

(S) Welcome to **Discipleship training On The Air**. In this teaching series, you will have an opportunity to learn to know the Bible. As you listen to this programme, make notes in a notebook or record the programme. First, we will learn about the origin of each Bible book: who wrote it and when and where he wrote it. Second, we will learn about how the Bible book may be divided into parts. Third, we will learn the main contents and messages of each Bible book. Finally, we will learn how to understand some difficult parts of the Bible book.

Today's teaching is: THE INTRODUCTION OF MATTHEW - PART 2. Today, we will learn how the Gospel of Matthew is divided in comparison to the other Gospels.

POINT 5. THE DIVISION OF MATTHEW, MARK, LUKE COMPARED TO JOHN

The first three Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke can be divided into *three divisions* as follows:
(Read the Bible references slowly so that it may be recorded)

Division one. The introduction to Jesus Christ.

This is recorded in Matthew 1:1 to 4:11, in Mark 1:1-13 and in Luke 1:1 to 4:13. It consists of the preparation and public introduction (inauguration) of Jesus Christ.

In the Gospel of John, the preparation of Jesus begins in eternity and is recorded in John 1:1-14. The public introduction of Jesus is recorded in John 1:15 to 2:12.

Division two. The ministry of Jesus Christ.

This is recorded in Matthew 4:12 to 20:34, in Mark 1:14 to 10:52 and in Luke 4:14 to 19:27. It consists of two sections:

Section one. The public ministry of Jesus to the crowds.

This is described in Matthew 4:12 to 15:20, in Mark 1:14 to 7:23 and in Luke 4:14 to 9:17. This is known as "*the Great Galilean Ministry*" of Jesus.

Section two. The private ministry of Jesus to his disciples.

This is described in Matthew 15:21 to 20:34, in Mark 7:24 to 10:52 and in Luke 9:18 to 19:27. This consists of "*the Retirement Ministry of Jesus*", "*the Later Judean Ministry of Jesus*" and "*the Perean Ministry of Jesus*".

In the Gospel of John, *the public ministry of Jesus* is recorded in five sections:

Section one. The Early Judean Ministry is recorded in John 2:13 to 4:42.

Section two. The Galilean Ministry is recorded in John 4:43 to 6:71.

Section three. The Later Judean Ministry is recorded in John 7:1 to 10:39.

Section four. The Perean Ministry is recorded in John 10:40 to 12:11.

Section five. The entry into Jerusalem for the Passion Week is recorded in John 12:12-50.

Division three. The climax of the ministry of Jesus Christ.

This is recorded in Matthew 21:1 to 28:20, in Mark 11:1 to 16:20 and Luke 19:28 to 24:53. It consists of the Passion week and the resurrection.

In the Gospel of John, *the private ministry of Jesus* is recorded in John chapter 13-21. The apostle John devoted almost 10 chapters to the Passion Week and resurrection of Jesus.

POINT 6. THE DIVISION OF THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

In more detail, the Gospel of Matthew may be divided into *eight parts*. For the sake of clarity, this includes the two parts which are only found in the Gospel of John as follows:

Part one. The preparation of Jesus.

This is recorded in Matthew chapters 1 and 2. It consists of three sections:

Section one. Matthew 1:1-17. The genealogy of Jesus.

In Luke 3 there is another genealogy. Matthew gives the descent of Joseph. Thus Jesus is the heir to the throne of David. Luke gives the descent of Mary. Thus Jesus is according to his human nature a descendant of David.

Section two. Matthew 1:18-25. The supernatural conception of Jesus.

Matthew 1:20 says, "What is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit."

Section three. Matthew chapter 2. The birth of Jesus.

He is born in Bethlehem in about 5 B.C. and adored by wise men from a foreign country. He flees to Egypt from king Herod's persecution and afterwards makes his home in Nazareth in Galilee.

Part two. The inauguration of Jesus.

This is recorded in Matthew 3:1 to 4:11. These events took place between December A.D. 26 and April A.D. 27. Thus about 4 months long. It consists of two sections:

Section one. Matthew chapter 3. The baptism of Jesus.

John the Baptist is the herald of Jesus Christ. His ministry is to prepare the way for Jesus by preaching and baptising.

Section two. Matthew chapter 4. The victory of Jesus over Satan in his temptations.

Part three. The Early Judean Ministry of Jesus.

This is not described in Matthew but only in John 2:13 to 4:47. These events took place from April to December A.D. 27. Thus about 8 months long.

Part four. The Great Galilean Ministry of Jesus.

This is recorded in Matthew 4:12 to 15:20. These events took place between December A.D. 27 and April A.D. 29. Thus about 16 months long. It consists of seven sections:

Section one. Matthew 4:11 to 7:29. Jesus proclaims the gospel of the kingdom.

He calls his first disciples, teaches, preaches and heals people. In his first discourse, called *the sermon on the mount*, he summarises his teaching.

Section two. Matthew chapters 8 and 9. Jesus performs miracles of the kingdom.

He controls the realm of sicknesses and disabilities, the powers of nature, the realm of evil spirits and the realm of the dead.

Section three. Matthew chapter 10. Jesus calls, instructs and sends the ambassadors of the kingdom.

He chooses twelve disciples and appoints them to be apostles. In his second discourse he instructs his disciples.

Section four. Matthew chapter 11 and 12. Jesus praises John the Baptist and condemns his enemies.

He extols John the Baptist as the herald of the kingdom and he condemns the unrepentant cities and the Pharisees.

Section five. Matthew chapter 13. Jesus tells parables of the kingdom.

This is his third discourse. In *the parable of the sower* he teaches how the kingdom of God is received. In *the parable of the mustard seed* and *the parable of the yeast* he teaches how the kingdom grows both outwardly and inwardly. In *the parable of the hidden treasure* and *the parable of the pearl* he teaches how precious the kingdom is. In *the parable of the weeds* and *the parable of the net* he teaches how the kingdom in its present form is mixed and how at the Last Judgement, Jesus Christ will remove out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil (13:41).

Section six. Matthew chapter 14. Jesus withdraws to solitary places and continues his ministry.

After his rejection as a prophet in his hometown and Herod's killing of John the Baptist, Jesus goes to a solitary place. Crowds follow him and he performs more miracles of the kingdom.

Section seven. Matthew 15:1-20. Jesus confirms the authority of the Bible above human traditions.

He exposes the Pharisees as blind religious leaders, whom the people should not follow.

Part five. The Retirement Ministry of Jesus.

This is recorded in Matthew 15:21 to 18:35. These events took place from April to October A.D. 29. Thus about 6 months long. It consists of three sections:

Section one. Matthew 15:21 to 16:12. Jesus trains the character of his disciples.

The disciples wanted Jesus to send the Canaanite woman away. Jesus deals with their lack of love by healing her daughter.

The disciples thought it was impossible to feed a crowd of hungry followers of Jesus. Jesus deals with their cold calculation by feeding four thousand men, besides women and children.

The disciples did not understand Jesus' warning against the yeast of the sign-seeking religious leaders of the Jews. Jesus deals with their blindness by explaining that he was warning them against the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

Section two. Matthew 16:13 to 17:27. Jesus teaches his disciples the lesson of the cross.

He teaches his disciples that it is necessary that he dies on the cross. He explains to them that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life (16:21). He also teaches that it is necessary for his disciples to take up their cross and follow him. He says, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me" (16:24). And during the transfiguration, Jesus teaches his disciples the glory to which the cross leads. The appearance of Moses and Elijah proves that Jesus is the fulfilment of the Old Testament Law and Prophets.

Section three. Matthew chapter 18. Jesus teaches his disciples the attitudes of the kingdom.

This is his fourth discourse. The blessings of the kingdom are limited to those people who have a childlike attitude and a forgiving spirit. The kingdom of God can only be entered by humility, trust and submission in relation to God and by a continuous forgiving and merciful spirit in relation to people.

Part six. The Later Judean Ministry of Jesus.

This is not described in Matthew but only in John 7:1 to 10:39. These events took place from October to December A.D. 29. Thus about 2 months long.

Part seven. The Perea Ministry of Jesus together with some journeys back into Judea.

This is recorded in Matthew 19:1 to 20:34. These events took place between December A.D. 29 and April A.D. 30. Thus about 4 months long. It consists of three sections:

Section one. Matthew 19:1-14. Jesus teaches about marriage, divorce, being single and about the importance of leading children to Jesus.

Section two. Matthew 19:16 to 20:16. Jesus teaches about entering the kingdom only by God's grace.

The rich young ruler thought that a person could be saved by doing certain works, but Jesus taught that salvation by works is just as impossible as it is for a camel to go through the eye of a needle! However, salvation from beginning to end is possible only with God (19:26). In *the parable of the workers in the vineyard*, Jesus teaches that God deals sovereignly with people as he pleases. This does not mean that God is capricious, but rather that God deals sovereignly with people according to his eternal plan and in complete harmony with his divine characteristics of holiness and love!

Section three. Matthew 20:17-34. Jesus not only repeatedly predicts his coming death, but interprets its meaning.

He says, "The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." He teaches that he was not just murdered, but that he came to lay down his life. He teaches that his death was a ransom, the righteous one died in the place of the unrighteous. And he fulfils the prophecy of Isaiah 53:12 that "he bears the sin of many". The death of Jesus Christ was a voluntary, vicarious and limited atonement.

Part eight. The death and resurrection of Jesus.

This is recorded in Matthew chapters 21 to 28. These events took place in April and May A.D. 30. Thus seven weeks long. It consists of seven sections:

Section one. Matthew 21:1 to 22:14. Jesus faces increasing opposition by Jerusalem's prominent but false religious leaders.

On the Sunday of his Passion Week, his triumphal entry into Jerusalem is misunderstood by the crowds. On the Monday of his Passion Week, he cleanses the temple and curses the fig tree. On the Tuesday of his Passion Week, he explains that his cursing of the barren fig tree prefigures that the kingdom of God is taken away from the chief priests and Pharisees and is given to other people who will produce its fruit (21:43). His authority to cleanse the temple is questioned by the religious leaders. He tells three parables about those who would enter the kingdom of God and these intensify the opposition of the religious leaders.

Section two. Matthew 22:15-46. Jesus confutes the questions of the false religious leaders.

He conquers their plan to trap him in his words with respect to taxes and politics. He exposes the real reason why they teach false teachings as not knowing the Bible or the real nature of God (22:29). He silences their hair splitting arguments about the law by pointing out that the whole Law and Prophets hang on the two commandments of loving God and your neighbour as yourself. By using the Bible, he forces them to think about the real nature of the Messiah, the Christ.

Section three. Matthew chapter 23. Jesus condemns the hypocrisy of the false religious leaders.

In his fifth discourse, he pronounces seven woes against their sins and he utters a prophetic lamentation over their unrepentant city.

Section four. Matthew chapters 24 and 25. Jesus prophesies the future destruction of Jerusalem, the great tribulation and his second coming.

In his sixth discourse, he teaches that Jerusalem's doom is *a type or illustration* of the events during the Last days just before his second coming. He describes his second coming on the clouds with power and great glory and with many angels who will gather the elect from every country in the world (24:30-31). He describes the last judgement where all the people in the world will be judged on basis of their relationship to Jesus Christ. The cursed people, who neglected to do what Jesus commanded because they did not believe in Jesus, will be assigned to eternal punishment in the eternal fire which is prepared for the devil and all his evil spirits (25:41,46). The people who are blessed by God the Father since the beginning of the creation, who are righteous in his eyes because they believed in Jesus, will inherit eternal life in the kingdom of God as it will manifest itself in the new heaven and new earth (25:34,46). Jesus tells *the parable of the ten virgins* and *the parable of the talents* in order to admonish his disciples to be vigilant.

Section five. Matthew chapter 26. Jesus is betrayed, arrested, tried by the Jewish religious authorities and disowned.

On Wednesday of his Passion Week, his enemies plot his death and one of his disciples, Judas, agrees to betray him for a bribe of money. On Thursday of his Passion Week, Jesus celebrates the Passover with his disciples and institutes the Lord's Supper. On Friday of his Passion Week just after Thursday midnight, Jesus prays in the Garden of Gethsemane. Then he is betrayed by Judas and arrested by the temple guards. During the night, he is tried in turn by Annas, the most powerful person in the Sanhedrin, and by Caiaphas, the high priest during that year. Peter disowns Jesus three times. Just after day-break, Jesus is tried and condemned by the whole Sanhedrin to be put to death.

Section six. Matthew chapter 27. Jesus is tried by the Roman civil authorities, mocked, crucified and buried.

Because the Jewish Sanhedrin did not possess the power to execute a death sentence, they bring Jesus to the Roman authorities. Early on Friday of his Passion Week, Jesus is tried in turn by the Roman procurator, Pilate, by king Herod and again by Pilate, who handed him over to be crucified. Between 3 and 6 p.m. on Friday, Joseph of Arimathea buried Jesus with the help of Nicodemus in a new tomb in his garden. On Saturday of his Passion Week, the chief priests, who were Sadducees, and the Pharisees arranged for a guard to be placed outside the tomb.

Section seven. Matthew chapter 28. Jesus is resurrected and appears to his disciples.

On Sunday, the first day of the new week, very early in the morning, Jesus was resurrected! By his resurrection, Jesus triumphed over the false religious leaders, but they bribed the guard to spread a false rumour that his body was stolen by his disciples. This rumour failed, because Jesus appeared for forty days to many people. During one of these appearances to his disciples on a mountain in Galilee, Jesus gave them the great commission, to go and make disciples of all the nations in the world.

ASSIGNMENT FOR NEXT WEEK

First. During the next week, read through Mark chapters 6 to 10.

Second. See the workbooks "Go and build Christ's Church" and Internet on www.dota.net

Third. Listen every SATURDAY to WEDNESDAY on the radio to "Discipleship training on the air".