

THE COMING KING

C. E R N E S T T A T H A M



Developed as a study course by Emmaus Correspondence School, founded in 1942.

The Coming King

Abridged and adapted by Sue Tyler from the ECS course
The Gospel of Matthew by C. Ernest Tatham.

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STUDENT INSTRUCTIONS

What this world needs is a King—one who will rule it with firmness, wisdom, and compassion. This is the kind of King that *God* has planned for this world. His name is Jesus Christ, and He is God’s Son.

When God the Son came to earth the first time He was rejected by the nation He was born into, the Jews. Matthew tells how they gave Him a cross, not a crown. Nevertheless, Jesus does rule over a kingdom today. His present kingdom is a spiritual one, over the minds, hearts, and souls of people who have submitted to Him as the King of their lives. He promised His followers that He would come back one day, and when He does, the glorious predictions of the Bible’s prophets will be fulfilled and Jesus will reign not only over the Jewish nation, but also the whole earth.

Matthew knew Jesus well. His account of Jesus’ earthly life never loses sight of the fact that Jesus *is* the King of the Jews (that is, the rightful heir to King David’s throne) and this world’s much-needed Sovereign. As you study Matthew’s gospel with the help of this study course, *The Coming King*, the drama will unfold. Matthew evidently loved “King Jesus” and looked forward to the day when He will reign. Our hope is that this passion and prospect will grip *your* heart as well.

Lessons You Will Study

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Course Components

This course has two parts: this study course and the exam booklet.

How To Study

This study has twelve chapters, and each chapter has its own exam. Begin by asking God to help you understand the material. Read the chapter through at least twice, once to get a general idea of its contents and then again, slowly, looking up any Bible references given.

Begin studying immediately, or if you are in a group, as soon as the group begins. We suggest that you keep a regular schedule by trying to complete one chapter per week.

Exams

In the exam booklet there is one exam for each chapter (exam 1 covers chapter 1 of the course). Do not answer the questions by what you think or have always believed. The questions are designed to find out if you understand the material given in the course.

After you have completed each chapter, review the related exam and see how well you know the answers. If you find that you are having difficulty answering the questions, review the material until you think you can answer the questions.

How Your Exams Are Graded

Your instructor will mark any incorrectly answered questions. You will be referred back to the place in the course where the correct answer is to be found. After finishing this course with a passing average, you will be awarded a certificate.

If you enrolled in a class, submit your exam papers to the leader or secretary of the class who will send them for the entire group to the Correspondence School.

See the back of the exam booklet for more information on returning the exams for grading.

1

THE KING IS BORN

Begin by reading Matthew 1–2

Matthew was a disciple (follower) of Jesus. The word *gospel* means “good news,” so “The Gospel according to Matthew” is the good news from Matthew’s viewpoint about the extraordinary life of Jesus Christ. He emphasized that Jesus was the King whom Israel’s prophets had predicted would come one day. In fact, he quotes about *one hundred* times from those prophets’ writings to prove that Jesus was the Jews’ promised King. Matthew’s account also tells what Jesus expected of the citizens of His kingdom. In this course we will see how the Jews responded to Jesus’ claims, teachings, and work among them.

The Ancestry of Jesus Christ (1:1-17)

The ancestry of Jesus proved He had the right to rule Israel. The two men mentioned in verse 1 were the most significant ones in His family line. *Abraham* was the “father” of the Jewish race. *David* was the king through whom God promised that the Messiah (the Christ) would come. The title *Messiah* means “Anointed (or, Chosen) One.”

The last person in the line of Jesus was Joseph. Notice that Matthew does not say that Jesus was Joseph’s son; Jesus was *God’s* Son. Joseph, as Mary’s husband, was Jesus’ *legal* father in David’s line. This entitled Jesus to be Israel’s King.

Christ's Miracle Birth (1:18-25)

In those days, being betrothed was more binding than what being engaged is today. Mary could have been stoned to death under Jewish law for becoming pregnant before marriage! But because Joseph was a kind man, he decided the best thing to do was to divorce her quietly.

God stepped in by sending an angel to tell Joseph not to be afraid of marrying Mary. This baby would be God in human flesh—"God with us." He would be a unique person! Even His name was important: He was to be called *Jesus*, which means "God saves." God's reason for sending His Son was to save His people from their sins. The Savior had to be without sin Himself. Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit, so He was not defiled by the sinful nature that is passed on through the man (see Romans 5:12, 19). And because their marriage was not consummated until after Jesus was born, Mary's womb was kept "pure" until then. God's plan was perfect! When the Baby was born, Joseph obeyed God and named Him Jesus.

The Wise Men Come (2:1-12)

Amazingly, the first people that Matthew records who publicly recognized Jesus as the King of the Jews were Gentiles, not Jews! The wise men are thought to have been astrologers—men who studied the stars. The Bible does not say, but maybe God revealed the meaning of this particular star to them. No matter how they knew, they responded to that knowledge by traveling many miles to a foreign land to honor this special King. We should "go out of our way" to worship Jesus, too.

The star probably appeared about the time Jesus was born. From verses 7 and 16 it seems that these men arrived in Jerusalem, the capital city of Israel (where they expected to find a king), when Jesus was about two-years-old.

At that time in history the Jews were ruled by the Romans. Rome had made Herod the Great their king. Herod was alarmed to hear about a "rival" to his throne! He turned to the local religious experts for information. Although these men knew exactly where the Messiah should be born, they did not care enough to travel the six short miles to Bethlehem to find out if the prophecy had really been fulfilled. Are *you* content to only *know* biblical truth? Truth should touch your heart and life as well.

The star did not necessarily *lead* the wise men to Jerusalem, but it did direct them to the exact place where Jesus was in Bethlehem. Another miracle!

Notice the three different reactions these people had to Jesus:

- (1) Herod pretended to be interested in Him, but in his heart he was hostile to Him.
- (2) The scribes were indifferent to Him.
- (3) The wise men were eager to find and worship Him, and they rejoiced when they did.

What is your attitude to Jesus?

Now notice three things in verse 11.

- (1) The wise men did not worship the Baby in the manger (see Luke chapter 2); they worshiped the “young Child” in the “house.” This shows that many months had passed.
- (2) They saw “the Child with Mary His mother.” Christ is always mentioned before Mary (vv. 13, 14, 20, 21). He deserves the chief place of attention.
- (3) They gave gifts only to Jesus, and they only worshipped *Him*.

The giving of three gifts does not necessarily mean there were three wise men. The gifts describe Jesus’ person and destiny. *Gold* pictures His worth and His deity. The perfume *frankincense* speaks of the lovely “fragrance” of His sinless life. *Myrrh* was used to embalm dead bodies; it reminds us that Jesus would eventually die and be buried.

God warned the wise men in a dream to go straight home. This meant they had to ignore Herod’s request to return to Jerusalem. We should always submit to earthly authorities unless, as in this case, to do so means disobeying God.

The Flight to Egypt and Back (2:13-23)

In another dream, an angel told Joseph to take Jesus and Mary to Egypt to protect Jesus from Herod. By doing so, another Old Testament prophecy was set in motion: one day God would “call” His Son back to Israel to carry out His mission.

Matthew now tells of Herod's terrible slaughter of Bethlehem's male children. Bethlehem's population would not have been more than 2,000, so the number of male children under two would have probably been about thirty. But Herod was so cruel that he would have massacred ten times that number to keep his throne.

Verses 19-23 record the third and fourth times Joseph heard and obeyed directions from God about his duties as Jesus' earthly guardian. He is a good example to us to simply *hear* and *obey* the instructions God gives us in His Word.

Although Jesus was the legal heir to David's throne, He grew up humbly and quietly in a town in Galilee that everyone looked down on—Nazareth (see John 1:46). Even before He began His public work He was “despised and rejected by men” (Isa. 53:3).

THE COMING KING

EXAM BOOKLET AK '08

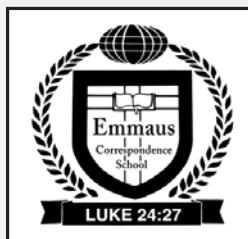
STUDENT NAME

ADDRESS

CITY, STATE, ZIP

COURSE GRADE: _____

INSTRUCTOR



Exam developed by Emmaus Correspondence School, founded in 1942.

A NOTE ON THE EXAMS

The exams are designed to check your knowledge of the course material and the Scriptures. After you have studied a chapter, review the exam questions for that lesson. If you have difficulty in answering the questions, re-read the material. If questions contain a Scripture reference, you may use your Bible to help you answer them. If your instructor has provided a single page Answer Sheet, record your answer on that sheet. This exam contains the following types of questions:

MULTIPLE CHOICE

You will be asked to write in the letter of the correct answer at the space on the right. Here is an example:

The color of grass is

- A. blue C. yellow
B. green D. orange

 B

WHAT DO YOU SAY?

Questions headed this way are designed to help you express your ideas and feelings. You may freely state your own opinions in answer to such questions.

RETURNING THE EXAM

See the back of this exam booklet for instructions on returning your exam for grading.

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CHAPTER 1 EXAM

THE KING IS BORN

EXAM GRADE

Before starting this exam, write your name and address on the front of this Exam Booklet.

Directions: Read each question carefully and write the letter of the correct answer in the blank space on the right. Use the separate answer sheet if provided.

1. In his gospel, Matthew emphasized that Jesus was
 - A. a good man who would show people how to live
 - B. the King that Israel's prophets had predicted would come
 - C. an ordinary man who thought he was important_____

2. The two most significant ancestors of Jesus were
 - A. Abraham and David
 - B. Jacob and Solomon
 - C. Adam and Judah_____

3. Jesus' name means
 - A. God is holy
 - B. God saves
 - C. God is good_____

4. The wise men probably were people who
 - A. were kings
 - B. were shepherds
 - C. were astrologers_____

5. When Jesus was about _____ old, the wise men arrived at Jerusalem.
 - A. 2 years
 - B. 2 weeks
 - C. 2 days_____

6. Herod pretended to be interested in Jesus, but he was really
 - A. indifferent to Him
 - B. hostile to Him
 - C. undecided about Him_____

7. The gifts the wise men gave to Jesus
A. describe Jesus' person and destiny
B. were whatever the wise men had available
C. were meant to show that the wise men were rich _____
8. Joseph took Jesus and Mary to Egypt because
A. he thought it would be a better place to raise a child
B. he had relatives there
C. God warned him about Herod in a dream _____
9. In Matthew 2:22-23, Matthew tells us that Jesus grew up in Nazareth because
A. the Old Testament prophets said He would be called a Nazarene
B. Joseph was warned by God not to go to Judea
C. both A and B _____
10. Joseph is a good example to us to
A. hear and obey God's instructions
B. run away from trouble
C. do what we think is wise _____

WHAT DO YOU SAY?

In these two chapters, how does Matthew show that Jesus was the King that God had promised to send? Why do you think it is important for us to know this?

CHAPTER 2 EXAM

THE PRESENTING AND PROVING OF THE KING

EXAM GRADE

*Write the letter of the correct answer in the blank space on the right.
Use the separate answer sheet if provided.*

1. God used _____ to announce the arrival of the promised Messiah.
 - A. Matthew, Jesus' disciple
 - B. Mark, the gospel writer
 - C. John the Baptist

2. The word *repentance* means
 - A. a change of mind
 - B. feeling sorry for your sin
 - C. ignoring your sin

3. "The kingdom of heaven" can be defined as
 - A. a place in the sky where God rules
 - B. a place on earth where God rules
 - C. the realm where God's rule is accepted

4. The Pharisees and Sadducees were
 - A. Roman political parties
 - B. important religious groups in Judaism
 - C. followers of Jesus

5. In the Bible, fire always suggests
 - A. warmth
 - B. judgment
 - C. peace

6. God's purpose in allowing Jesus to be tempted by Satan was to
 - A. prove that Jesus could not sin
 - B. find out if Jesus would sin
 - C. show Satan's power in the world
