

The Call of the King

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Matthew 4:12-25

Matthew, presenting Jesus as King of the Jews, cites the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy	
The King was born of a virgin	Matthew 1:22-23 and Isaiah 7:14
The King was born in Bethlehem	Matthew 2:5-6 and Micah 5:2
The King was called from Egypt	Matthew 2:15 and Hosea 11:1
The King would escape the slaughter of the innocents	Matthew 2:17-18 and Jeremiah 31:15
The King called a Nazarene (Branch of Obscurity)	Matthew 2:23 (Jer 23:5; 33:15 & Zech 3:8; 6:12)
The King is heralded by the voice crying in the wilderness	Matthew 3:3 and Isaiah 40:3
The King is a great light, shining in darkness	Matthew 4:13-16 and Isaiah 9:1-2

I. The King's Light (Matthew 4:12-17)

- A. The timing of the light (**Matthew 4:12**)
- B. The place of the light (**Matthew 4:12b-16**)
 1. Galilee in history
 - a) Jesus withdrew into Galilee, not out of fear of Herod, but by divine timing of His ministry. The move to Galilee had more to do with His association with John the Baptist than with Herod (**John 4:1,3**). Jesus traveled and, for a while, was in Nazareth (**Luke 4:14,16**)
 - b) Galilee was a strategic area along the region's trade routes (One ancient writer said, *Judea was on the way to nowhere, whereas Galilee was on the way to everywhere*).
 2. Galilee in prophecy
 - a) **Matthew 4:15-16**, "*The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles— 16 the people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them a light has dawned.*"
 - b) Because of the region's history of invasion, Gentile occupation, and enemy takeovers, Galilee was an unlikely origin point for a King. But the King of Kings sprang forth from the most improbable of villages in Galilee, Nazareth. (*Shall any good thing come from Nazareth?*)
- C. The message of the light (**Matthew 4:17**)
 1. It was a proclamation of truth, not the suggestion of possibilities.
 2. Our Lord preached a message of repentance.
 - a) To turn from sin is to repent, to change one's orientation, to turn around and seek a new way. *Repentance* literally means a change of perception, a change in the way we see something.
 - b) To repent, therefore, is to change the way a person looks at sin and the way he looks at righteousness. Repentance involves a change of opinion, of direction, of life itself.
 - c) To repent is to have a radical change of heart and will—and, consequently, of behavior (**cf. Matt. 3:8, Acts 26:20**).

II. The King's Call (Matthew 4:18-22)

- A. A call to salvation (**John 1:35-51; 2:11**)
- B. A call to witness (**Matthew 4:18-22**) (Follow - imitate the one you are following).
- C. A call to permanently leave their occupation (**Luke 5:1-11; esp. vss. 9-11**).
- D. A call to surrendered commitment (**Mark 3:13-15**)
- E. A call to mission (**Matthew 10:1**)

III. The King's Ministry (Matthew 4:23-25)

- A. Teaching – Matthew 5-7 as an example. Teaching was explaining the message.
- B. Preaching – proclaiming; to herald, or cry out. Preaching was simply announcing it.
- C. Healing
 1. **John 20:30-31**, *Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son*

of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

2. **John 9:30–33**, *The man answered, “Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. 31 We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. 32 Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. 33 If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.”*
- a) His healing miracles proved that He was divine.
 - b) His healing miracles showed that He was compassionate to the suffering
 - c) His healing miracles showed that Jesus was the prophesied Messiah. (**Matthew 11:4-5; Isaiah 35:5-10; 61:1-3**)
 - d) His healing miracles give a foretaste of the kingdom that is coming.

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Romans 10:17, *So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.*