Going Deeper bibletime

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B6 - God the Son

Study 1 - The Birth of the King

BIBLE READING:

Matthew 1: 1, 18-25 and 2: 1-15

KEY VERSE:

"She will bear a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."

Matthew 1: 21

In these Studies about 'God the Son', we shall consider the life of the Lord Jesus in slightly greater detail. We shall concentrate on the Gospel of Matthew. This Gospel was written by a former tax-collector who became a disciple of the Lord Jesus. ***(See Matthew 9: 9)***

Matthew is writing mainly for Jews, and therefore he often quotes from the Old Testament writings, which would be well-known to Jewish people. He wants to prove to them that Jesus is the Messiah - the King whom God had promised to the people of Israel, in the Old Testament.

Look again at the very first verse of the Gospel and note that Matthew links Jesus Christ with two very important men of Old Testament times. Abraham was the 'father' or founder of the Jewish nation, and David was their greatest king. When Matthew writes that Jesus is ***"the son of David"*** and ***"the son of Abraham"***, he means that Jesus is descended from both David and Abraham. This is part of Matthew's proof that Jesus is God's appointed King.

Matthew shows clearly that Joseph is NOT Jesus' father in the natural sense. Joseph's readiness to end his engagement (or 'betrothal') to Mary indicates that he was not the father of the Baby. The miracle of Mary's conception was explained to Joseph in a special dream. ***(verse 20)*** He accepted this revelation from God, and honoured his marriage agreement with Mary, but had no physical relationship with her until AFTER Jesus was born. ***(verse 25)***

The visit of the Wise Men is recorded only in Matthew's Gospel. They had seen a star in the east which indicated to them that a new King of the Jews had been born. They travelled many miles to Jerusalem, and there they asked, ***"Where is He who has been born King of the Jews?" (Matthew 2: 2)*** Herod, the king, was very troubled by news of a new King, and he called the religious leaders together. He demanded of them that they tell him where the 'Messiah' was likely to be born. They were able to refer him to a prophecy written by Micah many years before. Micah had foretold that, Bethlehem would be the place where the Lord's 'Anointed One', or 'the Christ' would be born. ***(Micah 5: 2)***

The Wise Men went to Bethlehem, and, guided by the star, they soon found the new King! They worshipped Him, and presented to Him precious gifts. They themselves were men of high rank but they recognised in the Child Jesus someone far greater than themselves.

Instead of going back to Herod in Jerusalem, as he had requested, they returned home another way, as God had instructed them. When Herod discovered that they had tricked him, he was furious, and ordered the killing of all boys, two years and under, in the Bethlehem area. God however, warned Joseph in a dream of what was about to happen, and he took Mary and the Child to Egypt for safety. There they stayed until Herod died, at which point they returned to Israel, and settled in Nazareth.

In writing about these events, Matthew is guided by God to emphasise to his readers at least THREE things:

1. Jesus is not just another person, like all the rest of us.
2. Everything is happening exactly as God had promised and predicted through His prophets.
3. God is in complete control, as the Saviour-King comes into the world.

This is the second of five units on **God the Son.**

Going Deeper bibletime

bes bible educational services

B6 - God the Son

Study 2 - The Subjects of the King

BIBLE READING:

Matthew 5: 1-16; 6: 19-21, 33; 7: 24-27

KEY VERSE:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven."

Matthew 5: 3

Every kingdom has its laws. The laws express what the head of the kingdom judges to be best for his subjects. By living within the boundaries set by the laws, the members of the kingdom can confidently expect to enjoy happy and useful lives.

John the Baptist announced to his hearers that ***"the kingdom of Heaven is at hand". (Matthew 3: 2)*** He meant that with the beginning of the Lord's public teaching, a new stage of God's kingdom was being introduced. We must understand that God's kingdom differs from earthly kingdoms in that it is not a geographical area which we can mark on a map.

In whatever country a person may live, if they accept God's rule over their life and acknowledge that Jesus is King, they are members of His kingdom.

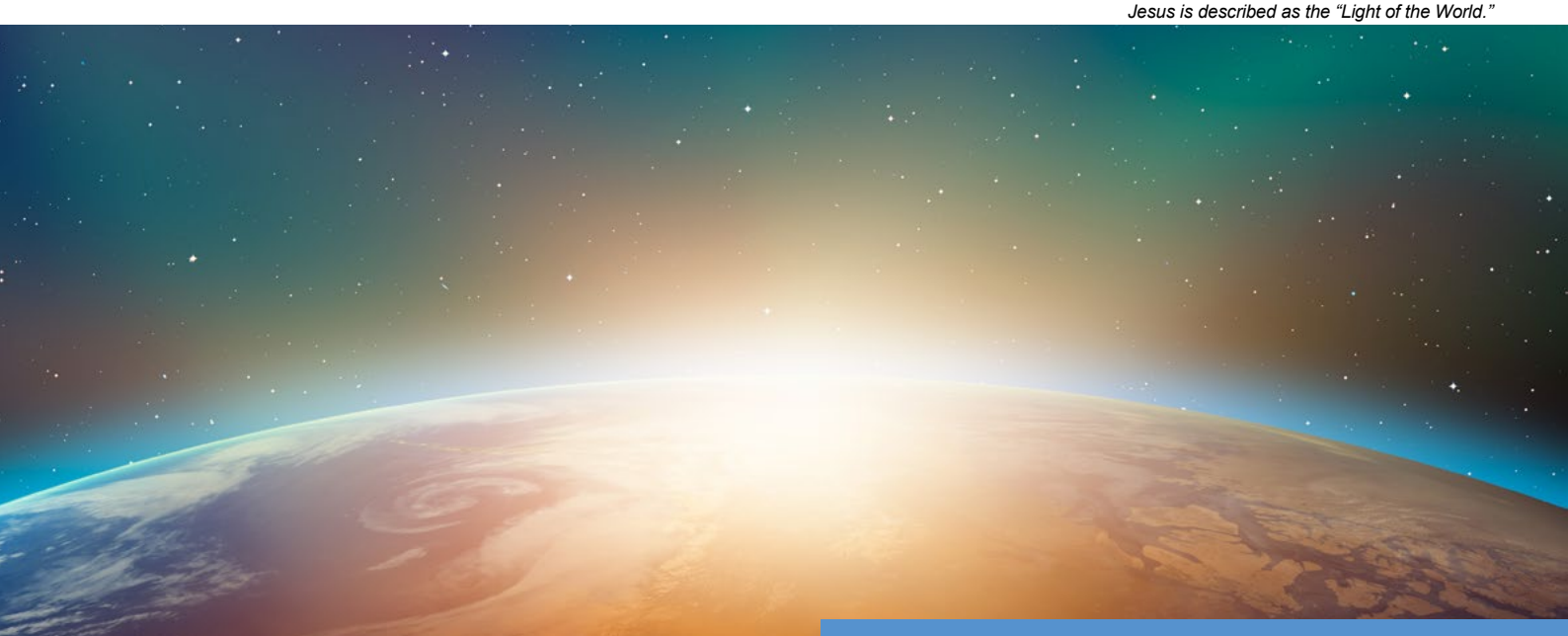
What kind of people should His subjects be? What the Lord Jesus said in ***Matthew 5: 3-12*** provides an answer to the question! Note how many of these verses start with "Blessed" (or "Happy"). These statements are often called 'The Beatitudes'. They teach us what qualities really matter in people who belong to God's kingdom. In ***verse 3***, they are to be marked by an awareness of their spiritual poverty (their need before God); in ***verse 4***, by a mourning for their sinfulness. In addition, virtues such as purity of heart and meekness are to be seen in their lives. Only by submitting themselves to the authority of the King - the Lord Jesus - can they develop these good qualities and find true happiness in life.

In ***Matthew 5: 13-14***, the Lord Jesus taught His disciples about the impact which they should have on people who do not belong to the kingdom of Heaven. He said, ***"You are the salt of the earth"***, and ***"You are the light of the world"***. In the days before fridges and freezers were invented, salt was often used as a preservative, for it has the power to prevent the spoiling of food. Similarly, Christians should act as salt; by showing the qualities mentioned in the Beatitudes, they help to keep in check the evil and wickedness of the world. To be ***"the light of the world"*** means that Christians are responsible to spread the light of the gospel amongst unconverted people. Often it is a Christian's ***"good works"*** which shed the brightest light, and cause people to turn to God. ***(Matthew 5: 16)***

In ***Matthew 6*** the Lord Jesus taught that His disciples should live by a different set of values; their priorities should not be those of people who are outside His kingdom. His subjects should lay up for themselves treasures in Heaven. ***(verse 20)*** They can do this by using all the gifts that God has given them (time, money, abilities etc.), in such a way that His rule is extended to other people. ***"Seek FIRST the kingdom of God, and His righteousness"*** is a good guideline for the subjects of the King! ***(verse 33)***

The Lord Jesus concluded His wonderful 'Sermon on the Mount' (as His teaching in ***Matthew chapters 5-7*** is usually called) by saying that it is not enough merely to hear His words. 'Hearing' must be accompanied by 'doing'. When we put the words of the Lord Jesus into practice we are like the wise man who built his house on the rock. If we hear His words, and do not act upon what we hear, we are like a foolish man who build his house on sand! Are you building on a firm foundation? ***(Matthew 7: 24-27)***

Jesus is described as the "Light of the World."



Answer Sheet
B6 - God the Son
Study 1 - The Birth of the King

Leader's Comments:

Name: Return address on back of answer sheet

Address:

1. What is meant by saying that Jesus is *"the Son of David"* and *"the Son of Abraham"*?

_____ /2

_____

2. Write a sentence about ONE way in which Jesus was different to us.

_____ /2

_____

3. Answer the following questions.

a) Why were the Wise Men looking for the Lord Jesus? _____

_____

b) Why was Herod ***"troubled"*** by news of a new king? _____

_____

c) How did Herod try to deceive the Wise Men? _____

_____

d) How did the Wise Men respond when they saw the Lord Jesus? _____

_____

e) What gifts did the Wise Men give to Him? _____ /10

_____

5. Answer TRUE or FALSE to the following:

a) Matthew proves that Old Testament writings came true in the birth of Jesus. _____

b) Joseph is Jesus' natural father. _____

c) Joseph, Mary and the Child found safety in Egypt. _____

d) An angel guided the Wise Men to Bethlehem. _____ /5

e) The story of the Wise Men is found in all of the Gospels. _____

6. How do the following dreams demonstrate that God was overruling the events connected with the birth of His Son?

a) The Wise Men's Dream ***(Matthew 2: 12)*** _____

_____

b) Joseph's Dream ***(Matthew 2: 13)*** _____ /4

_____

7. Look up *Hosea 11: 1* and briefly explain how this prophesy was fulfilled around the time of Jesus' birth.

_____ /2

_____

THINK: The Wise Men ***"fell down and worshipped Him"*** when they met the Lord Jesus. What is your response to the birth of the King?

TOTAL = /25

Answer Sheet
B6 - God the Son
Study 2 - The Subjects of the King

Leader's Comments:

1. Answer the following questions:

a) What name is usually given to the teaching given by the Lord Jesus in ***Matthew chapters 5 - 7***?

_____

b) What name is given to the statements of happiness, at the beginning of His teaching?

_____ /2

2. Draw lines to complete these Beatitudes; the first one has been done for you:

Blessed are the merciful	for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven.
Blessed are the poor in spirit	for they shall inherit the earth.
Blessed are those who mourn	for they shall receive mercy.
Blessed are the peacemakers	for they shall see God.
Blessed are the pure in heart	for they shall be comforted.
Blessed are the meek	for they shall be called sons of God.

/5

3. What evidence would show that a Christian was acting as *"salt"*?

_____

_____ /3

4. What do you think the Lord Jesus meant when He said, *"let your light shine before others"? (Matthew 5: 16)*

_____

_____ /3

5. How can we lay up for ourselves treasure in Heaven? *(Matthew 6: 20)*

_____

_____ /3

6. What do you think it means to *"seek first God's kingdom"? (Matthew 6: 33)*

_____

_____ /3

7. Fill in the blanks with suitable words. *(Matthew 7: 24-27):*

a) If you hear and do, you are like a _____ man who built his house on the _____.
When the storm came his house _____ .

b) If you hear and don't do, you are like a _____ man who built on _____.
When the storm came his house _____ .

/6

THINK: Take some time to consider these questions: Am I 'a subject of the King'? Am I living according to the King's laws? Is my life being a blessing to others? Am I putting the words of the King into practice?

TOTAL = /25

Answer Sheet
B6 - God the Son
Study 3 - The Authority of the King

Leader's Comments:

1. Using *Matthew 7: 29* to guide you, write a sentence about how the Lord Jesus taught.

_____ /2

_____

2. Using these references, *(Matthew 8: 9; Matthew 9: 3; Matthew 12: 8; Matthew 16: 16; Matthew 21: 23)* write who said each of the following:

a) ***"I too am a man under authority, with soldiers under me."*** _____

b) ***"This man is blaspheming."*** _____

c) ***"You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God."*** _____

d) ***"By what authority are you doing these things?"*** _____

e) ***"The Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath."*** _____ /5

3. In *Matthew 8: 10* the Lord Jesus said, *"...with no one in Israel have I found such faith".*

a) About whose faith was He speaking? _____

b) In what way was this man's faith ***"GREAT"***? _____ /2

_____

4. Read *Matthew 9: 2-8.*

a) In what two ways did Jesus show His authority in the paralysed man's life? _____

_____

b) How did the crowd respond to Jesus' authority? _____ /4

_____

5. The Lord Jesus' authority was seen when He entered into Jerusalem as King.

a) Which prophet had predicted this event? _____

b) What was unusual about His entry to the city? _____

c) Explain how the crowd welcomed the King. _____ /3

_____

6. Read *Matthew 28: 18*, where the risen Lord Jesus said, *"All authority in Heaven and on earth has been given to Me".* Answer the following:

a) Whom did He send His disciples to? _____

b) What three things were they to do? _____

_____

c) What impact do you think having Jesus' authority would have to carry out His commands? _____

_____

d) What promise went along with His authority to carry out the task? _____ /6

_____

7. Explain how we, today, can allow the Lord Jesus to have authority over us.

_____ /3

_____

THINK: Think of any situation known to you where Christians are acting on the authority and command given by Jesus in ***Matthew 28: 18-20***. Are you obedient to this in your own Christian life?

TOTAL = /25

Answer Sheet
B6 - God the Son
Study 4 - The Rejection of the King

Leader's Comments:

1. Use the Bible references from *Matthew 26 and Matthew 27: 3-5* to give the names of these people:

a) The Roman governor _____
b) The Jewish High Priest _____
c) The released criminal _____
d) The traitor _____

/4

2. Again use the Bible references from *Matthew 26 and Matthew 27: 3-5* to answer these questions about the traitor:

a) How much money did the chief priests give him? _____
b) In what way did he identify Jesus to those who came to arrest Him? _____
c) What did he do with the money? _____
d) How did his life end? _____

/4

3. Why were the Jewish religious leaders so opposed to Jesus?

_____
_____

/2

4. Describe how the Jews ill-treated Jesus before handing Him over to the Romans.

_____
_____

/3

5. Complete these sentences by adding suitable words:

a) Jesus was arrested in _____
b) The High Priest said Jesus' claim to be the Son of God was _____
c) The soldiers mocked Jesus' claim to be King of the Jews by putting a _____
d) Our Lord was tried first by His own people, then by the _____

/4

6. What can we, as individuals, receive as a result of the death of the Lord Jesus?

_____
_____
_____

/4

7. Read *John 12: 48*.

a) What two things characterise the person who is described in this verse? _____
b) What awaits this person? _____
c) What will condemn them at the last day? _____

/4

THINK: Think about the Key Verse which describes how the onlookers were mocking Jesus. Can you think of some of the people whom Jesus saved? Was Jesus saved from dying a horrible death? How would it have been different for us if Jesus had come down from the cross?

Return your completed answer sheet to:

TOTAL = /25 UNIT TOTAL = /100

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6/2026

Going Deeper bibletime

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B6 - God the Son

Study 3 - The Authority of the King

BIBLE READING:

Matthew 21: 1-17, 23-27

KEY VERSE:

"Say to the daughter of Zion, 'Behold, your King is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a beast of burden."

Matthew 21: 5

From the very outset of His public ministry, Jesus spoke and acted with authority. People were impressed by the power of His words as He challenged the traditional teachings of the Scribes. The Gospel of Matthew, in which Jesus is presented as "The King", tells us of many situations in which His authority was clearly seen.

1. HE HAS AUTHORITY TO HEAL DISEASES.

A Roman centurion, whose servant was paralysed, pleaded with Jesus to heal him. Jesus offered to go with him, but the centurion firmly believed that it was not necessary for Him to come to his house. All that was needed was His word of command. The centurion recognised that just as he had power to order his soldiers about, so Christ had authority to command illness to depart. In response to the man's great faith, Jesus there and then caused the servant to recover. ***(Matthew 8: 5-13)***

2. HE HAS AUTHORITY TO FORGIVE SINS.

In ***Matthew 9***, a paralysed man was carried to the Lord Jesus by his friends. Jesus knew how much faith they all had in Him, so He immediately declared the man's sins all forgiven! The Scribes who were there regarded this as blasphemy. In THEIR view, Jesus, a mere man, had no authority to forgive sins. Jesus, however, proved that He had the right, by healing the man's body. In an instant, the man was on his feet, rolling up his mattress and walking home! No one could deny that the miracle had happened. If the Lord Jesus had authority over disease, they could be sure that He also had authority to forgive sins! ***(Matthew 9: 6)***

3. HE HAS AUTHORITY OVER SABBATH RULES.

One Sabbath day, the hungry disciples plucked some ears of corn, and began to eat them. The strict Pharisees at once criticised Jesus for allowing them to do so. In their view, the disciples were working on the Sabbath; this was something which was forbidden by the Ten Commandments. ***(Exodus 20: 8-10)*** Jesus, however, defended the action of His disciples, stating that He Himself is ***"the Lord of the Sabbath"***. That meant that His authority was final as to what was right or wrong on the Sabbath days. ***(Matthew 12: 1-8)***

4. HE HAS AUTHORITY TO CONTROL HIS WORKERS.

In ***Matthew 16***, Jesus asked His disciples what opinions people had concerning His identity. He then challenged them to say what THEY thought about Him. Peter answered by saying, ***"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God". (verse 16)*** Jesus did not rebuke, or correct Peter for saying so; indeed, He told him that God was the One who had revealed this to him. He then told Peter that He was going to give him ***"the keys of the kingdom". (verse 19)*** This statement indicates Jesus' authority to assign a particular task to Peter with reference to his future work in God's kingdom.

5. HE HAS AUTHORITY AS KING TO ENTER THE CITY AND THE TEMPLE.

In riding into Jerusalem on the donkey, our Lord was claiming to be the One of whom Zechariah had written many years before, ***"Behold, Your King is coming....mounted on a donkey". (Zechariah 9: 9)*** The excited crowds exclaimed, ***"Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!" (Luke 19: 38)*** The King had arrived!

When He cleansed the Temple, as described in ***Matthew 21: 12, 13***, His authority was questioned by the religious leaders. He defended very skilfully what He had done and left His critics speechless.

As this Study finishes, we are confronted again with the greatness and authority of God's King. Our response to Him must be to trust Him for our eternal salvation and, in so doing placing the whole of our lives under His control.

Going Deeper bibletime

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B6 - God the Son

Study 4 - The Rejection of the King

BIBLE READING:

Matthew 26: 14-16, 47-50, 57-68;
Matthew 27: 1-2, 15-31, 35-50

KEY VERSE:

"He saved others; He cannot save Himself. He is the King of Israel; let Him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in Him."
Matthew 27: 42

The last Study ended with the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. It is rather surprising to discover that by the end of that week, the people of Jerusalem were demanding His crucifixion. It was mainly the religious leaders who were so opposed to Him. They were very jealous of His popularity with the common people. ***(21: 46)*** The Pharisees tried to provoke Him into saying things which would give them grounds for bringing charges against Him. ***(22: 15)*** But Jesus was not taken in by their evil schemes, and was never caught in any of their 'traps'. ***(22: 46)***

Then His enemies changed their tactics; they would arrest Him in secret, in the absence of the crowds. Things seemed to be in their favour when one of Jesus' disciples - Judas Iscariot, offered to lead them to Him, under cover of darkness. So it came about that the Lord Jesus was arrested late at night in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Throughout the hours of that night, the Jewish Council (or Sanhedrin) worked hard to find charges against Him. They had great difficulty obtaining witnesses who would support the accusations which they were making against Jesus. Sometimes the proposed 'witnesses' were contradicting each other! Eventually the Sanhedrin was ready to put the crucial question to their Prisoner: ***"Are you the Christ, the Son of God?" (26: 63)*** When our Lord answered positively, the High Priest, who was in charge of the trial, declared that Jesus had spoken blasphemously. The penalty for doing so was death!

There followed shameful scenes of spitting, punching and mocking, after which the Lord Jesus was taken to the Roman authorities. The Law required that Roman approval must be given before sentence of death could be carried out.

Pontius Pilate, the Roman Governor, was not a strong ruler. He questioned Jesus about His claim to be ***"The King of the Jews"***, to which Jesus again replied in the affirmative. ***(27: 11)*** In his heart, Pilate felt that Jesus had done no wrong, and he tried to reason with the Jewish leaders. But it was all in vain, and eventually Pilate gave in to the pressure of the mob who had been stirred up by the priests. ***(Mark 15: 11)***

Pilate made a last attempt to secure the release of Jesus by offering them the choice of having either Barabbas or Jesus set free. Barabbas was a notorious criminal, who was well-known and popular with the crowd. Pilate thought for sure that they would prefer Jesus to him! To Pilate's dismay, they yelled for the release of Barabbas! Jesus was condemned to die. ***(27: 26)***

Before being crucified, the Roman soldiers subjected the Prisoner to disgraceful treatment. They beat Him and mocked Him, saying, ***"Hail, King of the Jews!"*** When at last they had Him nailed upon the cross, they put a notice above His head which said, ***"This is Jesus, the King of the Jews"***. Crowds stood around, jeering and mocking.

"He is the King of Israel," they said, ***"let Him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in Him". (27: 42)***

At three o'clock that afternoon, the Lord Jesus gave a loud cry, and dismissed His spirit. God's 'Anointed One' - His King - had been rejected by Israel!

Today, as we look back upon these events, we are glad to know that if we repent of our sins, and put our trust in Him, we enter His kingdom, and become His subjects. The rejection of the King is not by any means the end of the story! Through His death upon the cross, the door of salvation has been opened for all who will accept Him as Lord and King of their lives.

This is the second of five units on **God the Son.**

06/2026

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