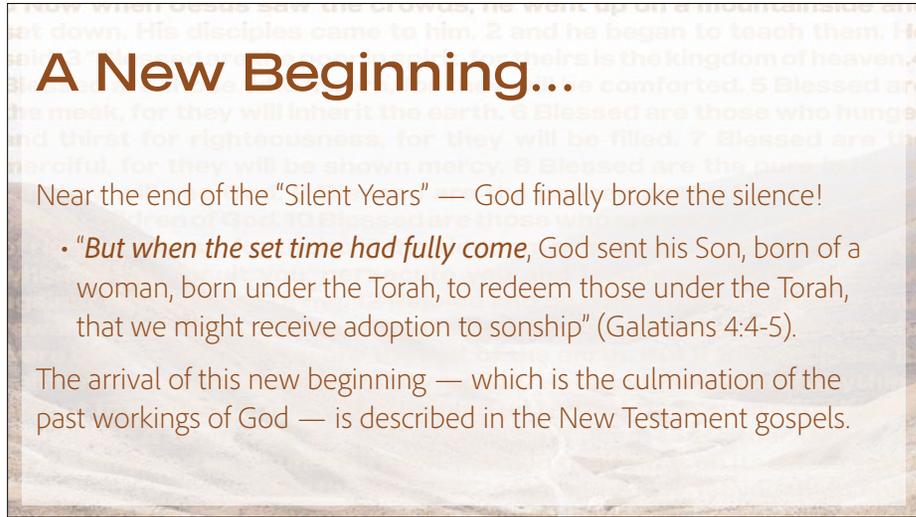




**A Fresh Start...
A New Beginning...**

September 7, 2025
Pastor Tyler Williams
Greenfield Community Church



A New Beginning...

Near the end of the “Silent Years” — God finally broke the silence!

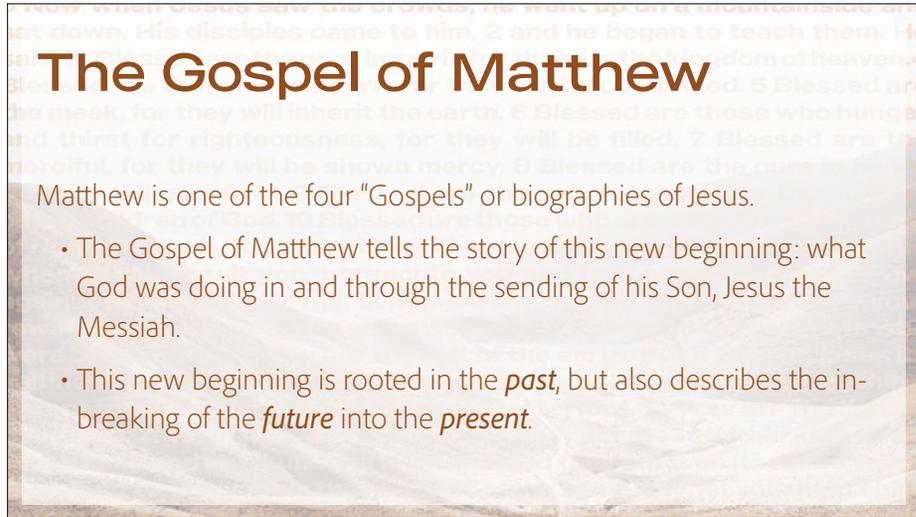
- *“But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the Torah, to redeem those under the Torah, that we might receive adoption to sonship” (Galatians 4:4-5).*

The arrival of this new beginning — which is the culmination of the past workings of God — is described in the New Testament gospels.



**KINGDOM
CROWN**

FOLLOWING JESUS THROUGH MATTHEW



The Gospel of Matthew

Matthew is one of the four “Gospels” or biographies of Jesus.

- The Gospel of Matthew tells the story of this new beginning: what God was doing in and through the sending of his Son, Jesus the Messiah.
- This new beginning is rooted in the *past*, but also describes the in-breaking of the *future* into the *present*.

The Gospel of Matthew

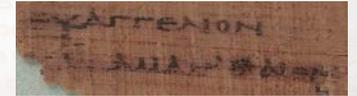
Placement: Canonically first in the New Testament, but among the gospels likely written after Mark, just before Luke, with John being last.

Date: While some scholars hold to a late date (after 90 AD), others hold to an early date (before the destruction of the Temple in 70 AD and after Mark was written. Perhaps in the 60s or early 70s.



The Gospel of Matthew

Author: Ultimately unknown, but early tradition identifies the author as Matthew and apprentice of Jesus (10:3; 9:9-13; called "Levi" in Mark 2:14 and Luke 5:29).



"euangelion kata Maththaion"
("the gospel according to Matthew")

Audience: Written with followers of Jesus with a Jewish background in view (has a very Jewish "flavour"; e.g., most quotes of the OT; author doesn't explain Jewish customs).

1 King Jesus

"This is the genealogy of *Jesus the Messiah*, the son of David, the son of Abraham..." (Matthew 1:1; 1:16).

- "Jesus the Messiah" – The long-awaited anointed Messiah (*christou* Χριστου) and the rightful King from the line of David (2Sam 7).
- Other titles include: "Emmanuel" (1:23); the "King of the Jews" (2:21-27:37); "the ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel" (2:6); "Son of God" (3:17; 16:16); "Lord" (7:21).

1 King Jesus

Jesus as *the new and better Moses* (Deuteronomy 18:15).

- Structure of Matthew's story of Jesus echoes the story of Moses.
 - Birth (Matt 2 & Exod 1-4) > Wilderness temptation (Matt 4:1-11 & Exod 16:1-17:7) > Mountain of Lawgiving (Matt 5-7 & Exod 19-23).
- The organization of Jesus' teaching in five blocks reflects the Five Books of Moses.

Introduction: The Birth of the King (1-2)



Discourse 1
Announcing the
Kingdom (3-7)



Discourse 2
Mission of the
Kingdom (8-10)



Discourse 3
Mystery of the
Kingdom (11-13)



Discourse 4
Community of the
Kingdom (14-18)



Discourse 5
Conflict of the
Kingdom (19-25)

Culmination: Last Supper, Death & Resurrection of the King (26-28)



2 Kingdom of Heaven

"From that time on Jesus began to preach, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near'" (4:17).

- Jesus' ministry and teaching all focus on the **Kingdom of Heaven**.
- Most often "Kingdom of Heaven" (32x); also "Kingdom of God" (5x); "the gospel of the kingdom" (3x); or "the Father's kingdom" (2x).



2 Kingdom of Heaven

1. The Kingdom is both *present* and *future*: it is present in Jesus — in his ministry, in his death and resurrection — and yet will not be fully consummated until he returns.
2. The Kingdom is less of a realm and more of *the rule or reign of God*. "The reign of God, or rule of heaven, is found whenever and wherever God is in charge" (Mark Allan Powell).



3 Following the King

King Jesus invites each of *to follow him* and become citizens of the Kingdom of heaven...

- Entrance is a gracious gift from God.
- The Kingdom is to be manifest in the lives of Jesus' followers: "Your *kingdom rule* come; your will be done, on earth as in heaven" (6:10).



Following the King

Resources for the journey:

- Weekly Study Guide (available from website).
- Stephen Westerholm, *Understanding Matthew* (Book Club discussion on September 30).

