

# 2019-2020 Bible Study

## #28

4/14/20

# Matthew 22

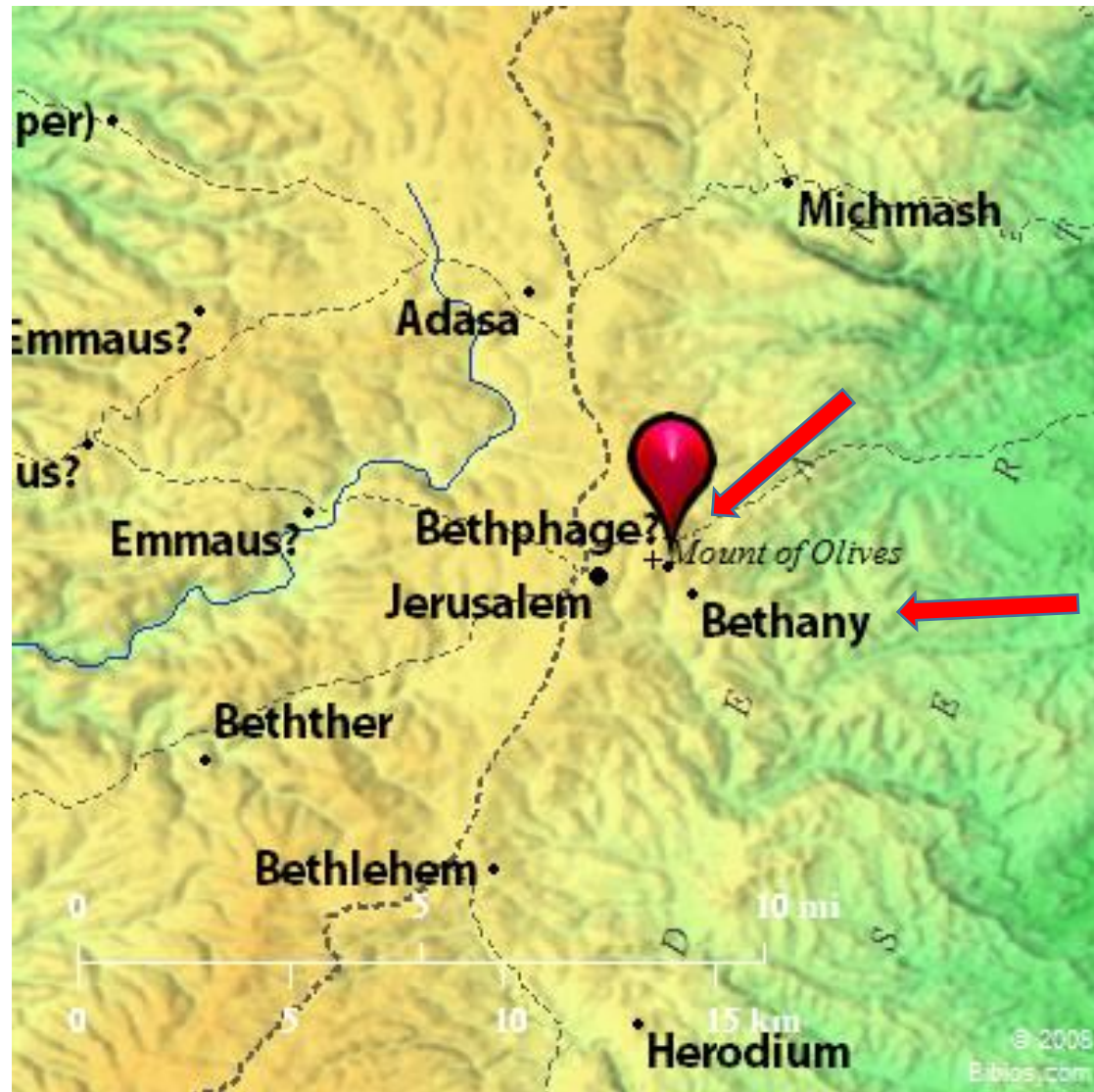
3/17/20

# A Prayer to be recited before reading the Sacred Scriptures

- Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Thy faithful and enkindle in them the fire of Thy love.
- Send forth Thy spirit and they shall be created.
- And thou shall renew the face of the earth
- *Let Us Pray*
- O God, Who didst instruct the hearts of the faithful by the light of the Holy Spirit, grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgment in all things and ever to rejoice in His consolation.
- Through Christ our Lord

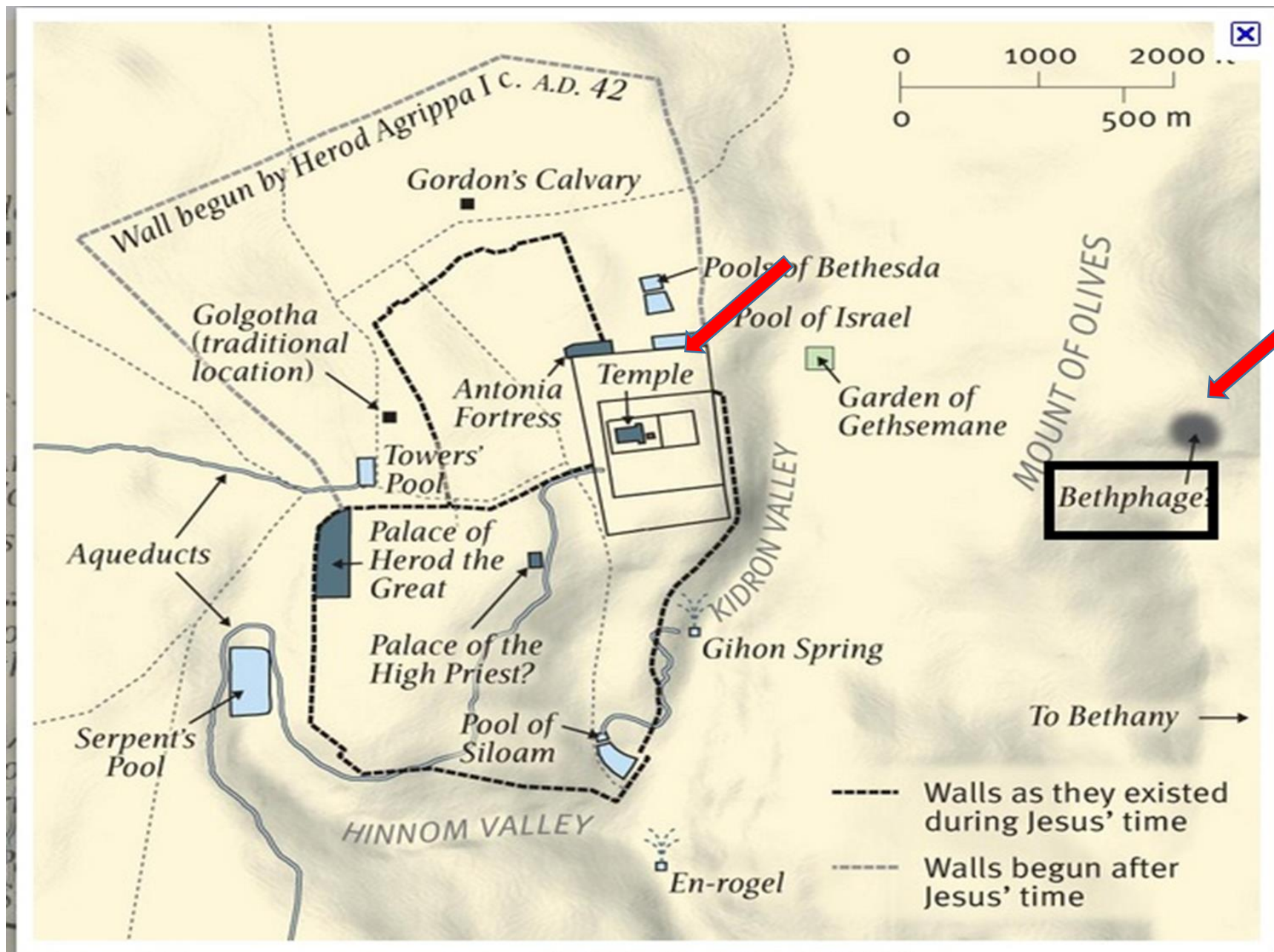


The New Moody Atlas of the Bible, By Barry J. Beitzel  
Moody Publishers, Chicago IL



Bible Atlas ([bibleatlas.org](http://bibleatlas.org))





# Outline for Matthew 22

- **Matthew 22**
- The Parable of the Marriage Feast
- The Question about Paying Taxes
- The Question about Man's Resurrection
- The Greatest Commandment
- A Question about the Christ

# Matthew 22

- **Matthew 22:1-14** *“And again Jesus spoke to them in parables,...For many are called, but few are chosen”*
  - Jesus gave the chief priests and Pharisees a second parable; this one about a marriage feast in which those invited refused to accept the invitation
    - This would have referred to the prophets being refused
    - The king was angry and sent his troops to destroy the murderers and burn their cities
    - When the wedding was ready, those invited were not prepared to come so the king sent out and gathered others to come to the feast



# Matthew 22 (Cont)

- When the feast began, the king discovered one in attendance who was not prepared (not wearing a wedding garment) for the feast, so he cast him out
- This implied that this second group to be invited could not simply show up, they also had to prepare themselves by seeking repentance
- They had to be living in accordance to the requirements of the kingdom to participate
- Father said that this meant that they had to be righteous

# Matthew 22 (Cont)

- **Matthew 22:15-22** *“Then the Pharisees went and took counsel how to entangle him in his talk...and they left him and went away”*
  - Basically they told Jesus that they knew He did not care what people said about Him, but wanted his response to a question
  - Father pointed out that once again, they were trying to test Jesus
  - What is really interesting here is that the Pharisees hated the Herodians and the Herodians hated the Pharisees

# Matthew 22 (Cont)

- The Pharisees believed that Herod was an illegitimate king and should be removed from his throne as soon as possible
- They believed that the King of Israel had to be from the line of David
- Further, the Herodians were pagan secularists who did not believe in the Law of Moses
- Yet, these two groups got together to question Jesus in what they perceived was the perfect trap
- They asked him if it was lawful to pay taxes to Caesar

# Matthew 22 (Cont)

- For the Pharisees, Jesus' perceived problem was based on **Deuteronomy 17** which prohibited a foreigner from being king over the Jewish people
- Paying taxes to such a king meant that you acknowledged that he was your king
- Thus, paying taxes to Caesar would violate **Deuteronomy 17**
- On the other hand, the Herodians could have cared less about any of this Law stuff, but one must pay taxes to Herod so that the Romans would continue to support them

# Matthew 22 (Cont0

- If Jesus said that it was unlawful to pay taxes to Caesar, a foreign king, the Herodians could have Him arrested by the Romans
- If He said it was lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, the Pharisees could discredit Him to the people for not supporting the Law
- Once again, Jesus steps out of their trap by turning it on them
- First, Jesus did not have any money to pay the tax, and had to ask to borrow a coin
- He then asked whose image was on the coin
- They replied that it was Caesar's image

# Matthew 22 (Cont)

- Jesus then told both groups to give this money to Caesar
- He just demonstrated to the Pharisees that if they were using money containing the image of Caesar they were already acknowledging Caesar
- The Pharisees were trusting in the Roman Empire by having the Herodians standing there with them, and thus they had already broken the very Law they were using to trap Him



# Matthew 22 (Cont)

- **Matthew 22:23-28** *“The same day the Sadducees came to him,...For they all had her”*
  - Father reminded us that the Pharisees and Sadducees also hated each other
    - The Sadducees were typically Levites who controlled the temple (to them the book of Leviticus was primary and everything else was secondary)
    - For the Sadducees, as long as Herod (who broke the Law in **Deuteronomy 17**) allowed them to maintain the Book of Leviticus and follow its sacrificial laws, they were fine with him
    - If Caesar or Herod started demanding things contrary to the Book of Leviticus, they would have had a problem

# Matthew 22 (Cont)

- Their philosophy was to avoid causing any trouble with Caesar or Herod to avoid any disruption of the teachings of Leviticus to include the sacrificial machine
- Father said that Caesar and Herod both paid for sacrifices to be offered in their name (imagine how much money that was)
- Thus, the Sadducees were fine with the status quo
- It was not ideal, and they would have loved for the Messiah to someday appear and rule over Jerusalem
- But, this was not primary for them

# Matthew 22 (Cont)

- The Pharisees were just the opposite
- They believed that all of the scriptures were inspired
- We Christians received from them our large cannon of Old Testament books
- For them, the Torah was primary, but all the rest were inspired
- This was similar to how we as Christians see the Gospels as primary, but all the rest of the New Testament was inspired

# Matthew 22 (Cont)

- Further, the Sadducees did not believe in the resurrection because it was only taught in a few places in the Old Testament and not at all in the Torah
  - We find references to the resurrection in **Wisdom 1 & 2, Daniel 9 & 12, and Ezekiel 37**
  - They only understood the resurrection as an “idea”
- The Pharisees believed that those books were inspired, and therefore believed in the coming resurrection

# Matthew 22 (Cont)

- Next, we see the story of the seven brothers, married to the same wife without a son
- The Sadducees (who did not believe in the resurrection) asked Jesus whose wife would she be if there was a resurrection after death
- Father suspects that this was a “conundrum” they used to trap the Pharisees
- How could a Pharisee answer this question?
- Some scholars have suggested that this might have been a play off of the **Book of Tobit**

# Matthew 22 (Cont)

- The Pharisees believed that the **Book of Tobit** was inspired and **Tobit 6:13** tells us the very same story of a woman who had seven husbands
- This might have been a mockery of the Pharisees or a mockery of their beliefs in the resurrection



# Matthew 22 (Cont)

- **Matthew 22:29-31** *“But Jesus answered them,... Have you not read what was said to you by God”*
  - Jesus responded to the Sadducees by saying that they did not know the scriptures or the power of God
  - He was saying that their cannon was deficient and not only did they not understand them, they didn't even understand the Pentateuch
  - Second, they did not believe that the power of God was such that He could do something like this
  - He said that the Pentateuch itself talks about the resurrection

# Matthew 22 (Cont)

- **Matthew 22:32-33** *“I am the God of Abraham,... they were astonished at his teaching”*
  - Jesus pointed out to the Sadducees that the Torah says that God spoke to Moses and said: “I am the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob”
  - The patriarchs had been dead for over 500 years at that point
  - This proved that Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob still existed in some state and therefore, potentially could have been raised from the dead
  - Thus, Jesus was showing them that in the Pentateuch there were allusions to these things

# Matthew 22 (Cont)

- After Jesus silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees came up to Him and basically said let's go back to the drawing board on this one
- And even though it seemed as though everyone was trying to put Jesus down, He still had to answer their questions

# Matthew 22 (Cont)

- **Matthew 22:34-40** *“But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees,...depend all the law and the prophets”*
  - A lawyer (one who was an expert in the Torah) tested Jesus by asking Him which was the greatest commandment
  - Jesus responded that it was *“to love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul and with all your mind”* (**Deuteronomy 6:4**)
  - Then, Jesus added that the second commandment was like it, *“You shall love your neighbor as yourself”*

# Matthew 22 (Cont)

- He said that on these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets
- Jesus has just demonstrated that He knew the Torah as well as any lawyer
- He did not quote from the listing of the 10 Commandments in **Exodus 20**
- Instead, He quoted from **Deuteronomy 6:4** and **Leviticus 19** which were very sacred passages in the Torah (which told everything that the “Holiness-Code” revealed)

# Matthew 22 (Cont)

- As this story is presented in Luke's Gospel, the lawyer then asked Jesus, "*Who is my neighbor?*"
- This was the lawyer attempting to check on Jesus' finer knowledge of the Law
- This led to Jesus providing the parable of the Good Samaritan



# Matthew 22 (Cont)

- **Matthew 22:41-46** *“Now while the Pharisees were gathered together,...dare ask him any more questions”*
  - At this point, Jesus will ask the Pharisees a question
  - Father began by pointing out that “Christ” was Greek for Messiah (Hebrew) meaning “anointed one”
  - The Jews had been waiting for over 500 years for the return of the Christ
  - Jerusalem had been ruled by Messianic (Anointed) Kings from the time of David and Solomon (around 1000 B.C.)

# Matthew 22 (Cont)

- The Babylonian Exile was around 500 B.C., so for about 500 years Israel had been ruled by an anointed king in the line of David (King Zedekiah whose eyes were poked out before taking him to Babylon was the last king)
- Since that time Israel had been waiting for the return of the Messiah
- So, Jesus asked the Pharisees, *“What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?”*
- They replied that he was to be the son of David (**2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel 7**)

# Matthew 22 (Cont)

- Then Jesus asked the Pharisees if David, inspired by the Spirit, called him Lord how was he David's son? (**Psalms 110**)
- The Pharisees could not answer this question
- Father pointed out how, when talking to the Sadducees, Jesus only spoke to the Torah, but He referenced a Psalm to the Pharisees
- He also discussed what had been going on historically in **Psalms 110** (which contained the answer to this conundrum)
  - There are two different forms of the word "Lord" here

# Matthew 22 (Cont)

- The first one is “*Yahweh*”, in all caps in **Psalm 110**
- The second one is Lord in lower case because it references the Hebrew word “*Adonai*”
- In Hebrew this says, “Yahweh said to my master, sit at my right hand until I put your enemies under your feet”
- In the rest of the Psalm, Jesus was talking about the dynasty of David
- The Psalm discusses “a priest **forever** in the order of *Melchizedek*”
- This was the line or dynasty that David inherited in Jerusalem
- In the Psalm, David is talking about his dynasty which was to include Solomon and the rest of the kings

# Matthew 22 (Cont)

- Solomon was anointed king while David was still alive
- In fact, David laid in his sick bed while Solomon was his master
- This was the solution which answered this problem
- Father said that from this we can see the answer to the Sadducees' ridiculous question about the woman and seven husbands
- Next week we will look at **Matthew 23**

# The Saint Raymond Prayer

- Glorious Saint Raymond of Peñafort, wise and holy patron,  
come to the aid of those entrusted to your care,  
and all who flee to your protection.  
Intercede for us in our need,  
and help us through your prayers, example, and  
teaching,  
to proclaim the truth of the Gospel to all we meet.  
And when we have reached the fullness of our years,  
we beseech you to guide us home to heaven,  
to live in peace with you, Our Mother Mary, and Our  
Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

# Hail Mary Prayer

- Hail Mary,  
Full of Grace,  
The Lord is with thee.  
Blessed art thou among women,  
and blessed is the fruit  
of thy womb, Jesus.  
Holy Mary,  
Mother of God,  
pray for us sinners now,  
and at the hour of death. Amen.