



10b. Matthew 3-4: The Proclamation of the Kingdom

Stained glass window of the traditional symbol of Matthew, an angel



Part 1: Proclamation of the Kingdom (3:1–7:29)

- **Narrative (3:1–4:25)**
 - Proclamation of John the Baptist (3:1–12)
 - sixth **formula quotation**, 3:3 = Isaiah 40:3
 - Elijah imagery, 3:3 = 2 Kings 1:8
 - **Matthean addition: scathing attack on Pharisees and Sadducees (3:7–10)**
 - Apocalyptic imagery, 3:12; *but softened in 3:16 in regard to the “heavens opened” (here just opened, not “torn apart” as in Mark)*
 - **Baptism of Jesus (3:13–17, next slide)**
 - **Temptations of Jesus (4:1–11, next slide)**
 - **Jesus begins his Galilean Ministry (4:12–17, final slide)**
 - seventh **formula quotation**, 4:15–16 = Isaiah 9:1–2
 - Gospel Message: Repent, the kingdom is at hand (4:17)
 - Jesus calls his first disciples (4:18–22)
 - Jesus ministers to crowds (4:23–25)
 - generic miracles and *not the emphasis on “overthrowing the kingdom of Satan” as in Mark*
- **Discourse: Sermon on the Mount (5:1–7:29, next lecture)**

Baptism of Jesus (3:13–17)



- “And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer *it to be so now*: **for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness . . .**” (3:15; cf. 2 Nephi 31:5–7)
- “And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, **the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him**: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, ***This is my beloved Son***, in whom I am well pleased.” (Matt 3:16–17, **vision report**; cf. Mark 1:11)
 - Emphasis on witnesses rather than Jesus’ own knowledge as in Mark 1:11 (and Luke 3:22)

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3

Temptations of Jesus (4:1–11)

- “Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be <tempted of the devil> **with God.**” (4:1 with JST)
 - **The “temptation” was only part of the experience!**
- Wilderness imagery again
 - Moses and Elijah models
 - 40 days reminiscent of 40 years
- The Tests
 - **Bread** (4:4; cf. Deut. 8:3): appetites, physical needs
 - **Angelic protection** (4:7; cf. Deut. 6:16): identity, **the person of Christ**
 - “Do not put the Lord your God to the test . . .” (4:7 NRSV)
 - **Worldly Power in return for worshipping Satan** (4:10; cf. Deut 6:13): purpose, **the work of Christ**



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10b. Matthew

Beginning the Ministry

- **Jesus Begins His Galilean Ministry (4:12–17)**
 - Seventh **Formula Quotation**, 4:15–16 = Isaiah 9:1–2: “And leaving Nazareth, he came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is upon the sea coast, in the borders of Zabulon and Nephthalim: That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, The land of Zabulon, and the land of Nephthalim, by the way of the sea, beyond Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles; **The people which sat in darkness saw great light**; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up.”
 - **Gospel Message: Repent, the Kingdom Is at Hand (4:17)**
- **Jesus Calls His First Disciples (4:18–22)**
 - Simon Peter, Andrew; James and John, the sons of Zebedee
- **Jesus Ministers to Crowds**
 - “Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and **healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people**. And his fame went throughout all Syria: and they brought unto him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases and torments, and those which were possessed with devils, and those which were lunatick, and those that had the palsy; and **he healed them**. And there followed him great multitudes of people from Galilee, and from Decapolis, and from Jerusalem, and from Judaea, and from beyond Jordan.” (Matt 4:23–25, **summary narrative**)