

Dr. Dave Mathewson, Storyline of the Bible – Jesus

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Session 4

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Abstract

Dr. Dave Mathewson examines how Jesus serves as the ultimate climax and fulfillment of the overarching biblical storyline established in the Old Testament. Tracing five core biblical threads—the people of God, covenant, temple, land/new creation, and kingship—the lecture demonstrates how Jesus recapitulates Israel's history, passes the wilderness testing, and inaugurates the kingdom of God. Through His life, death, resurrection, and commission, Jesus fulfills God's original creation mandate in Genesis and establishes a restored covenant community for all nations.

Outline

I. Introduction: The Biblical Storyline and Its Core Threads

A. Foundation of the Biblical Narrative

1. Creation mandate in Genesis 1–2 establishes God's original intention for humanity and creation.
2. Complication of sin in Genesis 3 resulting in exile from the sacred temple-garden.
3. Choice of Abraham and Israel as God's instrument to restore humanity, followed by Israel's parallel failure and exile.

B. The Five Primary Interwoven Themes

1. People of God: God's chosen community called to reflect His glory.
2. Covenant: The binding relationship governed by divine blessing and obedience.
3. Land / New Creation: The place of divine blessing and sacred presence.
4. Temple: The sacred space where God resides in the midst of His people.
5. Kingship: God's rule mediated through a Davidic vice-regent over all creation.

C. Hermeneutical Principles of New Testament Fulfillment

1. Interconnectedness: Evoking one thread assumes and activates the entire underlying story.
2. Twofold Scope: Promises are fulfilled primarily in Christ, and secondarily in His people (the church) through union with Him.
3. Two-Stage Inauguration: The 'Already but Not Yet' paradigm—inaugurated at Christ's first coming, awaiting final consummation in the New Creation.

II. Canonical Focus on the Gospel of Matthew (Chapters 1–4)

A. Genealogy and Canonical Signal (Matthew 1)

1. Designation of Jesus as 'Son of David' (fulfilling 2 Samuel 7) and 'Son of Abraham' (fulfilling Genesis 12).
2. Strategic canonical placement at the front of the New Testament to signal the climax of the Old Testament story.

B. Jesus as Deliverer of a New Exodus (Matthew 2)

1. Recapitulation of Israel's history: Fulfilling Hosea 11:1 ('Out of Egypt I called my son').
2. Jesus embodying the true destiny of Israel and delivering His people from exile.

III. Development of the Five Major Biblical Themes in Jesus' Life and Ministry

A. Theme 1: The People of God

1. Fourfold genealogy emphasis on the Babylonian exile signaling the end of exile in Jesus.
2. Redefinition of Abrahamic heirship: Spiritual repentance over mere physical lineage (Matthew 3; Gentile Magi in Matthew 2).
3. Recapitulation and victory in wilderness testing (Matthew 3–4): Overcoming temptation where Adam and Israel failed.
4. Reconstitution of Israel: Selection of 12 apostles (reflecting the 12 tribes) and establishment of the church (ekklēsia).

B. Theme 2: Kingship and the Kingdom of God

1. Jesus designated as the Davidic Messiah and divine vice-regent.
2. Proclamation and manifestation of God's rule over Satanic forces through exorcisms and miracles (Matthew 12:27–28; Luke 1).

C. Theme 3: Covenant

1. Institution of the New Covenant in Jesus' blood during the Passover meal (Luke 22:20).
2. Fulfillment of prophetic promises (Jeremiah 31, Ezekiel 36–37) providing total forgiveness and internal heart transformation.

D. Theme 4: Temple and God's Dwelling Presence

1. Inclusio in Matthew: Jesus as 'Emmanuel' (God with us) at birth (Matthew 1:23) and continuous presence at the Great Commission (Matthew 28:20).
2. Incarnational Tabernacle in John 1:14: 'The Word became flesh and tabernacled among us,' fulfilling Ezekiel 43 eschatological temple glory.

E. Theme 5: Land and New Creation

1. Fruitfulness and abiding in the True Vine (John 15:1–17) as the spiritual experience of the land blessings.
2. Miracles, healings, death, and resurrection as the inauguration of the New Creation (Ezekiel 37, Isaiah 65).

IV. Conclusion: Universal Scope and the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18–20)

- A. Universal authority granted to Jesus as the Son of Man / Davidic King (Daniel 7).
- B. Outflow of salvation to all nations, fulfilling God's original creation intention in Genesis 1–2.
- C. Anticipation of full eschatological consummation in Revelation 21–22.