

Two of many attempts to outline the book

The Chiastic Structure of the Gospel of Matthew

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Last modified: December 1, 2012

A. Jesus, Israel & the Gentiles, Fulfillment, God With Us (1:1 – 25)

Israel is still in exile, from the Babylonian captivity (1:1-1, 12, 17)
Gentiles included: Four Gentile women are included in Jesus' Jewish genealogy, the line of David (1:1 – 17)
An angel appears, announces fulfillment of what was spoken (1:22)
Immanuel: the title given to Jesus means 'God with us' (1:23)

B. Jesus Acknowledged as King by a Few (2:1 – 3:17)

Resistance from one ruler: King Herod (2:1ff.)
Jesus' title as 'king' or 'Messiah' occurs (2:2; 2:4; Micah's messianic prophecy of 'a ruler from Bethlehem' in 2:6; 'star' is likely from prophecy of Messiah in Num.22 & 24; Gentile magi/kings honor Jesus as king and *worship him* in 2:11)
Jesus begins to retell Israel's story (descent to Egypt and return in 2:13 – 23, fulfilling Hos.11:1 and Num.24:8)
Jesus' baptism (foreshadowing death and resurrection) is God's declaration of Jesus' kingship; God speaks at Jesus' baptism (3:13 – 17)

C. Jesus Overcomes Three Temptations in the Wilderness (4:1 – 11)

D. Jesus Gathers and Prepares the Disciples for Ministry (4:12 – 25)

E. First Major Discourse: Blessings, the New City on a Hill (5:1 – 7:28)

Jesus calls his disciples' community the new city on a hill, the new presence of God (5:13 – 16)
Ends with the wise and foolish builders, emphasis on obedience to Jesus' word; how great is its fall (7:21 – 29)

F. Jesus Calls to Israel as the Prophet Like Moses (8:1 – 9:34)

Jesus speaks ten words: ten miracles of healing and deliverance (8:1 – 9:34)
Jesus restores people to who they were meant to be, physically (8:1 – 9:34)
Jesus heals two blind men who call him 'Son of David' (9:27 – 31)

G. Second Major Discourse: Jesus Trains the Disciples to Call More Disciples (9:35 – 11:1)

Jesus sends disciples to Israel in mission, planting households and more disciples (9:35 – 10:42)

H. Division in Israel, Jesus Announces Concern for Gentiles (11:2 – 12:45)

John the Baptist asks for the identity of Jesus; Jesus answers that he is the Messiah, from Isaiah (11:2 – 6)
Jesus compares Israel unfavorably to Tyre, Sidon, Sodom (11:7 – 24)
Jesus says he is greater than the Temple, and is Lord of the Sabbath, referring to Isaiah (11:25 – 12:21)
Jesus does miracles to attest his identity, Beelzebub controversy (12:22 – 37)
Pharisees demand a sign; Jesus' sign is believing Gentiles: Nineveh, Queen of the South (12:38 – 42)

I. Third Major Discourse: Kingdom Growth as a Household (Mt.12:46 – 13:58)

Jesus is building a household around 'the will of my Father' (12:46 – 50)
Jesus tells parables about the kingdom and the cost of reaching others (13:1 – 51)
Jesus forms his household around his word ('Therefore every scribe...is like a head of a household...'), but is rejected by his human household (13:52 – 58)

H. Division in Israel, Jesus Enacts Mission to Gentiles (14:1 – 17:27)

John the Baptist is beheaded (14:1 – 12); Jesus answers that he is the Messiah (14:13ff.)
Jesus multiplies bread to attest his identity, invoking the numbers of King David, 5, 7, 12 (14:13 – 15:39)
Jesus denounces Temple corruption, referring to Isaiah (15:1 – 20)
Jesus compares the disciples unfavorably to the Canaanite woman (15:21 – 28)
Pharisees demand a sign; Jesus offers sign of Jonah, reminders of bread miracles (16:1 – 12)
Jesus enacts his superiority to the Temple: transfigures his humanity, belittles Temple tax (16:13 – 17:27)

G. Fourth Major Discourse: Jesus Trains the Disciples to Shepherd Other Disciples (18:1 – 19:2)

Jesus trains his disciples to honor and shepherd new Christians, and extend forgiveness (18:1 – 33)

F. Jesus Calls to Israel as the Prophet Like Moses and Heir of David (19:3 – 22:46)

Jesus speaks ten words: answers ten questions about the Old Testament from opponents (19:3 – 22:46)
Jesus restores people to who God meant them to be, relationally: marriage, wealth, power (19:3 – 20:28)
Jesus heals two blind men who call him 'Son of David' (20:29 – 34, almost verbatim to 9:27 – 31); 'Son of David' title appears in dense repetition (20:29, 21:9, 21:15, 22:41 – 46)

Jesus engages Israel's leadership in the Temple; they reject him (21:15 – 22:46)

E. Fifth Major Discourse: Woes, Fall of Jerusalem, the Old City on a Hill (23:1 – 25:46)

Eight woes for lack of heart change (23:1 – 39)
Fall of Jerusalem, the old city on a hill, the old site of the presence of God (24:1 – 51)
Ends with wise and foolish virgins, and emphasis on obedience to his disciples' word (25:1 – 46)

D. Jesus Prepares His Disciples for His Death (26:1 – 35)

C. Jesus Overcomes Temptation Three Times in the Garden, Peter Fails Temptation Three Times (26:36 – 75)

B. Jesus Presented to the World as King and Rejected (27:1 – 66)

Resistance from all rulers: the Jewish chief priests and the Roman rulers (27:1ff.)
Jesus' title as 'king' or 'Christ' or 'Son of God' occurs repeatedly (27:11, 17, 22, 37, 42, 43, 54)
Jesus retells Joseph's story (betrayed by a brother for silver 'into Egypt' in 27:1 – 10) and Israel's story (in exile and cursed)
Death of Jesus, resurrection of the dead (figure of water baptism); Jesus speaks at his death (27:52 – 53)

A'. Jesus, Israel & the Gentiles, Fulfillment, God With Us (28:1 – 20)

An angel appears, announces fulfillment of what was spoken, 'Just as he said' (28:6) and 'Behold I have told you' (28:7)
Jesus is resurrected and given Adamic authority (cf. Dan.7:13 – 14), meaning God has brought a human back from exile (28:6, 18)
Gentiles included: All are invited and called to Jesus, the heir of David (28:16 – 20)
Immanuel: Lo, I am with you always (28:20)

A - Story (Matthew 1-4)

B - Teaching - Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7)

C - Story (Matthew 8-9)

D - Teaching (Matthew 10)

E - Story (Matthew 11-12)

X - Teaching - Parable of the Kingdom (Matthew 13)

'E - Story (Matthew 14-17)

'D - Teaching (Matthew 18)

'C - Story (Matthew 19-22)

'B - Teaching (Matthew 23-25)

'A - Story (Matthew 26-28)

Keys to the Book

Key theme: Jesus is King

Key verses: Matthew 16:16-19; 28:18-20

Key chapter: Matthew 13 – Parables of the growth of the kingdom

Key words: kingdom, fulfilled

Comparing the Four Gospels

	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
Theme:	King	Servant	Man	God
Audience	Jews	Romans	Greeks	World
Traced to	David (royalty)		Adam (humanity)	Eternity (Deity)
Symbol	Lion	Ox	Man	Eagle
Key emphasis	Sovereignty	Ministry	Humanity	Deity