

INTRODUCTION

- * "Focusing on the Messiah in the book of Matthew."
- * Matthew was a Jewish man writing about the Jewish Messiah to a Jewish audience. As we study his account of life and ministry of Jesus (Y'shua) we need to keep looking at it from that context.
- * In today's passage, a failure to understand the cultural context has led to many erroneous teachings.

INSTRUCTION**I. THE MESSAGE OF REPENTANCE (v. 1-3)****A. The M_____ of Repentance****B. The M_____ of Repentance****1. THE C_____ OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN**

- a. The Identity of "the Heavens" (cf. 2 Corinthians 12:2-4; Amos 9:1-6; Deut 10:14; 1 Kings 8:27; Nehemiah 9:6; Matthew 24:29)
- b. The Identity of "the Kingdom"
 - i. *THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS EQUATED TO THE KINGDOM OF GOD*
 - * *Matt 4:17 & Mark 1:14; Matt 18:3-4; 19:4 & Mark 10:14-15; Matt 19:23-24 & Mark 10:23-25;*
 - * *Matt 13 (v. 11); Mark 4:1-34 (v. 11); Luke 8:4-15(v.10); 13:18-21 ... parables of the Kingdom*
 - ii. *THE EXTENT OF GOD'S KINGDOM (cf. Genesis 24:3; Psalm 97; 47, 96, 93; Exodus 15:18)*
 - iii. *THE EXPRESSIONS OF GOD'S KINGDOM*
 - * *The Eternal Kingdom (cf. Luke 11:2)*
 - * *The Spiritual Kingdom (cf. Luke 17:20-21; John 3:3,5)*
 - * *The Physical Kingdom (cf. Luke 22:16,18)*

2. THE N_____ OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN (v. 3; cf. Isaiah 40:3)

- a. The Pr_____ of the Kingdom
- b. The Pr_____ of the Kingdom
- c. The Pr_____ of the Kingdom

* <i>By John the Baptist (cf. Matthew 3:2)</i>	* <i>By Paul (cf. Acts 14:22; 19:8; 20:25; 28:23,30-31)</i>
* <i>By the Twelve (cf. Matt 10:7; Luke 9:2)</i>	* <i>By Philip (cf. Acts 8:12)</i>
* <i>By Peter (cf. Acts 2; 1 Pet 2:9-11; 2 Pet 1:10-11)</i>	* <i>By US! (cf. Matt 24:14; Luke 9:57-62)</i>

II. THE BAPTISM OF REPENTANCE (v. 4-6, 11)**A. The Baptism of J_____**

1. THE MODE (cf. Lev 4:6-7; Luke 16:24; John 13:26; Revelation 19:13)
2. THE MOTIVATION (cf. 1 John 1:9; Psalm 32:5; Prov 28:13; Acts 19:18)

B. The Baptism of J_____

1. WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT (cf. Isaiah 59:20-21; Acts 1:5; 11:15-16)
2. WITH FIRE (cf. Zech 13:9; Mal 3:2-4; 1 Cor 3:13-15; Revelation 20:11-15)

III. THE FRUITS OF REPENTANCE (v. 7-12; cf. Matt 7:15-20; 12:33-37; John 15:1-8; Galatians 5:16-24)

INTROSPECTION

- * DOES YOUR LIFE GIVE EVIDENCE THAT THERE WAS A TRANSFORMATION IN THE WAY YOU THINK?
- * DO YOU BELIEVE THAT THE "KINGDOM OF HEAVEN" IS TRULY AT HAND?
- * HAVE YOU SUBMITTED TO CHRIST IN BEING IMMERSED IN HIS NAME?
- * IS THERE A NEED TO "CHANGE THE WAY YOU THINK" ... AND, THEREFORE, ACT?

INTERACTION ... Thoughts & Questions to ponder for later discussion

It may be helpful to re-read the passage before the discussion.

- * Based upon the meaning of the Greek word *baptizo*, how should we discuss differences in doctrine regarding the mode of "baptism"?
- * How important is understanding a statement of Scripture in its original historical and cultural context?