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Structural Analysis of Matthew via Outline

- I. INTRODUCTION: The Kingship of Jesus 1:1-2:23

This introductory section describes the entry of Jesus into His fully man, fully God state on earth. It addresses Jesus' lineage through his adoptive father, Joseph, showing that Jesus fulfilled the requirements of the coming Christ through his family line. Starting with Abraham – the father of faith and of the special Abrahamic Covenant from God, through the lineage of king David – establishing Christ's right to the throne as well as fulfillment of the Davidic Covenant, and ending with Joseph. This lineage serves to show how Jesus fulfilled God's promise of continuity of both Abraham's seed and the enduring kingship of David through his line. This section also covers Joseph's uncertainty as to Jesus' beginnings, and the enemy's initial attempt at stopping prophecy from being fulfilled through the attempted murder of the infant Jesus and the cause for their move to Nazareth to avoid conflict. This move served also to fulfil prophecy regarding the city from which the Christ was to come.
- A. Jesus' heritage and genealogy 1:1-17

Jesus fulfilled multiple prophecies regarding His birth. These included fulfillment of the Abrahamic Covenant – which promised Abraham a continual lineage, as well as the Davidic Covenant, which promised David a seat on the throne through his offspring. As Matthew was written with the Jewish audience in mind, these two areas of focus were key to the gospel being shared with this audience.
- B. Jesus' birth 1:18-2:12
 - 1. *An angel of the Lord appears to Joseph* 1:20-23

An Angel appears to confirm Jesus' name and His purpose. This prevents Joseph from putting Mary away from supposed adultery.
 - 2. *Wise men visit the young Christ* 2:1-12

Having observed a star in the sky and recognizing the prophecy in Micah 5:2, the wise men came to seek out the Kings of the Jews, the Christ. They came by way of Herod first, who also asked them to report back once the Christ had been found.
 - 3. Initial attack – death of male children 2: 13-23

Christ's coming represented a threat to both the man-centered leadership in the region, but also to Satan's reign on the world. Both factors likely came into play as, even at Jesus' birth, opposition to His Kingship was expressed, to the point of death.

 - i. Family flees Herod's attack. 2:13-18

King Herod, desiring to maintain his own control, sought out to kill the Christ. Having been given a general timeline of when the star first appeared, he commanded that all male children born within that last 2 years, in the region of Bethlehem be put to death. This was an effort to protect his own kingship and further acts as a proof to Jesus' kingship. Had Jesus not been a legitimate threat to Herod's throne through a valid claim to Kingship, Herod would not have been compelled to attack.
 - ii. Moves to Nazareth 2:19-23

Fleeing persecution and death from Herod, Joseph takes his family first to Egypt and then back to Israel, setting in the region of Galilee at the Lord's instruction.

iii. Fulfilling OT prophecy, shall be called a Nazarene

This seemingly reactive act, having been warned by God, was not simply a coincidence, but again fulfilled additional prophecy (Isaiah 11:1)

II. PROCLAMATION: Expressing the imminence of the coming Kingdom 3:1-14:13

John the Baptist begins ministering and sharing the good news of the coming one and coming Kingdom. His message is that of the coming Kingdom and the coming One who will be greater than himself. Beyond John's proclamation, Jesus also offers His own proofs through miraculous works and healing.

A. Preparing the way 3:1-7:28

John the Baptist's purpose was to prepare God's people through repentance.

1. John the Baptist begins ministering 3:1-12
 - i. John the Baptist baptizes those who repent 3:5-12
 - ii. John the Baptist baptizes Jesus 3:13-15
 - iii. Spirit of God descends on Jesus 3:16
 - a. "This is My Beloved Son..." 3:17
2. Jesus tempted 4:1-11
3. John arrested and Jesus teaches 4:12-5:48
4. How to relate to God 6:1-7:27

B. Authority Proofed 7:28-14:13

During this phase of Jesus' ministry, proofs are offered to establish His authority. Often in the Old Testament, prophets were validated having come from God, through their miraculous signs. This should have been something the Jewish people recognized from past dealings with God.

1. Healings and miraculous works 7:28-8:34
2. Forgiveness of sins 9:1-38
3. Disciples sent out 10:1-42
4. Jesus confirms John the Baptist is a prophet, rebukes unbelief 11:1-26
 - i. Jesus confirms John is sent from God 11:1-19
 - ii. Jesus rebukes the cities where miracles were performed 11:20-26
5. Jesus is the way 11:27-30
6. Obey God rather than tradition or men 12:1-50
7. Parables about the Kingdom 13:1-58
8. End of Proclamation Phase 14:1-13
 - i. John the Baptist, the proclaimer, beheaded 14:1-11
 - ii. Jesus departed to be alone, had compassion on people 14:12-13

III. AUTHORITY EXPRESSED: 14:14-22:46

In this section of Matthew, Jesus moves from the rhetorical aspect of proclamation to that of action. He no longer acts in obscurity – John the Baptist has been beheaded, Jesus now moves into prominent position – echoing the statement "repent for the kingdom of God is at hand," (starting at John's imprisonment and continuing after his death) rebuking the religious leaders of the day, being transfigured before His disciples, and speaking of how to relate to God and coming Kingdom. The temple is cleansed and the law and commandments are summarized for the people. Jesus silences the religious leaders at the

time, who had held the Word of God over the people as a means of control and self-gain. Jesus traps the Pharisees and Sadducees in their own words and proves that He has a greater understanding of the Word of God than any of them do. They cannot overtake Him through the use of Scripture.

- A. Jesus identifies evil and its source 15:1-20
 - 1. By following men's rules rather than God's commands 15:1-9
 - 2. Identifying sin being rooted in the heart of man 15:10-20
- B. Jesus warns of following man's doctrine – the Pharisees and Sadducees 16:1-12

This was an ongoing theme throughout this Gospel, those who were supposed to be teachers of the law, were leading people astray through their own wicked actions. They had failed the people by not representing them justly before God and not faithfully representing God to the people. They were self-seeking and unclean in heart.
- C. Jesus recognized as Christ 16:13-17:27
 - 1. Peter calls Him the Christ 16:13-20

Jesus tells Him that God revealed this to him.
 - 2. Jesus tells the disciples of the coming sacrifice 16:21-28
 - i. Christ's coming death 16:21-23
 - ii. The cost and sacrifice of discipleship 16:23-28

The cost of following Him would be great.
- D. Jesus transfigured, proofs of Messiah 17:1-10

Jesus is shown in His true glory to the disciple on the mountaintop, again, establishing proof of His Deity. He was among Moses and Elijah, both recognized for their authority by the Jews.

 - 1. Jesus transfigured on the mountain 17:1-9
 - 2. Jesus identifies John the Baptist as Elijah 17:10-13
 - i. In response to the disciples questioning prophecy 17:10-11
 - ii. Jesus again shares His future suffering 17:12-13
 - 3. Man kneels to Jesus, asking for healing 17:14-21

Kneeling represents submission to a higher authority. This man recognized the Kingship of Jesus and paid Him honor, even before putting forth his request.

 - i. Man recognizes Jesus' authority 17:14-15
 - ii. Disciples lack of faith prevented healing 17:16-21
 - a. Instructed to pray and fast in this case 17:21
 - 4. Jesus tells of His coming resurrection and Sonship 17:22-27

Jesus again tells his disciples of what is in store for Him. He also points out that a Son is not held to the same level of requirement as outsiders. Even though He is God's Son, He still had them pay the temple tax for now.

 - i. Son of Man will be betrayed and killed 17:22
 - ii. Jesus will be raised up 17:23
 - iii. Son not required to tithe or pay tax to Father 17:24-27
 - a. Tithes/pays temple tax using fish 17:26-27
- E. Pride, humility, and mercy 18:1-35

While it may appear at first glance that the disciples were just curious about hierarchy in heaven, Jesus' response sheds light on their hearts, He lightly rebukes them and refocuses on their need to be servants – to be humble, not seeing after power for themselves.

 - 1. Disciples ask pridefully who the greatest in the kingdom is 18:1-6

2. Become humble, separating selfish or sinful ways 18:7-9
3. Jesus is the way to salvation 18:10-14
 - i. Counter-intuitive to Jewish culture of works
4. Instruction on correction and forgiveness 18:15-35
5. Instruction on family and community relationship 19:1-30
- F. Serving God 20:1-33

Jesus gives practical truths in regards to serving God. All who serve God will be rewarded, regardless of how long they have served, the gift/wage is the same for all – freedom and salvation.

 1. The reward is equal for all, regardless of timing 20:1-16
 2. The coming sacrifice, Christ to be crucified then raised 20:17-19
 3. No place for pride 20:20-22
 4. Often leads to persecution and struggle 20:23-24
 5. Is a role of servant, to God and to others 20:25-28
- G. Jesus heals the blind 20:29-34
 1. Sinners call out in faith, having a need to be healed 20:29-30
 2. Rebuked by others, ignore and cry out louder 20:31
 3. Jesus has compassion and heals 20:32-34
- H. Presentation of the King 21:1-22:46

Jesus begins to take His place of honor, even though the leaders reject Him.

 1. Jesus rides in on a donkey 21:1-14
 2. The chief priests and scribes angered and challenge him 21:15-27

The priests were angry on two counts, first that Jesus was getting attention during a time they usually received honor, and second, because they considered Jesus' actions as allowing the people to wrongfully ascribe to Himself the role of Savior God.

 - i. Christ replies "Out of the mouth of babes...you have perfected praise." 21:16
 - ii. Parable of barren fig tree, cursed and withers 21:18-22
 - iii. Priests demand to know by what authority Jesus acts 21:23-27
3. Jesus responds via parables to show the priest/scribe errors 21:28-46

Jesus calls out the Jewish leaders for not faithfully serving God, instead serving themselves, being unfaithful servants who will give an account to God.

 - i. Parable of two sons 21:28-32
 - a. Lip-service is not serving God 21:28-30
 - b. Doing the work God has called is true service 21:29
 - ii. Jesus chastises the leaders for not believing 21:31-32
 - iii. Parable of the land owner 21:33-46

God is the land owner and the Jewish leaders are the wicked tenants who have not faithfully served God or His people.

 - a. Wicked tenants seeking selfish power 21:33-40
 - b. Wicked servants will be punished 21:41-46
 - iv. Parable of the wedding feast 22:1-14

All of mankind is called to repent and be joined in a right state with God, not all are chosen, and not all accept the invitation.

 - a. Those who are called and reject will be replaced 22:1-14
 - v. Taxes/Tribute 22:15-22

Jesus refocuses the Jewish leaders off of worldly thinking and desires. Let Caesar have the money, everything is God's, why focus on material things?

- a. Pharisees attempt to trap Jesus 22:15-18
- b. Jesus confounds them by refocusing their error 22:19-22
- c. God is to be given what is His 22:19-22
- vi. Sadducees seek to disprove Jesus and the resurrection 22:23-33
 - a. Seeking to be clever and to silence Jesus 22:23-28
 - b. Jesus corrects their error, affirming they know nothing of God's Kingdom 22:39-33
- vii. The Pharisees test Jesus 22:34-46
 - a. Ask which is the greatest commandment 22:34-36
 - b. Jesus replies love God, love neighbor as self 22:37-40
This flies in the face of their countless man-made traditions and rules. He shows them it really is simple, and not complicated to follow God. This should have been what they taught God's people the whole time instead of placing extra burdens on them.
 - c. Jesus turns the table and asks them a question
 - a. Who is the Christ, whose Son? 22:41-44
 - b. Jesus perplexes the Pharisees 22:45-46

IV. PREPARATION: Jesus begins preparation for His disciples and for the people 23:1-27:66
This section of Matthew begins with Jesus' lamentations of the coming sacrifice and His preparation of God's people by alerting them to God's coming along with warnings. The time is at hand. He goes on to teach His Disciples final lessons on servanthood and the sacrifice that is to come for both Himself and them. This section ends with the final great preparation of Christ's death, which sets the course for the coming victory, but was a necessary part and conclusion of the preparation stage.

- A. Practical teaching for His coming absence 23:1-24:14
Jesus passes on practical teaching ahead of His death. He warns of falling into the same traps of the Jewish leaders of the day. He also refocuses His disciples by telling them of things to come. This provides an eternal perspective in contrast to the worldly, here and now perspective of the leaders who love to get praise and accolades for their position. They seek their own praise instead of training God's people to praise Him. In this way, they try to steal honor from God for themselves.
 - 1. Pharisees and scribes sit in Moses seat 23:1-39
At this time, Jesus has not yet become High Priest, that role is still filled by the priestly succession – the scribes and priests at the present time.
 - i. Do as they say, not as they do 23:1-3
 - ii. They are hypocrites and prideful 23:4-13
 - iii. Warnings to scribes and Pharisees for behavior 23:14-39
 - 2. Provides a glimpse into future events and return 24:1-51
 - 3. Parables of the coming Kingdom 25:1-46
- B. Jesus prepares Disciples for His death 26:1-46
 - 1. Tells timing of His coming death 26:1-5

2.	Preparations for death made	26:6-16
i.	Anointed with oil by woman	26:1-13
ii.	Judas prepares betrayal	26:14-16
3.	Jesus shares meal, institutes Lord's Supper	26:17-34
i.	Location decided	26:17-20
ii.	Jesus advises of betrayal beforehand	26:21-25
iii.	Breaking of bread, drinking wine in remembrance	26:26-29
iv.	Worshipped via hymn together and departed	26:30
4.	Jesus warns tonight He will be taken	26:31-35
a.	Will include scattering of disciples	26:31-32
b.	Foretells Peters denials	26:33-35
C.	Prayer and arrest	26:36-56
1.	Three prayers, lamentations, disciples fall asleep	26:36-46
	Jesus shows that His sacrifice is required through these discourses with God. The disciples also show their weakness in the physical world, desiring to serve in spirit, they are still currently captive to their physical needs and desires (sleep).	
2.	Judas leads the Jews to Jesus and He is arrested	26:47-56
3.	Tried before Caiaphas, High priest	26:57-68
	Again, showing the true motives of the Jewish leaders, the High Priest does not even recognize God before him. The blind leading the blind indeed.	
4.	Peter denies Christ three times in fear for his life	26:69-75
	This shows, that even having been with Jesus, the disciples are still clinging to the present life ahead of God's future kingdom.	
D.	Trial before the Gentiles – Pontius Pilate	27:1-34
1.	Judas commits suicide with remorse	27:1-10
2.	Pontius Pilate examines Jesus	27:11-23
	Pilate finds no guilt and seeks to free Jesus but ends up fearing the people.	
3.	Pilate washes his hands of guilt, appeases Jews with verdict	27:24-34
	While on the outside appearance, Pilate washes his hands of guilt, he still acted sinfully by allowing the punishment to happen. It didn't absolve him of his error.	
E.	Jesus crucified and buried	27:35-66
	Jesus is killed and then buried in the earth. Earlier he references only the sign of Jonah being provided to the disbelieving leaders. As Jonah was in the belly of the whale, Jesus had already told that He would be resurrected on the third day. This was to be the final sign to the Jewish leaders of His authenticity.	
1.	Jesus crucified, lots casts for his clothes (shamed)	27:35-37
2.	Jesus mocked by onlookers and others being crucified	27:38-44
3.	Jesus dies	27:45-56
i.	Temple veil torn in two	27:51a
	This meant all now access to God, Christ was priest	
ii.	Earthquake	27:51b
	The Jews often desired signs, this earthquake was one	
iii.	Many saints raised back to life from the grave	27:52
	Not much is provided to the reason of this, but it is recorded that it continued after the resurrection	
4.	Jesus buried in the tomb	27:57-66

- V. CONCLUSION/VICTORY: Christ is triumphant, overcoming the grave 28:1-20
Jesus is no longer dead, He has risen and appears to His disciples, providing further instruction, including the Great Commission. Jesus' true identity is established beyond all doubt by the exercise of His absolute authority over death and sin. The command goes out to disciple all nations, teaching them, and remembering that He is always with them.
- A. Jesus is resurrected 28:1-10
1. Tomb found empty, an angel advises Mary and Mary 28:1-6
Again, Jews generally looked for signs, the appearance of an angel would solidify their faith in Jesus.
 2. The women were instructed to tell the others 28:7-8
 3. Jesus presents Himself to the two Marys on their way 28:9-10
 4. Jews devise false report of stolen body to hide miracle 28:11-15
- B. Jesus presents Himself to His Disciples, gives Commission 28:16-20
1. Jesus meets His disciples on a mountain in Galilee 28:16-17
 2. Jesus give Great Commission to make disciples of all 28:18-20
 - i. Confirms authority has been given to Him 28:18
 - ii. Make disciples of all nations 28:19
 - iii. Teach, and remember He is with them 28:20