

“Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at Hand.”

Matthew 3:1-12

The Gospel of Matthew

Theme: God’s Kingdom brings Judgment and Salvation.

Introduction:

Matthew’s Gospel is the good news about Jesus. Jesus is the fulfillment of the Seed Promise and the completion of the Blood Picture. Jesus fulfills all promises, prophecies, and pictures in the Old Testament.

The Structure of Matthew

1. **The King’s Identity Established (1-7)**
 - a. His **Pedigree** (1, 2; His Lineage; His Birth)
 - b. His **Preparation** (3, 4; His Forerunner; His Baptism; His Temptation)
 - c. His **Preaching** (5-7)

Our chapter has two sections. They are interrelated. John is the forerunner to the Messiah. Jesus, as Messiah, confirms John’s role by submitting to his baptism. This is that story.

1. In those days **John the Baptist came** (vv. 1-12 [The Forerunner])
2. Then **Jesus came** (vv. 13-17 [The King])

This paragraph has two sections. The first appears as a summary of his ministry overall. It is a general statement concerning his ministry among the people.

In all of the elements present, three ideas are primary.

BIG IDEA

1. The Kingdom is at hand.
2. Judgment is certain.
3. Salvation is Possible.

One of the questions we might ask is, “HOW DO WE KNOW THE KING AND HIS KINGDOM ARE NEAR/PRESENT?”

The answer is in the presence of the FORERUNNER.

Malachi 3:1-5 prophesizes several things about the forerunner to the messiah.

- His coming precedes the Messiah
- His coming is one of preparation
- His coming signals impending judgment

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First, let us note how the KINGDOM is at hand (v. 2)

Jesus - Matt 4:17 From that time Jesus began to preach and say, "**Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.**"

Disciples - Matt. 10:7 "And as you go, preach, saying, '**The kingdom of heaven is at hand.**'"

When this kingdom comes it will be marked by judgment and separation.

Second, the JUDGMENT is certain.

1. It is an ancient judgment (v. 7)
2. It is a certain judgment (v. 7)
3. It is a looming judgment (v. 10)
4. It is a comprehensive judgment (v. 12)

Finally, salvation is possible.



Shepherding the Sheep: (What's the NEXT STEP?)

To the believing:

- Let us continue believing that Jesus is King.

To the unbelieving:

- As one who does not believe, will you repent of your sin and confess Jesus as King?
- Will you accept Jesus as God's Messiah and follow John in obedience [believe and be baptized]?