The Sermon on the Mount - Mt 5:1-7:29
- e. Ten miracles and related events - Mt 8:1-9:38
- f. Mission of the twelve - Mt 10:1-42
- g. Christ's answer to John, and related discourse - Mt 11:1-30
- h. Opposition from the Pharisees - Mt 12:1-50
- i. A series of parables on the kingdom - Mt 13:1-58
- j. Withdrawal of Jesus following John's beheading - Mt 14:1-36
- k. Conflict with the Pharisees over tradition - Mt 15:1-20
- l. Withdrawal to Phoenecia and healing of a Canaanitish woman's daughter - Mt 15:21-28
- m. Return to the Sea of Galilee and performing of miracles - Mt 15:29-38
- n. Renewed conflict with the Pharisees and Sadducees - Mt 15:39-16:4
- o. Withdrawal to the region of Caesarea Philippi - Mt 16:5-17:23
- p. Instruction of the twelve at Capernaum - Mt 17:24-18:35

4. The ministry of Jesus in Perea - Mt 19:1-20:16

- a. Teaching on divorce - Mt 19:1-12
- b. Blessing of the children - Mt 19:13-15
- c. Interview with the rich young man - Mt 19:16-30
- d. Parable of the laborers in the vineyard - Mt 20:1-16

5. The ministry of Jesus in Judea - Mt 20:17-34

- a. Another prediction of Christ's death and resurrection - Mt 20:17-19
- b. Ambitious request of Zebedee's sons - Mt 20:20-28
- c. Healing of two blind men - Mt 20:29-34

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6. The ministry of Jesus in Jerusalem - Mt 21:1-25:46

- a. Triumphal entry - Mt 21:1-11
- b. Cleansing the Temple - Mt 21:12-17
- c. Cursing of the barren fig tree - Mt 21:18-22
- d. Questioning of Jesus' authority and his parabolic answer - Mt 21:23-22:14
- e. Questioning of Jesus by various groups - Mt 22:15-46
- f. Jesus' public denunciation of the Pharisees - Mt 23:1-39
- g. Olivet Discourse - Mt 24:1-25:46

7. The suffering of Jesus - Mt 26:1-27:66

- a. Plot against Jesus - Mt 26:1-16
- b. The final meal - Mt 26:17-30
- c. Prediction of Peter's denial - Mt 26:31-35
- d. Events in Gethsemane - Mt 26:36-56
- e. Events at the Jewish trials - Mt 26:57-27:2
- f. Remorse of Judas - Mt 27:3-10
- g. Events at the Roman trials - Mt 27:11-31
- h. The Crucifixion - Mt 27:32-56
- i. Burial - Mt 27:57-66

8. The resurrection of Jesus - Mt 28:1-20

- a. Discovery of the empty tomb - Mt 28:1-8
- b. Appearance of Jesus Christ - Mt 28:9,10
- c. Report of the soldiers - Mt 28:11-15
- d. The great commission - Mt 28:16-20

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Who authored the book of Matthew?

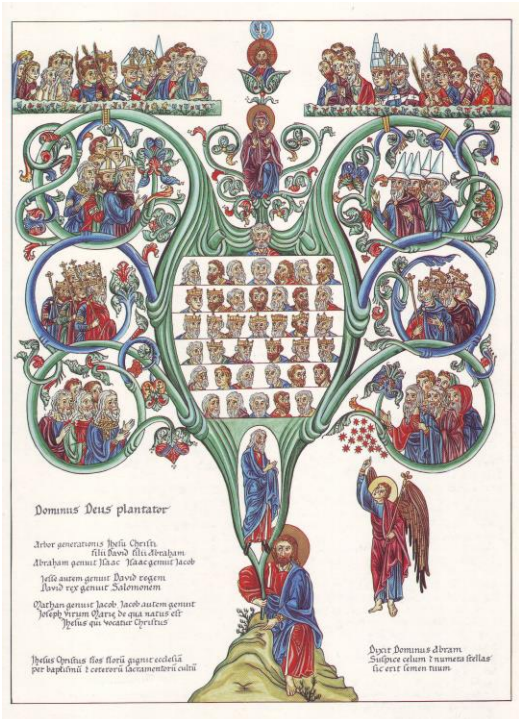
2. Approximately when was the book written?

3. What has been suggested as the theme of Matthew's gospel?

4. What three characteristics of the gospel were noted in the introduction?

5. List the eight sections of the gospel as indicated in the outline?

CHAPTER ONE OVERVIEW



Matthew begins his gospel with the genealogy of Jesus from Abraham to Joseph. A total of 42 generations is described (although a few unfavorable kings were omitted), so the choice of three sets of fourteen seems deliberate. Various explanations have been suggested: fourteen is twice seven, symbolizing perfection and covenant, and is also the gematria (numerical value) of the name David. Thus, he shows the royal lineage of Jesus from David, one of the first things required to convince a Jewish audience that Jesus qualified to be the Messiah (1-17; 22:41-42). The birth of Jesus is then described, with the announcement of the angel to Joseph, and the protection of her virginity until his birth (18-25)

POINTS TO PONDER WHILE READING

- The genealogy, comparing it with the one in Luke's gospel
- The prophecies of Isaiah regarding the virgin birth
- The significance of the names given to the child born of Mary

READ CHAPTER ONE

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What are the main points of this chapter?
2. Whose genealogy is given by Matthew? (1)
3. What four women are included in the genealogy? (3-6)
4. What was the initial relationship between Joseph and Mary? (18)
5. When and how did Mary become pregnant? (18)
6. What two names would be given the child, and what do they mean? (21-23)
7. What scripture in the Old Testament was fulfilled by the virgin birth of Christ? (22-23)
8. How long did Joseph wait until he “knew” Mary as his wife? (25)

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CHAPTER TWO OVERVIEW

Unlike Luke, Matthew does not record events related to the day of Jesus' birth. But he does describe the visit of the wise men that followed the star to find the infant child and to worship him (1-12). Warned by an angel in a dream, Joseph takes Mary and Jesus to Egypt, escaping the massacre of infants by a crazed Herod (13-18). After the death of Herod, Joseph and his family return to settle in the village of Nazareth. (19-23)



POINTS TO PONDER WHILE READING

- The details of the visit of the wise men from the East
- Fact versus fiction related to the birth of Jesus
- Old Testament prophecies fulfilled by the events in this chapter

READ CHAPTER TWO

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What are the main points of this chapter?
2. Why had the wise men from the East come to Jerusalem? (1-2)
3. How did the priests and scribes determine the location of Christ's birth? (4-6)
4. How did the wise men find the young Child? Where did they find him? (9-11)
5. Why did Joseph and his family flee? What prophecy would be fulfilled? (13-15)
6. What prophecy did the slaughter of the innocents fulfill? (16-18)
7. What prompted Joseph and his family to return? Why to Galilee? (19-22)
8. Where did the family settle? What prophecy did that fulfill? (23)

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CHAPTER THREE OVERVIEW



Matthew skips ahead approximately thirty years to describe the events that prepared Jesus for his public ministry. John the Baptist served as a predecessor to Jesus with his own ministry of preaching in the wilderness of Judea and baptizing in the Jordan River (1-12). From Galilee, Jesus came to be baptized by John “to fulfill all righteousness.” As Jesus came up out of the water, the heavens opened, the Spirit descended on him like a dove, and a voice from heaven declared, “This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased” (13-17).

POINTS TO PONDER WHILE READING

- The message and ministry of John the Baptist
- The purpose and meaning of Jesus’ baptism

READ CHAPTER THREE

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What are the main points of this chapter?
2. What was the theme of John’s preaching? (1-2)
3. What was John’s mission as foretold by Isaiah? (3)
4. What unique clothing and diet did John have? (4)
5. What was John doing in the Jordan River? (5-6)
6. What did John say to the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to be baptized? (8)
7. What did John say the “One” who followed him would do? (11-12)
8. Who came from Galilee to be baptized by John? Why? (13-15)
9. As Jesus came up from the water, what three things happened? (16-17)

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CHAPTER FOUR OVERVIEW

Following his baptism, Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness where he fasted for forty days and overcame great temptation by the devil (1-11). Returning to Galilee and moving from Nazareth to Capernaum, Jesus began his Galilean ministry preaching the same message of the kingdom of heaven as that of John the Baptist. After selecting four disciples, Jesus went about Galilee teaching in the synagogues and healing all kinds of sickness and disease. Soon great multitudes from surrounding regions began to follow him (12-25).



POINTS TO PONDER WHILE READING

- How Jesus overcame his temptation by the devil
- The beginning of Jesus' ministry in Galilee, his message and methods
- The call of Peter, Andrew, James, and John to discipleship

READ CHAPTER FOUR

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What are the main points of this chapter?
2. With what three temptations did Satan challenge Jesus? (3,6,9)
3. How did Jesus respond to each of the three temptations? (4,7,10)
4. Where did Jesus begin His public ministry? Fulfilling what prophecy? (12-16)
5. What was the theme of Jesus' preaching? (17)
6. Who were the four fishermen called to follow Jesus? (18-22)
7. How did Jesus conduct His ministry in Galilee? (23-24)
8. Where did people come from to follow Jesus? (25)

CHAPTER FIVE OVERVIEW



Beginning is this chapter; Matthew records the “Sermon on the Mount.” The theme of the sermon is the “The Kingdom of Heaven” (4:17; 5:3, 10, 19-20; 6:10, 33; 7:21). Jesus began with the “Beatitudes” describing the character and blessedness of those who would be citizens of the kingdom (1-12) and illustrating their relation to world as salt and light (13-16). Clarifying his own relationship with the Law, Jesus stressed how our righteousness must surpass that of the Scribes and Pharisees (17-20) following with a series of contrasts between the oral interpretations of the Law and conduct expected of his disciples (21-48)

POINTS TO PONDER WHILE READING

- The meaning of the phrase: “the Kingdom of Heaven”
- The blessedness of those in the kingdom, and their relationship to the world
- How our righteousness must surpass that of the Scribes and the Pharisees

READ CHAPTER FIVE

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What are the main points of this chapter?
2. What do the beatitudes describe? (3-12)
3. How are citizens of the kingdom to relate to the world? (13-16)
4. What was Jesus’ relation to the Law of Moses? (17-18)
5. What does Jesus expect of those who would be citizens of the kingdom? (20)
6. List the five subjects whose interpretations are contrasted in this chapter (21-48)
7. What phrases illustrate these contrasts? (21-22,27-28,31-32,33-34,38-39,43-44)
8. Then what contrast is being made with these five subjects?

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CHAPTER SIX OVERVIEW

The “Sermon on the Mount” continues as Jesus teaches the righteousness of the kingdom expected in those who would be citizens of the kingdom. He discusses righteousness with respect to man’s relation to God, regarding charitable deeds (1-4), prayer (5-15), fasting (16-18), materialism (19-24), and anxiety (25-33).



POINTS TO PONDER WHILE READING

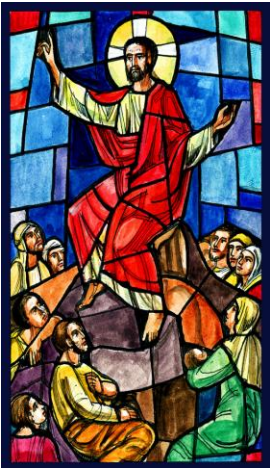
- Performing acts of righteousness in ways that please God
- The danger of materialism and overcoming anxiety about such things
- Making the Kingdom of God and his righteousness our number one priority

READ CHAPTER SIX

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What are the main points of this chapter?
2. As we perform acts of righteousness, what should we avoid? (1-2, 5, 16)
3. How can we ensure that God will reward us for our righteous acts? (4, 6, 18)
4. How else does Jesus teach us to give, pray, and fast? (3, 7, 17)
5. What is the likely purpose of “The Lord’s Prayer”? (9-13)
6. Of things in “The Lord’s Prayer,” on what does Jesus elaborate? (14-15)
7. Where are we to lay up treasure? Why? How? (20, 24; cf. Mt 19:21; 1Ti 6:17-19)
8. What is the key to overcoming anxiety? (25-32)
9. How can we ensure that God will provide what we need? (33)

CHAPTER SEVEN OVERVIEW



The “Sermon on the Mount” continues with Jesus discussing the Kingdom with respect to man’s relation to man, with a warning regarding judging (1-6), the importance of persistence (7-11) and keeping the “Golden Rule” (12). It concludes with exhortations to enter the kingdom: choose the narrow and difficult path (13-14), watch out for false prophets (15-20), do the Father’s will (21-23), being doers of the Word (24-29)

POINTS TO PONDER WHILE READING

- The nature of judging condemned by Jesus
- How Jesus’ “Golden Rule” differs from that found in other religions
- The importance of doing the Father’s will to being saved

READ CHAPTER SEVEN

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What are the main points of this chapter?
2. What sort of judging is Jesus warning against? (1-6)
3. How does Jesus illustrate the need for persistence? (7-11)
4. How does Jesus’ “Golden Rule” differ from that found in other religions? (12)
5. Contrast the two “ways” described by Jesus (13-14)
6. How do false prophets operate? How can we identify them? (15-20)
7. Who will not enter the kingdom of heaven? Who will? (21-23)
8. What is the key difference between the wise and foolish listeners? (24-27)
9. Why were the people astonished at Jesus’ teaching? (28-29)

CHAPTER EIGHT OVERVIEW

As Jesus' ministry in Galilee continues, Matthew describes several miracles and related events. Coming down from the mount, Jesus cleansed a leper (1-4). Entering Capernaum, he healed a centurion's servant (5-13). Arriving at Peter's house, he healed his mother in law and many demon-possessed people and all who were sick (14-17). Before crossing the Sea of Galilee to escape large crowds, Jesus challenged two would be disciples (18-22). After calming the winds and waves of a great tempest (23-27), he arrived on the other side of the sea where he healed two additional demon-possessed men (28-34).



POINTS TO PONDER WHILE READING

- The nature and purpose of the miracles performed by Jesus
- The cost of discipleship

READ CHAPTER EIGHT

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What are the main points of this chapter?
2. List the five miracles recorded in this chapter (1-4,5-13,14-17,23-27,28-34)
3. Before healing the centurion's servant, what impressed Jesus? (10)
4. Before healing the servant, what did Jesus foretell? (11-12)
5. Who did Jesus heal in Peter's house? What prophecy was fulfilled? (14-17)
6. What two lessons did Jesus teach about discipleship? (19-22)
7. What can we learn about fear and faith, before Jesus calmed the sea? (25-26)
8. Who did the demons acknowledge Jesus to be as He confronted them? (29)

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CHAPTER NINE OVERVIEW



Back in Capernaum, Jesus' ministry in Galilee continued with both forgiving and healing a paralytic (1-8). Matthew the tax collector was called to be a disciple, who invited Jesus to his home where he was questioned by the Pharisees and disciples of John (9-17). Asked by a ruler to go and raise his dead daughter, Jesus did so, healing a woman with a "female issue" along the way (18-26). Afterward Jesus healed two blind men and a man who was both mute and demon possessed (27-34). He then went about the region, teaching, and healing, moved with compassion for the multitudes that came to him. (35-38).

POINTS TO PONDER WHILE READING

- Jesus' power to forgive sins
- His willingness to eat with sinners
- His compassion for the lost

READ CHAPTER NINE

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What are the main points of this chapter?
2. List the five miracles recorded in this chapter (1-8, 18-34)
3. How did Jesus demonstrate His power to forgive sins? (6)
4. Who was called to be a disciple and then gave a feast at his house? (9-10)
5. What two groups confronted Jesus regarding what two issues? (11-17)
6. What explanation did Pharisees give for Jesus' ability to exorcise demons? (34)
7. What moved Jesus to call for prayer for more laborers? (36-38)

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CHAPTER TEN OVERVIEW

Following his own call for prayer for more laborers (9:37-38), Jesus selected twelve disciples to be his apostles and gave them power to cast out demons and heal all kinds of disease. (1-4). He then sent them to preach and heal throughout the cities of Israel with specific instructions in what has come to be called, “The Limited Commission” (5-42).

POINTS TO PONDER WHILE READING

- The twelve men selected to be Jesus’ apostles
- Evangelistic principles utilized by Jesus

READ CHAPTER TEN

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What are the main points of this chapter?
2. List the names of the twelve apostles (2-4)
3. What was to be the range of their preaching and message? (5-7)
4. What miracles were they to perform as they preached? At what charge? (8)
5. How were they to be supported? (9-11)
6. What were they to do if they were not received by a house or city? (14-15)
7. What did Jesus prepare them to expect? (16-26)
8. What were they to fear more than persecution? (28, 33)
9. What did Jesus acknowledge His teachings might do? (34-36)



CHAPTER ELEVEN OVERVIEW



While the apostles were fulfilling the “limited commission”, Jesus was approached by emissaries from John the Baptist who received confirmation that he was the “Coming One” (1-6). Jesus revealed that John was “The Messenger” foretold by Malachi and that many were inconsistent in their opposition to both Jesus and John (7-19). Jesus then rebuked cities which did not repent at his teaching (20-24), and at the same time extended a tender invitation to those who would accept his teaching (25-30)

POINTS TO PONDER WHILE READING

- The relationship between Jesus and John the Baptist
- Why the day of judgment will be more tolerable for some
- The Savior’s tender invitation to those with troubled souls

READ CHAPTER ELEVEN

REVIEW QUESTIONS

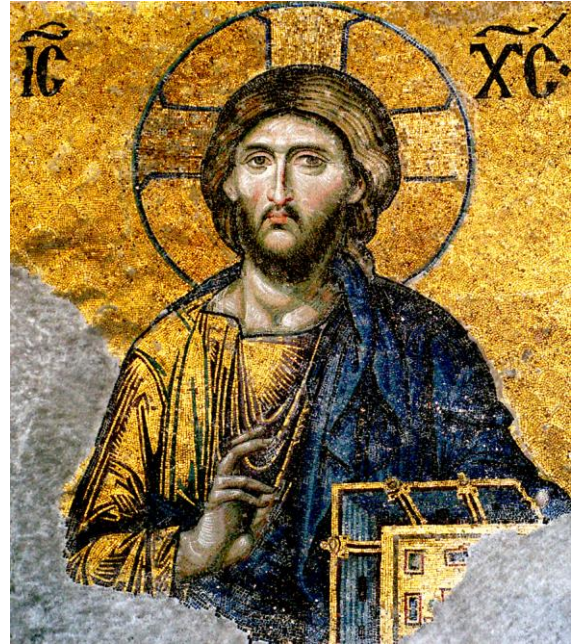
1. What are the main points of this chapter?
2. Why did John send two disciples to Jesus? (2-3)
3. What evidence did Jesus offer to John’s disciples? (4-5)
4. What two Old Testament prophecies did Jesus say that John fulfilled? (10,14)
5. Who did Jesus say would be greater than John the Baptist? (11)
6. How did some people describe John and Jesus? (18-19)
7. Why did Jesus rebuke the cities of Chorazin, Bethsaida, and Capernaum? (20)
8. To whom did Jesus extend His invitation? What did He expect in return? (28-30)

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CHAPTER TWELVE OVERVIEW

Opposition to Jesus and his ministry increased, spear headed by Pharisees who objected to Jesus' conduct on the Sabbath (1-14). Jesus humbly sought privacy, which fulfilled Isaiah's prophecy concerning God's Chosen Servant (15-21), but Pharisees followed him making blasphemous accusations against the Spirit and demanded a sign (22-45). When Jesus' physical family wanted to see him, Jesus identified his disciples as his true family (46-50).



POINTS TO PONDER WHILE READING

- Jesus and the Sabbath day
- The true family of God

READ CHAPTER TWELVE

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What are the main points of this chapter?
2. What were Jesus' disciples doing that angered the Pharisees? (1-2)
3. What was Jesus doing that angered the Pharisees? (9-14)
4. What prophecy did Jesus fulfill warning people not to make Him known? (17-21)
5. How did the Pharisees explain Jesus' ability to cast out demons? (24)
6. What was the blasphemy of the Holy Spirit? (31-32)
7. For what will one give an account in the Day of Judgment? (36-37)
8. What sign did Jesus say He would give to the Pharisees? (38-40)
9. Who did Jesus identify as His true family? (49-50)

CHAPTER THIRTEEN OVERVIEW



Jesus began teaching in parables regarding the kingdom, seven recorded in the chapter (13:1-9, 18-33, 36-52). His goal appeared to separate the truth seekers from the curiosity seekers, as he explained the parables privately to his disciples (13:10-17, 34-35). At Nazareth, he taught in the synagogue where he found an unreceptive audience (53-58)

POINTS TO PONDER WHILE READING

- The purpose of the parables
- What the parables reveal about the Kingdom

READ CHAPTER THIRTEEN

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What are the main points of this chapter?
2. List the seven parables of Jesus found in this chapter (3, 24, 31, 33, 44, 45, 47)
3. What was Jesus two-fold purpose in teaching in parables? (10-17, 34-35, 51-52)
4. What does the parable of the wheat and tares illustrate? (24-30, 36-43)
5. What do the parables of the mustard seed and the leaven illustrate? (31-34)
6. What about the parables of the hidden treasure and pearl of great price? (44-46)
7. What does the parable of the dragnet illustrate? (47-52)
8. Why was Jesus rejected by many at Nazareth? (53-58)

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CHAPTER FOURTEEN OVERVIEW

Word of Jesus' ministry came to Herod Antipas the tetrarch, and Matthew tells how Herod killed John the Baptist (1-12). Hearing of John's death, Jesus sought privacy but was followed by the multitudes and fed over 5000 with five loaves and two fish (13-21). Sending his disciples away by boat, Jesus dispersed the crowd and went to the mountain to pray. He later joined his disciples by walking on the sea (22-33). In the land of Gennesaret, Jesus healed all who came to him by simply letting them touch the hem of his garment (34-36)



POINTS TO PONDER WHILE READING

- The unlawful marriage of Herod that led to John's death
- Two miracles that demonstrate Jesus' power over nature
- The inverse relationship between fear and faith

READ CHAPTER FOURTEEN

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What are the main points of this chapter?
2. Who did Herod think Jesus was when he heard about Him? (1-2)
3. What led to Herod's arrest of John the Baptist? (3-4)
4. How was Herod tricked to have John beheaded? (6-10)
5. When Jesus heard of John's death, what did He try to do? What happened? (13)
6. What prompted Jesus to heal the sick and feed the hungry? (14-15)
7. How many were fed, and with what? (16-21)
8. As Jesus walked on the sea, what led to Peter sinking? (25-31)
9. How were the sick in the land of Gennesaret healed? (34-36)

CHAPTER FIFTEEN OVERVIEW



Religious leaders from Jerusalem took issue with Jesus' disciple's failure to observe certain traditions, which led Jesus to warn against the danger of traditions and that which causes true moral defilement (1-20). After a quick trip to the region of Tyre and Sidon where he healed a Canaanite woman's daughter (21-28), Jesus made his way to a mountain near the Sea of Galilee where he healed many and fed 4000 with seven loaves and a few fish. He then sailed to the region of Magdala, located on the west coast of the Sea of Galilee (29-39).

POINTS TO PONDER WHILE READING

- The danger of traditions and vain worship
- That which causes true moral defilement

READ CHAPTER FIFTEEN

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What are the main points of this chapter?
2. What tradition of the elders had the disciples of Jesus transgressed? (1-2)
3. According to Jesus, when do traditions of men become wrong? (3-9)
4. When does worship become vain? (9)
5. What constitutes true moral defilement? (11, 16-20)
6. What will happen to plants (religions, doctrines) not started by God? (13)
7. How did Jesus describe the scribes and Pharisees from Jerusalem? (14)
8. What moved Jesus to grant the Canaanite woman's request? (28)
9. With what did Jesus feed more than 4000 people? (34-38)

The Gospel of Matthew

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CHAPTER SIXTEEN OVERVIEW

Pharisees and Sadducees asked Jesus for a sign. Exposing their hypocrisy, Jesus once again offered the sign of Jonah (12:38-40). He then warned his disciples to beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees (1-12). At Caesarea Philippi, Jesus asked his disciples who people were saying he was. When asked who they thought he was, Peter confessed him to be the Christ. Jesus commended Peter and spoke of his role in the church, but then told the disciples to tell no one he was the Christ (13-20). Jesus then spoke of his death and resurrection, the cost of discipleship, and coming in his kingdom (21-28).



POINTS TO PONDER WHILE READING

- The confession of Peter and Jesus' response
- The cost of discipleship

READ CHAPTER SIXTEEN

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What are the main points of this chapter?
2. When asked for a sign, what sign did Jesus say would be given? (1-4)
3. When Jesus warned of leaven, what did He mean? (5-12)
4. Who did Peter confess Jesus to be? (16)
5. What did Jesus say He would build? Upon what would it be built? (18)
6. What did Jesus promise Peter? Was it limited to him? (19; cf. Mt 18:18)
7. What did Jesus begin to predict at that time? (21)
8. What did Jesus demand of His disciples? How valuable is one's soul? (24, 26)
9. What promise did Jesus make regarding His kingdom? (28)

CHAPTER SEVENTEEN OVERVIEW



The events recorded in this chapter begin with Jesus transfigured on the mountain (1-13), referenced to later by Peter in his epistle (2PET 1:16-18). Afterward Jesus healed a demon-possessed boy when his disciples were unable due to a lack of faith and prayer (14-21). Back in Galilee, Jesus once again predicted his death and resurrection (22-23). Upon arriving in Capernaum, Jesus expounded on the payment of the temple tax (24-27).

POINTS TO PONDER WHILE READING

- The significance of the transfiguration
- The reason for the failure of a miracle

READ CHAPTER SEVENTEEN

REVIEW QUESTIONS

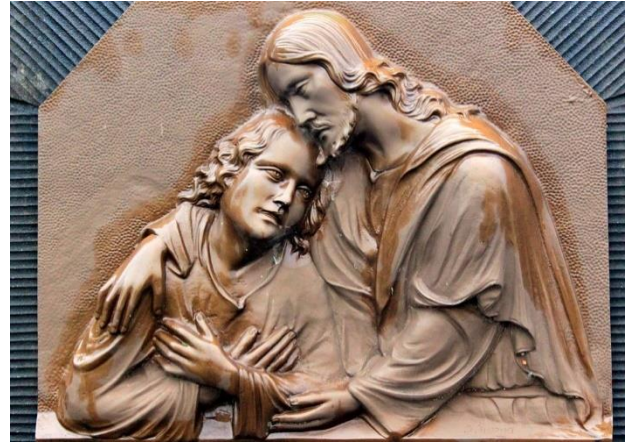
1. What are the main points of this chapter?
2. When was Jesus transfigured on the mount? (1)
3. Who appeared when Jesus was transfigured? What might they represent? (3)
4. What did the voice from the cloud say about Jesus? What might it indicate? (5)
5. When were the disciples to tell others what they had seen? (9)
6. Who did Jesus say had come? Who had fulfilled that prophecy? (10-13)
7. Why were the disciples unable to heal the demon-possessed boy? (19-21)
8. What did Jesus predict for the second time to His disciples? (22-23)
9. Did Jesus teach His disciples to pay taxes? How did He pay the tax? (24-27)

The Gospel of Matthew

Τὸ κατὰ Ματθαῖον εὐαγγέλιον

CHAPTER EIGHTEEN OVERVIEW

Answering a question by his disciples, Jesus taught the need for child-like humility and the danger of offenses to others and to self (1-9), followed with the parable of the lost sheep (10-14). Further instructions included how to deal with a sinning brother (15-20) and the need for a forgiving heart illustrated by the parable of the unforgiving servant (21-35).



POINTS TO PONDER WHILE READING

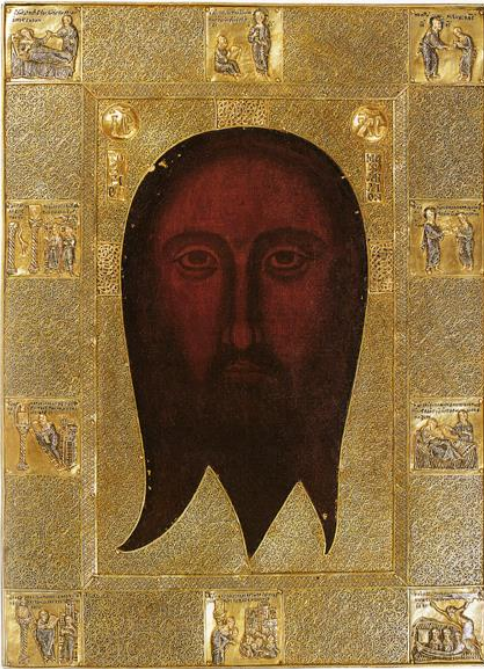
- The need for humility, and the concern for others in the kingdom
- Dealing with a sinning brother, and the importance of forgiveness

READ CHAPTER EIGHTEEN

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What are the main points of this chapter?
2. Who will be greatest in the kingdom of heaven? (1-5)
3. How old was the little child that Jesus used as an example? (6)
4. What types of offenses does Jesus warn against? (6-9)
5. What parable illustrates the Father's concern for the lost? (12-14)
6. In dealing with a sinning brother, what steps should be taken? (15-18)
7. What increases the likelihood that God will answer prayer? (19-20)
8. How many times should we be willing to forgive a brother? (21-22)
9. What grave warning is in the parable of the unforgiving servant? (33)

CHAPTER NINETEEN OVERVIEW



In response to another test by the Pharisees, Jesus spoke on the issues of marriage, divorce and celibacy (1-12). Little children were brought to him, whom he blessed (13-15). When a rich young ruler questioned him concerning eternal life (16-22), Jesus used the occasion to teach his disciples about possessions in relation to the kingdom of God (23-30).

POINTS TO PONDER WHILE READING

- Jesus' teachings related to marriage, divorce, and celibacy
- Possessions and rewards in reference to the kingdom of God

READ CHAPTER NINETEEN

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What are the main points of this chapter?
2. Who is it that joins a man and woman in marriage? (6)
3. What exception does Jesus allow for divorce? Otherwise, what occurs? (9)
4. What price might be necessary for some to enter the kingdom of heaven? (12)
5. What did Jesus say about little children? (14)
6. What did Jesus counsel the rich young ruler? (17, 21)
7. What did Jesus say about being rich and the kingdom of heaven? (23-24)
8. What did Jesus promise to His apostles who left all to follow Him? (27-28)
9. What did Jesus promise to all willing to leave much to follow Him (29-30)

The Gospel of Matthew

Τὸ κατὰ Ματθαῖον εὐαγγέλιον

CHAPTER TWENTY OVERVIEW

Continuing his reply to Peter's question "...what shall we have?", Jesus told the parable of the laborers (1-16), then predicted his death and resurrection a third time as they headed towards Jerusalem (17-19). When the mother of James and John requested a special place for her sons in the kingdom, Jesus said it was not his to give. He used the occasion to teach all his disciples the principle of greatness through service (20-28). Leaving Jericho, Jesus gave sight to two blind men who would not let the crowds deter them (29-34)



POINTS TO PONDER WHILE READING

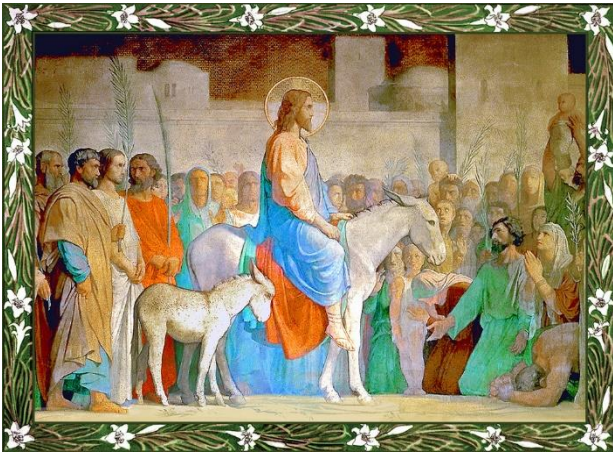
- Should one delay in their obedience to the gospel?
- The danger of a mercenary spirit
- The importance of humble service

READ CHAPTER TWENTY

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What are the main points of this chapter?
2. Whose question had prompted the telling of the parable of the laborers? (1)
3. What should not be deduced from this parable? Why? (1-10)
4. What is the main point of the parable of the laborers? (11-16)
5. List the three passages in which Jesus foretold his death and resurrection?
6. Who asked Jesus for a privileged position in his kingdom? (20-21)
7. What quality is considered great in the kingdom? (25-28)
8. What commendable spirit did the two blind men manifest? (30-31)

CHAPTER TWENTYONE OVERVIEW



Jesus began his last week before his crucifixion with a triumphant entry into Jerusalem (1-11) followed with dramatic acts like driving the moneychangers from the temple (12-17) and cursing the barren fig tree (18-22). His authority was soon challenged (23-27) and in response Jesus told the parables of the two sons (28-32) and the wicked vinedressers (33-46) understood by the religious leaders to be directed toward them.

POINTS TO PONDER WHILE READING

- Significance of the triumphal entry, cleansing the temple, cursing the fig tree
- The conflict between Jesus and the religious leaders

READ CHAPTER TWENTYONE

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What are the main points of this chapter?
2. What prophecy was fulfilled by Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem? (4-5)
3. Why was Jesus angry at the merchandising going on in the temple? (13)
4. Why were the religious leaders angry with Jesus? (15)
5. What might the cursing of the barren fig tree signify? (19)
6. Where does authority in religion come from? (25)
7. Who did the two sons in the parable represent? (28-32)
8. What prophecy foretold that religious leaders would reject Jesus? (42)

The Gospel of Matthew

Τὸ κατὰ Ματθαῖον εὐαγγέλιον

CHAPTER TWENTYTWO OVERVIEW

Jesus told a third parable directed toward the religious leaders: the parable of the wedding feast (1-14). The leaders responded as various factions tried to trip Jesus with questions. Pharisees and Herodians asked Jesus about paying taxes to Caesar (15-22), Sadducees presented an argument against the resurrection of the dead (23-33), and a lawyer asked “What was the greatest commandment of the law?” (34-40). Jesus answered easily, and then silenced them with a question of his own regarding the Christ as David’s son (41-46).



POINTS TO PONDER WHILE READING

- Many are called, but few are chosen
- Paying taxes, the resurrection, and the greatest commandment
- How Christ is both David’s son and David’s Lord

READ CHAPTER TWENTYTWO

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What are the main points of this chapter?
2. What two groups are depicted in the parable of the wedding feast? (3, 11)
3. How did Pharisees and Herodians try to entangle Jesus in His talk? (15-17)
4. What did Jesus reply that prompted them to marvel? (21-22)
5. How did Sadducees try to trip Jesus? (23-28)
6. What two-fold answer did Jesus give the Sadducees? (29-32)
7. What were the two greatest commandments in the Law? (37-38)
8. How can Christ be both David’s son and David’s Lord? (45)

CHAPTER TWENTYTHREE OVERVIEW



With the religious leaders silenced by their inability to entangle Jesus with their questions, Jesus proceeded to decry the hypocrisy of the scribes and Pharisees in a series of scorching rebukes (1-36). Despite his strong condemnation, his love for them was manifested by this lament for the people of Jerusalem (37-29).

POINTS TO PONDER WHILE READING

- The hypocrisy of the scribes and Pharisees
- Jesus' grief over the apostasy and fall of Jerusalem

READ CHAPTER TWENTYTHREE

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What are the main points of this chapter?
2. What does Jesus tell people to do in regards to the scribes and Pharisees? (3)
3. List some things for which Jesus rebuked the scribes and Pharisees (3-7)
4. What did Jesus tell His disciples not to do? Why? (8-11)
5. List the reasons for the eight woes expressed by Jesus (13, 14, 15, 16, 23, 25, 27, and 29)
6. What did Jesus say was the condition of Jerusalem? (38)

The Gospel of Matthew

Τὸ κατὰ Ματθαῖον εὐαγγέλιον

CHAPTER TWENTYFOUR OVERVIEW

This chapter records the beginning of the Olivet discourse, prompted by questions following Jesus' prediction of the destruction of the temple (1-3). It involves the destruction of Jerusalem which occurred in 70 A.D., though many also see intertwining references to the second coming of Christ (4-51).

POINTS TO PONDER WHILE READING

- The fulfillment of events foretold by Jesus in this chapter
- The importance of being prepared and productive

READ CHAPTER TWENTYFOUR

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What are the main points of this chapter?
2. What questions were prompted by Jesus' prediction? (3)
3. What did Jesus say would not be the sign? (4-13)
4. What would happen before the "end" would come? (14)
5. What would be the sign for those in Judea to flee? (15-16; cf. Lk 21:20-21)
6. What would happen immediately after the tribulation of those days? (29-31)
7. Where else is language like this used to describe judgment upon a nation?
8. What would not pass away before these things would be fulfilled? (34)
9. Why did Jesus stress the importance of preparation and productivity? (36-51)



CHAPTER TWENTYFIVE OVERVIEW



Jesus continued his discourse on the Mount of Olives with two parables illustrating the need to be prepared and productive: 1: the wise and foolish virgins (1-13), and 2: the talents (14-30). He concluded the discourse by predicting his judgment of the nations on how they treated his brethren (31-46).

POINTS TO PONDER WHILE READING

- The importance of being prepared and productive
- The basis upon which nations are to be judged

READ CHAPTER TWENTYFIVE

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What are the main points of this chapter?
2. What parable illustrates the importance of being prepared? (1-13)
3. Why is it imperative that one always be prepared? (13)
4. Which “coming” is Jesus talking about? (13)
5. What parable illustrates the importance of being productive? (14-30)
6. Based on this parable, what does Jesus expect of His disciples? (15, 21, 26-27)
7. In the judgment depicted, who is being judged? On what basis are they judged? (32, 40, 45)
8. Where is there a similar judgment portrayed in the Old Testament?
9. Even if such “judgments” are limited to the nations, what do they foreshadow?
10. How are punishment and reward described in this chapter? (34, 41, 46)

The Gospel of Matthew

Τὸ κατὰ Ματθαῖον εὐαγγέλιον

CHAPTER TWENTYSIX OVERVIEW

This lengthy chapter describes the flurry of events leading to Jesus' arrest and trial, with the plot to kill Jesus (1-5, 14-16), Jesus' anointment by Mary (6-13), the last Passover supper and institution of the Lords supper (17-35), Jesus' prayers in the garden (36-46), the betrayal by Judas and accompanying arrest (47-56), the appearance before Caiaphas and the council (57-68) and Peter's denial as foretold by Jesus (69-75)

POINTS TO PONDER WHILE READING

- The events leading to the arrest of Jesus
- The institution of the Lord's supper
- Judas' betrayal and Peter's denial



READ CHAPTER TWENTYSIX

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What are the main points of this chapter?
2. Who plotted to take Jesus by trickery and kill Him? (3-4)
3. What did Jesus say would be done for Mary who anointed Him? (13)
4. For how much did Judas agree with the chief priests to betray Jesus? (14-15)
5. What did Jesus institute while eating the Passover? (26-28; cf. 1Co 11:17-34)
6. What did Jesus predict would happen that night? (31-35)
7. What did Jesus pray for three times in the garden of Gethsemane (39, 42, 44)
8. What claim was Jesus willing to accept at His trial? (63-64)
9. After Peter denied knowing Jesus three times, what did he do? (75)

CHAPTER TWENTYSEVEN OVERVIEW



Prevented by law from carrying out execution, the religious leaders sent Jesus to Pilate who condemned him to be crucified (1-2, 10-31). Meanwhile, Judas returned the betrayal money and hanged himself (3-9). Crucified along with two thieves, Jesus expired after six hours (32-56). His body was buried in Joseph's tomb, secured by Roman guards (57-66).

POINTS TO PONDER WHILE READING

- The events leading to the crucifixion
- The abuse Jesus suffered prior to his actual death

READ CHAPTER TWENTYSEVEN

REVIEW QUESTIONS

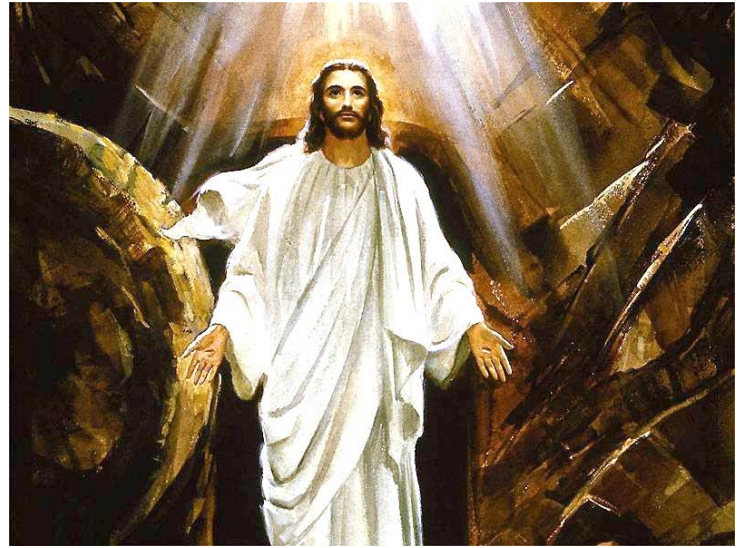
1. What are the main points of this chapter?
2. What did Judas do when he realized Jesus was condemned? (3-5)
3. What did Jesus confess to Pilate? (11)
4. Who was released instead of Jesus? (15-26)
5. What abuse did the Roman soldiers inflict on Jesus? (26, 28-31)
6. Who helped bear Jesus' cross? Where was Jesus crucified? (32-33)
7. Who blasphemed and mocked Jesus as He hung on the cross? (39)
8. What did the guards confess after seeing the events following Jesus' death? (54)
9. Where was Jesus buried? Who saw where He was buried? (57-61)
10. Why was a Roman guard placed at the tomb of Jesus? (62-66)

CHAPTER TWENTYEIGHT OVERVIEW

On the first day of the week following his crucifixion, Jesus rose from the dead and appeared first to the two Mary's', giving them instructions for the disciples to meet him in Galilee (1-10). Meanwhile the chief priests and elders bribed the soldiers to say that the disciples stole the body (11-15). When the disciples met Jesus in Galilee, he charged them to go and make disciples of all nations (16-20)

POINTS TO PONDER WHILE READING

- The circumstances of Jesus' resurrection
- The details of the Great Commission



READ CHAPTER TWENTYEIGHT

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What are the main points of this chapter?
2. Who came to the tomb at dawn on the first day of the week? (1)
3. What had happened by the time they got there? (2)
4. What were the two women instructed by the angel to do? (7)
5. Who appeared to the two women on their way to the disciples? (9-10)
6. What makes the soldiers' lie about the body of Jesus fatally flawed? (13)
7. When the disciples saw Jesus in Galilee, what was their reaction? (16-17)
8. What did Jesus claim had been given to Him? (18)
9. What did Jesus charge His disciples to do? What did that involve? (19-20)
10. What did Jesus promise His disciples? (20)