

Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

The Gospel of

Matthew

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted."

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WHO WAS MATTHEW?

Matthew, surnamed Levi (Mark 2:14), worked for the Roman government (Matt. 9:9) as a Jewish tax-gatherer (publican). Tax collectors were despised by Jews because of their affiliation with the Romans and yet Matthew was chosen by Jesus and he responded to the Lord's calling.

The Gospel of Matthew's author is anonymous, but Matthew the Apostle is traditionally considered the author. The apostle Matthew seems to have written this Gospel to a Christian audience who was either Jewish or highly familiar with the Jewish religion.

Irenaeus says it was written when Peter and Paul were preaching in Rome (Against Heresies 3.1.1). Eusebius states that this was done when Matthew left Palestine and went to preach to others (Historia Ecclesiastica, III, 24). Clement of Alexandria said that the presbyters who succeeded each other from the beginning declared that "the gospels containing the genealogies (Matthew and Luke) were written first" (Eusebius, Historia Ecclesiastica, VI, 14). It is traditionally dated in the late 50s or early 60s A.D.



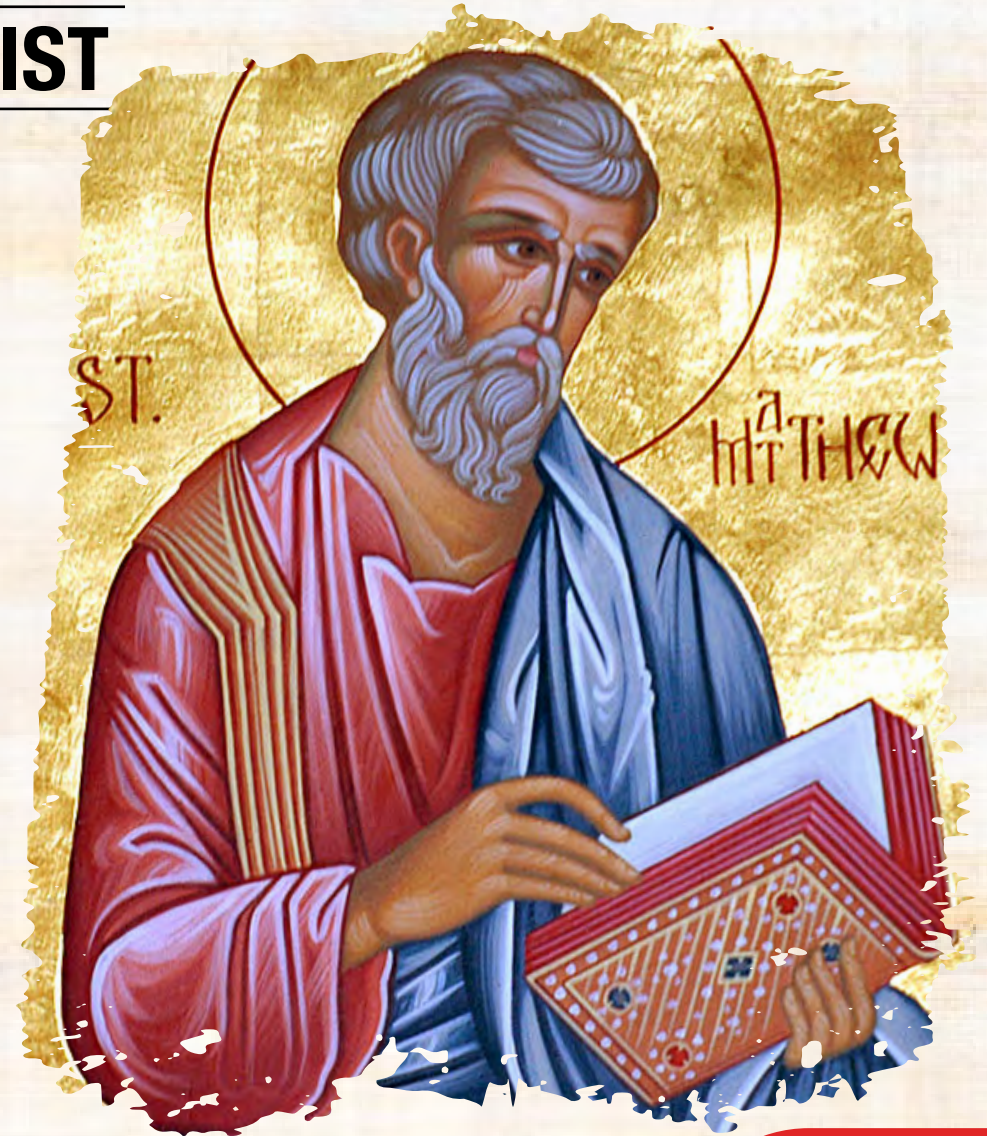
MATTHEW, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST

He is mentioned only twice in his gospel account. First, when Jesus called him (Mat 9:9) and, second, when he was chosen to be one of the twelve apostles (Mt 10:2-3).

As one of the four gospel writers, Matthew is called one of the Four Evangelists. The title comes from the Greek word *evangelion*, meaning “good news.”

A close associate of Jesus during His ministry, Matthew’s gospel is a first hand account, unlike Luke who depended upon other eyewitnesses (Lk 1:1-4).

Matthew presents Jesus as the Messiah (Mt 1:1), the promised descendant of King David who would bring God’s kingdom to earth and establish a time of peace and justice. Matthew quotes the Old Testament extensively, and places special emphasis on Jesus’ fulfillment of prophecies—which would have been important to a Jewish audience. Matthew tells us the story of Jesus with an emphasis on His role as Messiah, or Christ.

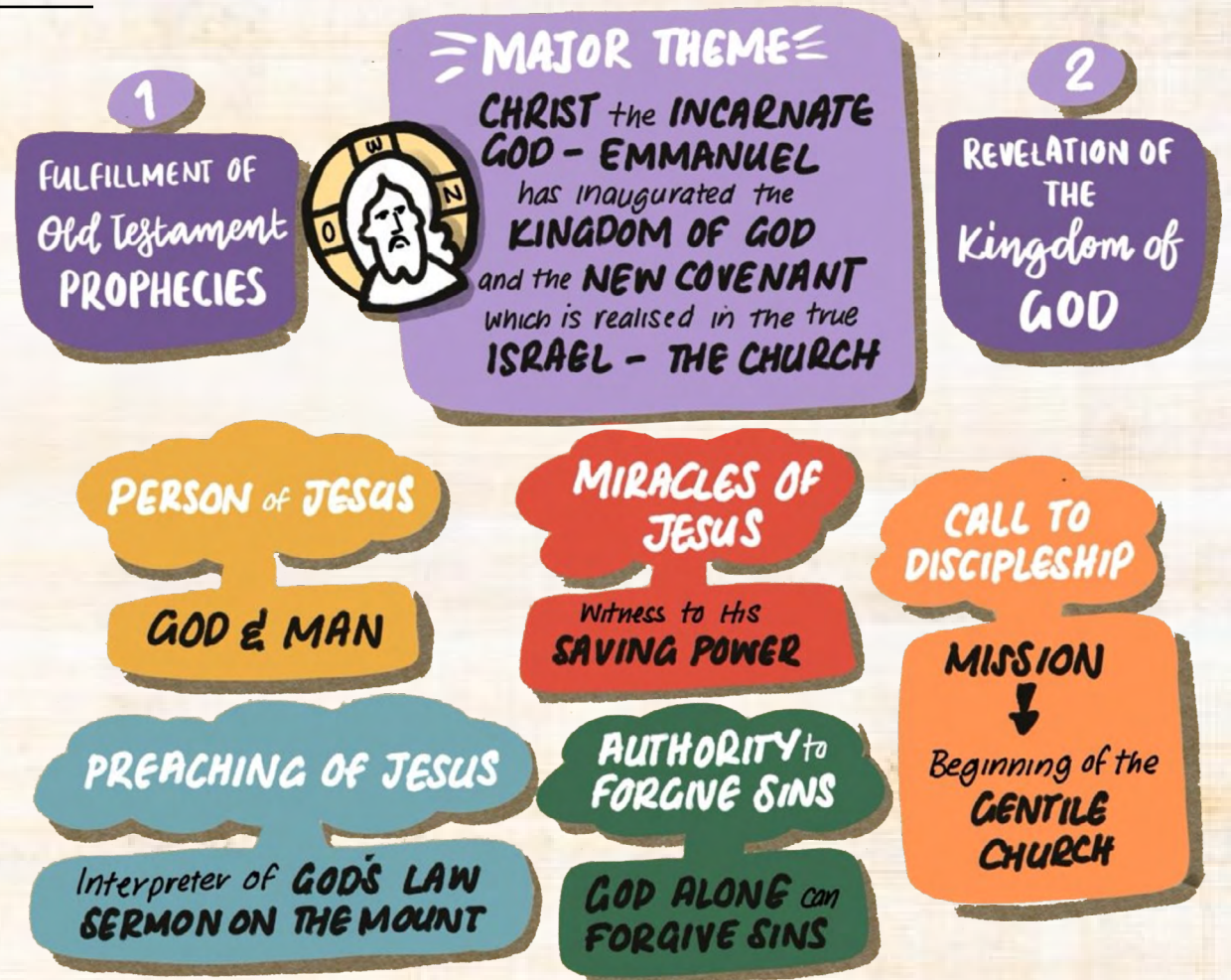


MATTHEW'S ROLE IN THE BIBLE

It is a Jewish gospel. We've noted its frequent appeal to OT prophecies. It's organization is mostly topical, as opposed to strictly chronological (a common style in Jewish literature). Thus it appears to have been written with a Jewish audience in mind.

It is an ecclesiastical gospel. It is the only gospel which mentions the word "church". It foretells its beginning (Mt 16:18), and describes some of the life in the church (Mt 18:15-17). It contains lengthy discourses especially beneficial to those in the church, such as the sermon on the mount (Mt 5-7), the many parables (Mt 13), and the Olivet discourse (Mt 24-25). It contains admonitions important to disciples of Christ, such as the importance of doing the Father's will (Mt 7:21-23) and observing all that Jesus commanded (Mt 28:20).

It is an evangelistic gospel. It is a preaching gospel, especially when compared with the apostles' preaching found in Acts. It expands upon the basic elements and points made in their sermons.



MATTHEW'S SYMBOL

*A winged man
or angel*

Matthew the Evangelist, the author of the first gospel account, is symbolized by a winged man, or angel, because the first story he tells in his gospel is about how an angel appeared to Joseph in a dream.

Matthew's gospel starts with Joseph's genealogy from Abraham; it represents Jesus's incarnation, and so Christ's human nature. This signifies that Christians should use their reason for salvation.



THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

Jesus is the Son of God. He is conceived by the Holy Spirit in Mary's womb (Mt 1:18–20), and God endorses Jesus as His beloved Son (Mt 3:17). He is God incarnate, living among men (Mt 1:23).

Jesus is the King. He is the son of King David (Mt 1:1). Jesus repeatedly declares that the kingdom of heaven is at hand (Mt 4:17), and tells many parables about it. The book of Matthew makes more mentions of the “kingdom of heaven” or “kingdom of God” than any of the other Gospels.

Jesus is the promised Savior. He is the son of Abraham, through whom God had promised to bless all nations of the earth. Matthew emphasizes the Old Testament prophecies that Jesus fulfills, from His birth (Mt 1:22–23; 2:5–6, 17–18) through His ministry and right up to His death and resurrection. He lives a righteous life, teaches us what it means to be righteous, and dies on a cross so that we can be right with God.

Matthew opens with a simple statement of who Jesus is (the Messiah), and closes with a simple statement of what we should do (make disciples for Him).



The Prologue and Jesus' Birth and Significance

CHAPTER 1:18-25
The Nativity

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel.

CHAPTER 2:7-12
Three Wise Men

Always treat others as you would like them to treat you.

CHAPTER 3:13-17
John Baptises Jesus

CHAPTER 4:18-22
Simon Peter, Andrew, James & John

CHAPTER 5:3-12
Sermon on the Mount
The Beatitudes

CHAPTER 6:9-15
The Lord's Prayer

The Kingdom of Heaven is Announced

CHAPTER 7:7-12
The Golden Rule

Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me.

CHAPTER 8:28-34
Miracle of the Gadarene Pigs

Signs of the Kingdom

CHAPTER 9:27-31
Jesus Heals the Blind Men

CHAPTER 10:5-15
Jesus Sends His Disciples

The Mystery of the Kingdom of Heaven

I speak to you in parables.

CHAPTER 13:31-33
Parable of the Mustard Seed

CHAPTER 12:40-42
Death & Resurrection

CHAPTER 11:28-30
Come To Me All Who Are Weary

The Church, the first fruits of the Kingdom of Heaven

CHAPTER 18:10-14
The Lost Sheep

CHAPTER 17:1-8
Jesus is Transfigured

CHAPTER 16:15-20
Jesus Asks the Disciples
Who do you say I am?

CHAPTER 15:22-28
The Daughter is Healed

CHAPTER 14:13-21
Feeding the Five Thousand

Where two or three gather in my name, there I am with them.

The Coming of the Kingdom of Heaven

Love God and love your neighbour as yourself.

CHAPTER 19:13-15
Jesus Blesses the Little Children

CHAPTER 20:20-28
Mother of the Sons of Zebedee

CHAPTER 21:1-11
The Entry into Jerusalem

CHAPTER 22:1-14
Parable of the Wedding Feast

CHAPTER 23:13-36
Jesus Denounces the Hypocrites
Woe to you!

CHAPTER 24:29-31
The Coming of the Son of Man

CHAPTER 25:1-13
Parable of the Bridesmaids

CHAPTER 26:26-29
Jesus and the Eucharist

CHAPTER 27:32-44
Jesus is Crucified and Buried

The Passion and Resurrection

And know that I am with you always to the end of time.

CHAPTER 28:1-10
Women Find the Empty Tomb



JOURNEY WITH MATTHEW

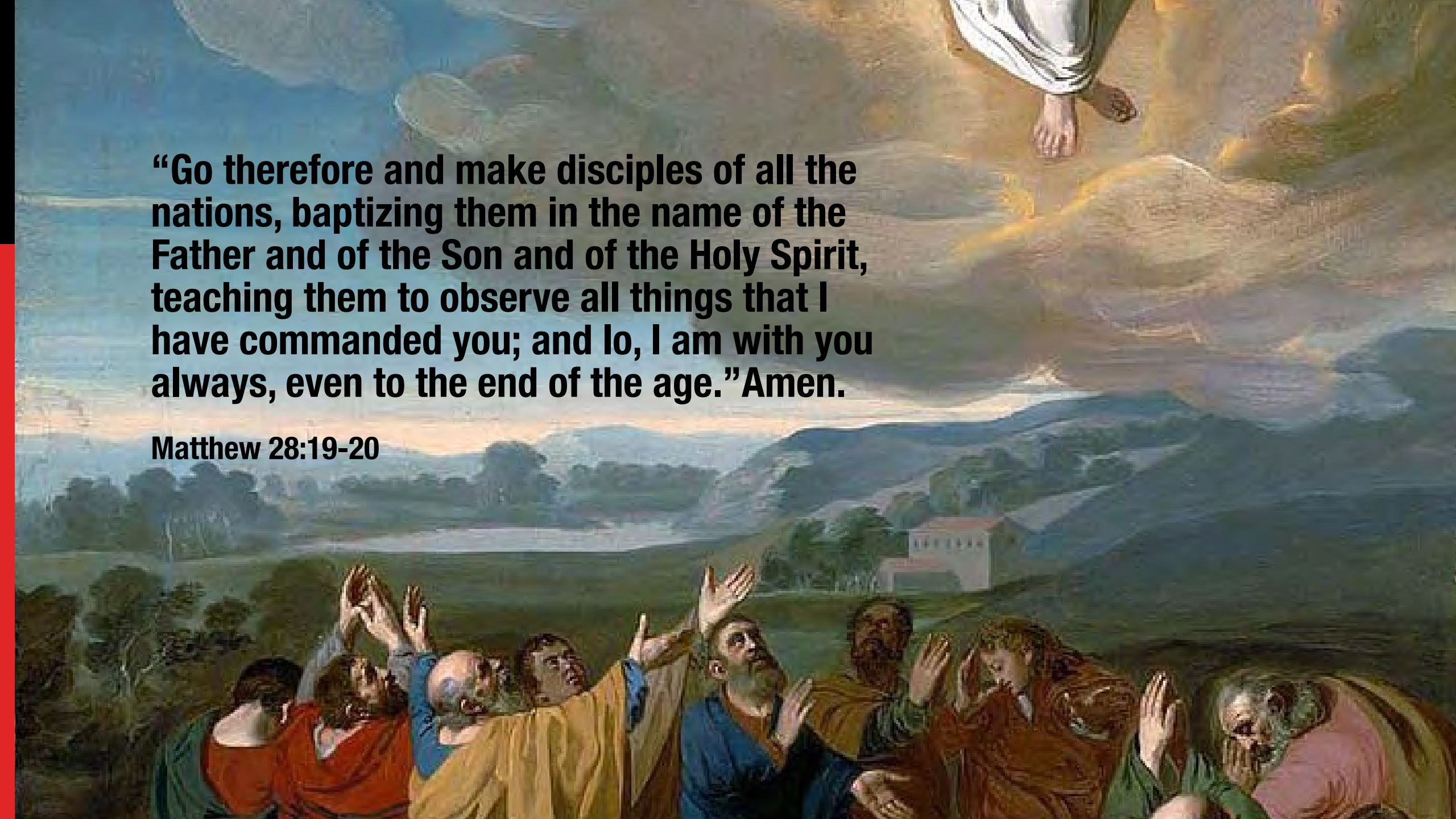
OUTLINE OF MATTHEW

1. Prologue: Jesus' birth and significance (Mt 1–2)

2. Jesus' teaching and ministry (Mt 3–25)

- **Book 1 (Mt 3–7)**
 - Jesus gains followers (Mt 3–4)
 - Sermon on the Mount (Mt 5–7)
- **Book 2 (Mt 8–10)**
 - Jesus works miracles (Mt 8–9)
 - Jesus sends his disciples (Mt 10)
- **Book 3 (Mt 11–13:52)**
 - Jesus is confronted, withdraws (Mt 11–12)
 - Parables about the kingdom (Mt 13:1–52)
- **Book 4 (Mt 13:53–18:35)**
 - Jesus is revealed as the son of God (Mt 13:53–17:27)
 - How “greatness” works in the Kingdom (Mt 18)
- **Book 5 (Mt 19–25)**
 - People struggle with Jesus' kingship (Mt 19–23)
 - Teachings of judgment in the kingdom to come (Mt 24–25)

3. Climax: Jesus' sacrifice, victory, and commission to his disciples (Mt 26–27)



“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.

Matthew 28:19-20

Thank you!

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