

HOW TO INTRODUCE THE KING

December 7, 2014

Matthew 1:18-2:15

“And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.” Matthew 1:21

If you were introducing your favorite person, the one who had done more for you than any other person, one whose impact upon your life was the most profound influence you had ever experienced, what would you say? This is the situation Matthew was in as he wrote the book we call the Gospel According to Matthew. What he had received through his relationship with Jesus Christ was so overwhelming that he wanted his readers to know who Jesus is.

Matthew wrote to show that Jesus Christ is the great King of whom the Old Testament prophets had spoken. And because he was writing to the Jewish people, his writing included evidence that was specific to their nation and culture; information by which they could see Jesus' entitlement to kingship.

1. Matthew began by showing Jesus' kingly lineage as an heir of King David (1:1-17).

2. He used the title “Christ,” which means “anointed” (1:17, 18).

The word “anointed” was significant when attached to someone's name. Three official offices in Israel's culture were conferred by anointing: king, priest and prophet. Matthew applies the term to Jesus as an evidence of His kingship. By this title Christ's three-fold office as prophet, priest and king office is affirmed.

3. He affirmed that Jesus' birth was the fulfillment of Jewish Scripture (22-23).

Surely, this fact is an important credential for the King of the Jews.

4. He asserted that Jesus was born the son of a virgin (18, 23, 25).

This identified Him uniquely as the one promised to Ahaz the king by Isaiah the prophet centuries earlier (Isa. 7:14). This also serves as a kingly credential.

5. He reported that Jesus was conceived by a creative act of the Holy Spirit (20).

Jesus Christ was not only an heir to David's throne, but was conceived by the unique, miraculous intervention of God. No other person would ever have this divine credential.

6. He told that Jesus' conception was announced by an angel, and that He was given a name before His birth (21).

7. He gave the angel's rationale for the name “Jesus.” It was given in connection with the purpose for His birth and the accomplishment He would complete in life: the salvation of His people.