

Lesson 54

10.8. The Gospel of Matthew and the speeches of Jesus Christ

- We talked about the beginning of the Church and how Jesus first prophesied about it. Jesus said directly: *On this rock I will build My Church.* We saw that the Church is built on the foundation of the Lord Jesus Christ himself. We also examined passages that clearly demonstrate the Church's beginning and that it was never prophesied in the Old Testament.
- When Jesus came in the flesh for the first time, he offered the kingdom to the nation of Israel. What would have happened if the nation, including the authorities and all the people, had accepted Jesus as their Messiah and crowned him King of Israel? Who was the emperor of Israel at the time? The Roman Emperor, Caesar. Israel was under the rule of the Roman Empire. If Israel had accepted Jesus as their king, the Roman legions would have invaded, and the tribulation – everything prophesied in the Old Testament about the tribulation period – would have happened at that time.
- We will later study that the restored Roman Empire itself will act during the Tribulation. The Antichrist will rule like an emperor, but in modern terms. He will emerge from the restored Roman Empire. The Roman Empire never disappeared. Anyone in the field of law knows that all law is based on Roman law and the tax system. Many of our habits and customs, such as the wedding ring and cake, are Roman traditions. From minor to major aspects of our lives, Roman influence is still evident today. The Roman Empire is being restored; the European community is part of this context.
- So, what would have happened if Israel had accepted Jesus as the Messiah? The same thing that will happen during the Tribulation would have happened then. Jesus would have been crucified, resurrected after three days, and put an end to the tribulation. Then, he would have set up his kingdom. That's exactly what will happen during the tribulation. The antichrist will lead the empire that dominates the whole world and invades Israel. In the midst of the attack, Jesus will appear to deliver Israel, judge the earth, and establish his kingdom.

⇒ Zechariah 14:1~11

- All of this would have happened. But God, in His omniscience, knew of this plan, which Paul calls a mystery. Jesus also refers to this period as a mystery, meaning it was never expected by the Old Testament prophecies. According to Israel, the King would come and free them from Roman rule. He would fulfill the prophecies and reign in Israel forever. However, because of their rejection of him, the King came, fulfilled the prophecies, and returned to heaven. This brings so much confusion to Israel. The Jews haven't been able to distinguish the prophecies of the Messiah's first coming in humiliation and suffering, nor the prophecies of his glorious second coming that will still happen.
- If we look at an open field with two mountain peaks lined up opposite each other, we don't see the valley between them. The Israelites saw it this way; they didn't discern the gap between the peaks. The Old Testament (OT) prophecies about the Messiah's coming in humiliation and glory seemed to be fulfilled quickly, one right after the other. Reading the OT prophecies carefully reveals that sometimes a prophecy mentions the first coming and then jumps to the glorious coming.

For example, it speaks of the Messiah's suffering and then moves on to prophecies about the glorious kingdom, as seen in the book of Isaiah.

⇒ **Isaiah: 53 and 54**

Isaiah wrote this way. However, there was an interval – a mystery that would be revealed sooner or later depending on Israel's acceptance of the kingdom offer. This gap has now lasted nearly 2,000 years. What happened? Didn't the king come to stay? He came and left. How's that work for you? Can you see the conflict for Israel? Today, however, we understand everything.

The Gospel of Matthew

- We need to understand the Gospel of Matthew very clearly. Many say that it is very difficult to understand, but we will succeed. The Gospel is divided as follows:

⇒ Matthew: 1 to 11:1;	Matthew presents and authenticates Jesus Christ as the Messiah. Jesus presents himself as the Messiah to the nation of Israel and offers them the kingdom.
⇒ Matthew: 11:2 to 16:12;	We see Israel opposing the offer of the Kingdom and resisting the Messiah. They are tempted and tested and unwilling and doubtful.
⇒ Matthew: 16:13 to the end;	The final rejection of the King culminated in the crucifixion. Israel even said, <i>'We have no king but Caesar.'</i>
⇒ Matthew 27:11~26	
⇒ John 19:15	

- This is a general overview of the book, which we will study in more detail below. The Gospel of Matthew must be proclaimed to the Jews because it presents Jesus as the Messiah. This is why OT prophecies are referenced so often.

⇒ Matthew 2:5~6;	<i>'For thus it is written by the prophet:'</i>
⇒ Matthew 2:17~18;	<i>'Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet...'</i>
⇒ Matthew 3:3;	<i>'For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah'</i>

Jesus was presented as the Messiah and authenticated through the miracles and signs he performed. Then came the final opposition to, and rejection of, Jesus as the Messiah. This is the subject of the Gospel of Matthew.

- Looking in more detail at the Book of Matthew, we find that: Chapters 1 and 2 deal with Jesus' legal right to the throne, which was recognized even by the Gentiles.

⇒ Matthew: 1;	<i>'The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham.'</i>
⇒ Matthew: 2;	Recognition by the Gentiles of Jesus as the King of the Jews; the Magi from the East.

- When Jesus was born, 'an angel of the Lord stood before the shepherds' of Israel:
⇒ **Luke 2:8~20**

Meanwhile, back in the East, 'wise men (Greek magoi) from the East came to Jerusalem'; the *magoi* also received a revelation

⇒ **Matthew 2:1~12;** The *magoi* from the East

- You see, there weren't three of them, and they weren't kings as we were taught. If you find in your Bible that there were three of them and that they were kings, prove it! Nowhere in the Bible does it say that there were three of them or that they were kings. We're mentioning this because there's a lot of confusion and knowing the truth is very important.
- **V.1:** '*Behold, magi came from the East to Jerusalem.*' They were astronomers who studied the stars and the sun. Many people erroneously teach that they were astrologers, but I don't think so. If they were astrologers, God wouldn't have spoken to them. They were astronomers who studied and examined the sky for signs and so on.
- **V.2:** '*For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.*' Through their studies, the Magi observed a unique celestial phenomenon: a distinct star. This revelation prompted them to embark on their journey. '*The King of the Jews has been born.*' The King of the Jews had been born, and the revelation must have been complete because they could have asked around in the East. No, they left and travelled to the Middle East to find and worship the King. Most false doctrines originate in the East, and many people travel there to learn 'false ways'. However, the Bible tells us that the magicians came from the East to the Middle East, travelling in the opposite direction.
- In the Magi, the Gentiles recognized that the King of the Jews and Lord of Lords had been born – that was the meaning of the Magi's journey to Jerusalem. We also see in this passage how the Devil twists even the smallest details. The nativity scene made at the end of the year bears no resemblance to the truth. In the nativity scene, Jesus appears in the manger, and the '*three wise men*', complete with crowns, are depicted as if they are paying him a visit.

⇒ **Matthew 2:10~11;** '*And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother ...*'

Do you think there were airplanes at that time for travelling from the East to the Middle East? Can you imagine travelling from the East using the means of transport available at that time? It took the Magi about two years to reach Bethlehem. By the time they arrived, Jesus was living in a house and was no longer in the manger. The Bible doesn't say there were three of them, but some people believe there were because of the description of the three gifts they brought: '*gold, frankincense and myrrh*'. There is no basis for saying that there were three Magi.

- In Chapter 1, we see the legal recognition of Jesus as the rightful heir to the throne of Israel, as evidenced by the opening title '*Son of David*'. As everyone in Israel knew that the promised King would be a descendant of David, the genealogy of Jesus Christ begins with this title, '*Son of David*'.

- Now, in Chapter 3, John the Baptist appears to prepare the nation of Israel to receive the Messiah's kingdom. The nation had completely turned away from the Word of God, so repentance was necessary to make people aware that everything was spiritually wrong and encourage them to start again when the Messiah offered his kingdom.

⇒ **Matthew 3:1~12;** ‘*Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!*’

- Then John the Baptist appeared, preparing the nation to receive the Messiah by baptizing them. John the Baptist's baptism was a symbol of repentance for sins. Only Jews were baptized in the River Jordan. John the Baptist's message was not that Jesus had died to save humanity, because Jesus had not yet begun his ministry. The baptism was a sign of repentance for the nation of Israel. Those who were baptized publicly declared their belief in the message, their repentance, and their readiness to receive the Kingdom of Heaven and the Messiah promised by God to Israel. This was the purpose of John the Baptist's baptism of the Jews.
- Jesus was also baptized by John the Baptist. Why did he do this? Because he was going to take the place of sinners. By being baptized, Jesus identified with the human race.

⇒ **Matthew 3:13~17**

Jesus identified with the human race, even though he had nothing to repent for. However, he identified with sinners who needed to repent.

- If Chapters 1 and 2 demonstrate Jesus' legal right to sit on the throne of Israel, Chapter 4 reveals his moral right to sit on the throne of David. Throughout his earthly life, Jesus undid all the works of the Devil, beginning with the restoration of the Word of God in Matthew 4.

⇒ **Matthew 4:1~11;** *'It is written...'*

- What was the devil's first act against humanity? He deceived Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden by using the Word of God.

⇒ **Genesis 3:1;** *'Has God indeed said...?'*

It was that tragedy! Adam and Eve didn't believe God's word. Then the Devil came to Jesus and used the same tactics and areas as he had against Eve, but Jesus won on all counts.

➤ Satan tempted Jesus for the first time:

⇒ **Matthew 4:3;** ‘*command that these stones become bread.*’

⇒ **Matthew 4:4;** ‘*Jesus answered, ‘It is written; in other words, the word of God says...’*

➤ Then the second time Satan used God's Word:

⇒ **Matthew 4:6;** ‘*For it is written:*’

⇒ **Matthew 4:7;** ‘*But Jesus answered, ‘It is written again.’*

➤ And again, the Devil tempted Jesus:

⇒ **Matthew 4:8 and 9**

⇒ **Matthew 4:10;** However, Jesus rebuked him by using the Word of God: *‘Away with you, Satan! For it is written.’*

- Jesus overcame them all; it is recorded that he is a winner. While the first man, Adam, failed a test, the last Adam (*one of Jesus' titles*) passed the same test. By using God's word, we will always be victorious.

- Jesus then had the moral right to sit on the throne because he undid the work that the Devil had done with Adam in the beginning. Jesus won, so he could start again. When Jesus triumphed over Satan, he established this right. Adam gave Satan the right to use the Earth. Look at Satan's audacity with Jesus!

⇒ **Luke 4:5~7;** It's the same passage as ⇒ **Matthew:4** – *'All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish.'*

- Adam gave Satan the legal right to use the earth, but Jesus took it back – that's already been established. This is why God's people on earth do not have to submit to the one who rules this system, *'whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one'*. Because of Jesus' victory over Satan, we have the right to trample on serpents and scorpions and all the power of the enemy. Jesus passed on all of these rights to his Church.

⇒ **Matthew 10:1, 7 and 8;** *'He gave them power...'*

⇒ **Luke 9:1~2;** *'Gave them power and authority over all demons, and to cure diseases.'*

⇒ **Luke 10:1~3 and 17~19;** *'I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions.'*

⇒ **Mark 16:15~20;** *'And these signs will follow those who believe'.*

- After this victory, Jesus started offering the kingdom to the Israelites, just as John the Baptist had done. He also started to prove that he was the promised Messiah to Israel through signs.

⇒ **Matthew 4:17;** *'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.'*

⇒ **Matthew 4:24~25;** *'Then His fame went throughout all Syria.'*