

# 20-21 Bible Study #3

9/29/20

# 2020-2021 Introduction and Overview (Cont)

Review of the New Testament Settings

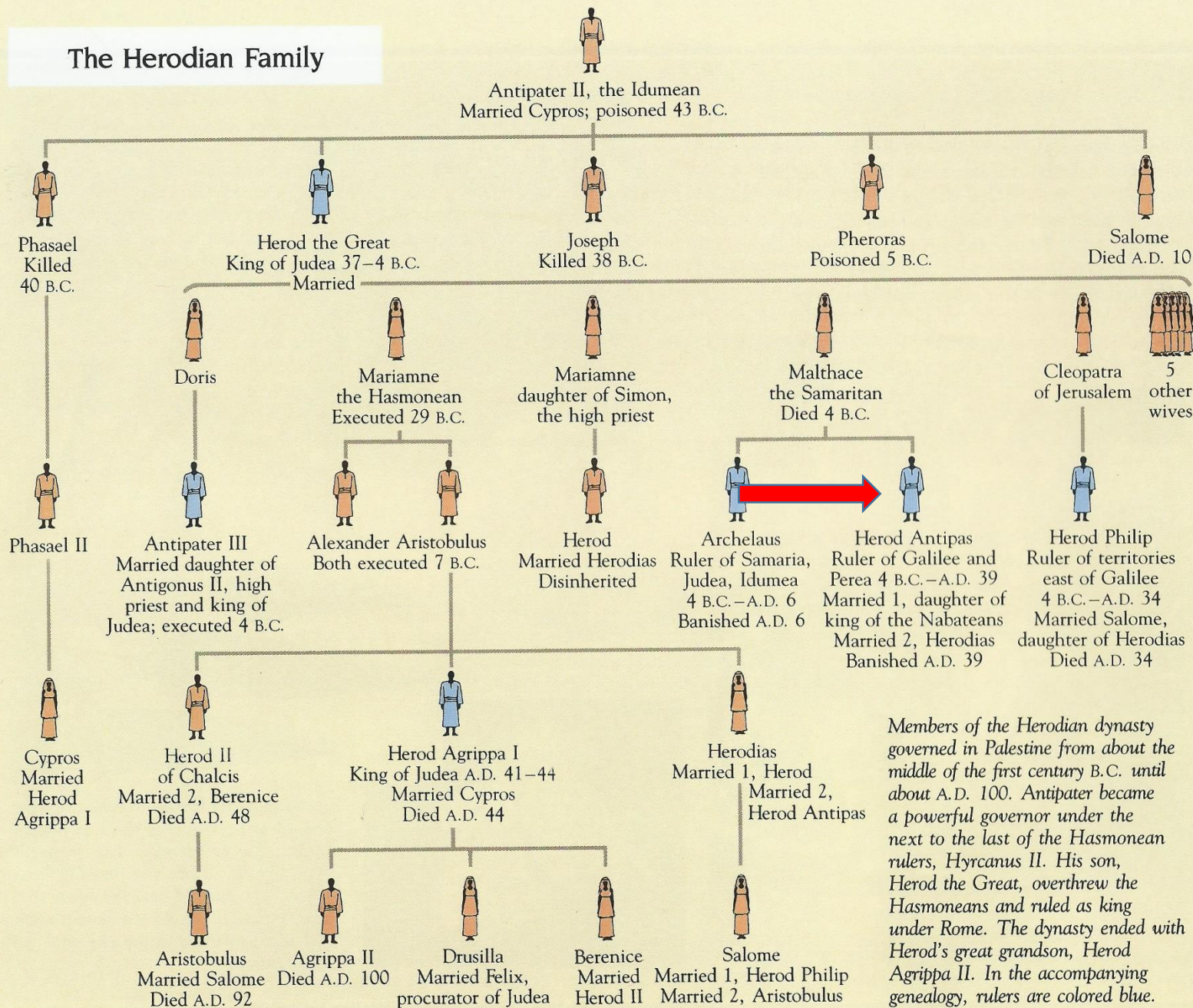
# Questions from last week

- Was Corban part of the 613 Commandments?
- Which Herod presided over the interrogation of Jesus during His passion?

# Questions from last week (Cont)

- Corban (Korban) (Mark 4:11) means any of a variety of sacrifices offering described and commanded in the Torah. Thus it is mentioned often in the 613 Commandments.
- The Pharisees took a legitimate Corban offering and used it in an illegitimate and devious way to defraud their parents (and enrich themselves). Thus, the Law of God was nullified.
- It does not appear that this use of Corban was defined in the 613 Commandments

# The Herodian Family



Members of the Herodian dynasty governed in Palestine from about the middle of the first century B.C. until about A.D. 100. Antipater became a powerful governor under the next to the last of the Hasmonean rulers, Hyrcanus II. His son, Herod the Great, overthrew the Hasmoneans and ruled as king under Rome. The dynasty ended with Herod's great grandson, Herod Agrippa II. In the accompanying genealogy, rulers are colored blue.

# Review of Last Week

- What the 1<sup>st</sup> Century Israel looked like:
  - Geography
  - Governing Authorities
  - Jewish Scriptures
    - Septuagint
    - Hebrew Bible
  - Early Christian Time Line
  - Overview of the Synoptics
    - Matthew – Jews in Jerusalem and Judea
    - Mark – Jews and Gentiles in Rome
    - Luke – Jews and Gentiles in the Roman Empire

# Introduction to the Synoptic Gospels (Cont)

- The Infancy Narrative of Jesus is presented in
  - **Matthew 1-2**
    - Genealogy
    - Betrothal
    - Birth in Bethlehem
    - Visit of wise men
    - Flight to Egypt
    - Killing of innocents
    - Return to Nazareth

# Introduction to the Synoptic Gospels (Cont)

- **Luke 1-2**

- Zechariah's encounter with Gabriel
- Call and fiat of Mary
- Mary's journey to Elizabeth and birth of John
- Mary and Joseph go to Bethlehem
- Birth of Jesus in cave
- Visit of angels and shepherds
- Presentation of Jesus
- Loss of teenage Jesus for three days



# A Review of the Gospel of Matthew

9/29/20

# Setting the Table for 65 A.D.

- 26-36 Pontius Pilate was 2<sup>nd</sup> Roman Governor
- 30 Jesus was crucified and the early church began
- 33 First Deacons were appointed
- 35 Stephen was martyred
- 37 Christian worship spread to Antioch
- 38 Paul flees Damascus
- 41-44 Herod Agrippa I ruled in Jerusalem
- 42 James was beheaded (by Agrippa II)

# Setting the Table for 65 A.D. (Cont)

- 44 Paul was brought to Antioch
- 45 Paul visits Jerusalem to help with famine
- 44 Paul begins 1<sup>st</sup> missionary journey
- 48-49 Herod Agrippa II ruled Jerusalem
- 49 Jews expelled from Rome by Claudius
- 50 Apostles and Paul meet for 1<sup>st</sup> council
- 64 Emperor Nero begins persecution of Christians
- 66-70 Jewish Revolt
- 68 Peter and Paul martyred

# Summary of the Law Being Practiced in the 1<sup>st</sup> Century

- Circumcising all sons on the 8<sup>th</sup> day after birth in accord with Covenant with Abraham
- Obedience to the 10 Commandments and their expansion into the 613 commandments, statutes, and decrees to include:
  - Sabbath laws
    - Temple
    - Synagogue
  - Kosher laws

# Summary of the Law Being Practiced in the 1<sup>st</sup> Century (Cont)

- Attending (when possible) the three annual feasts at the Temple in Jerusalem
  - Passover
  - Pentecost
  - Booths
- Offering required sacrifices to God in the Temple in Jerusalem

# Setting the Stage for Matthew

- You are a 30-year-old 1<sup>st</sup> Century Jew
  - Living in Jerusalem in 65 A.D.
  - Married with a family
  - Working as a shopkeeper
  - Attempting to live a “righteous life”
  - Curious about “the new way” of Judaism including:
    - Who is the Rabbi *Joshua*, son of *Joseph* the carpenter, from Nazareth
    - The rumor that he is the long awaited “Messiah”

# Outline to Intro of Matthew

- Setting the stage for a Jew living in 65 A.D.
- *The Call of Matthew* by Caravaggio
- Author
- Composition
- Canonicity
- Structure
  - Chiasm

# Matthew

- **Author**

- Matthew the Apostle (Levi the tax collector)
- Born and lived in Capernaum
- He could read and write, and was good with numbers
- He was **not listed** by name in the **original text**
- It was understood from Tradition of the early church that:
  - The text was inspired
  - Matthew was the author
  - It was written first

- **Composition:** According to *Eusebius* (Bishop of Caesarea in 314 A.D.) who quoted *Papias*, Bishop of Hierapolis (100-110 A.D.), Matthew wrote his gospel in the dialect of the Hebrews (that would have been *Aramaic*)
  - His gospel was **read as part of the liturgy** in the early church (they produced thousands of copies)



# Matthew (Cont)

- Hebrew was not the language of the 1<sup>st</sup> Century Jews (although it is the language of modern day Jews in Israel)
- Aramaic became the administrative language of Judea when the Assyrians surrounded Jerusalem in 701 B.C.
  - Simon bar Jonah
  - Bar Mitzvah
  - *Eli, Eli, lama sabach-thani – My God, my God why hast thou forsaken me – Psalm 22*
- Matthew's gospel was probably written some time in the 60's because it does not record the fulfillment of Jesus' prophecy concerning the destruction of the temple in 70 A.D.
- It was translated very soon thereafter into Greek (we have no remnants from the Aramaic version)

# Matthew (Cont)

- **Canonicity**

- The early Greek version of Matthew's gospel that we have today was used by the early church
- Matthew's gospel has always appeared first in a list of the gospels
- Brief overview of the post-enlightenment German Protestant theory of Marcan primacy and Q
  - Refuted by modern historical and scientific research leading to Narrative Criticism

# Bible Writing Terminology

- **Chiasm** – a series of repetitions that build to the center. It brings our attention to the center

A – B – C – B' – A'

- The center is not repeated because it is the most important part
- Like a sandwich: bread, mustard, **meat**, mustard, bread.
- Scrolls were written from the center outward on either side

# Bible Writing Techniques (Cont)

- **One form of Chiasms include:**
  - A series of repetitions that brings our attention to the center

A  
B  
C  
B'  
A'

# Structure of Matthew's Gospel

Narrative about John the Baptist, Jesus' Baptism & being tested – Mt 3-4

**A. Discourse on Sermon on the Mount – Mt 5-7**

Narrative on **10 Miracles** – Mt 8-9

**B. Discourse to the 12 Apostles on Authority - Mt 10**

Narrative on the mysteries of the kingdom – Mt 11-12

**C. Discourse on the Seven Parables – Mt 13**  
**most important - like meat in a sandwich**

**The parables begin at this point**

Narrative on the Church, First Fruits of the Kingdom of Heaven – Mt 14- 17

**B' Discourse on the Church to the 12 Apostles – Mt 18**

Narrative on the Approaching Advent of the Kingdom of Heaven – Mt 19-22

**A' Discourse on the Temple Mount – 23-25**

Narrative on Passion and Resurrection – Mt 26-28

There are also two other small discourses in Matthew

# Structure of Matthew's Gospel

- **Prologue:** The Genealogy of Jesus and the Infancy Narrative (1-2)
  - **Book I:** John the Baptist and the Early Ministry (3-7)
    - *A. Discourse on Sermon on the Mount (5-7)*
  - **Book II:** Miracles and the Commissioning of the Twelve (8-10)
    - *B. Discourse to the 12 Apostles on Authority (10)*
  - **Book III:** Controversy and the Kingdom (11-13)
    - *C. Discourse on the **Seven Parables** (13)*
  - **Book IV:** Instruction of the Disciples (14-18)
    - *B'. Discourse on the Church to the 12 Apostles (18)*
  - **Book V:** The Journey to Jerusalem (19-25)
    - *A'. Discourse on the Temple Mount (23-25)*
- **Conclusion:** Suffering, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus (26-28)



# Review of the Gospel of Matthew

- How would you (as our fictitious 1<sup>st</sup> Century Jew) and others at that time have responded to Matthew's presentation that Jesus of Nazareth was the long-awaited *Messiah*?
- In the following charts, I will review the structure of Matthew's Gospel, and attempt to highlight some of the many instances in which Matthew was speaking directly to this Jewish audience



# Review of the Gospel of Matthew (Cont)

- **The Prologue: The Genealogy of Jesus and the Infancy Narrative (1-2)**
  - Matthew began with a focus on Jesus' relationship to Abraham and David via his genealogy
  - He provided a magnificent use of the Number 14 (the numerical value of the name David)
  - The addition of the third group of 14 (members of the royal line of David who lived after the return from Babylon) point to the royal birth of Jesus
  - Matthew also pointed to the Davidic ancestry of both Joseph and Mary
  - He also provided details about Jesus' birth in Bethlehem (as prophesied), the visit of the shepherds, and the wise men (from Persia)

# Review of the Gospel of Matthew (Cont)

- Again, Matthew highlighted Joseph and Mary's fulfillment of the Law at the presentation of Jesus in the temple after 40 days
- He also identified Jesus' perceived threat to the dynasty of Herod the Great, and the need for the Holy Family to go to and return from Egypt

# Review of the Gospel of Matthew (Cont)

- **Book I: John the Baptist and the Early Ministry (3-7)**
  - Here, Matthew presented the role of John the Baptist as the one proclaiming the coming of the Christ in the wilderness (from Isaiah) as the long-awaited Messiah
  - At the Baptism of Jesus by John, Matthew introduced the Trinity, and the institution Baptism as the first sacrament of initiation
  - Next, he discussed Jesus fasting for 40 days (the flood and 40 years of wandering in the desert) followed by the three tests (temptations) of Jesus by the devil in which Jesus succeeded where Adam had failed

# Review of the Gospel of Matthew (Cont)

- Then, Matthew indicated how Jesus began His ministry in Galilee (the area of many rebellions)
- Also, how Jesus, like Moses, upheld and clarified the Law, in His *Sermon on the Mount* (His manifesto)

# Review of the Gospel of Matthew (Cont)

- **Book II: Miracles and the Commissioning of the Twelve (8-10)**
  - Like Moses, who demonstrated the power of God via the 10 plagues, the parting the sea, manna (the bread from heaven), water from the rock, Jesus demonstrated His Godly power by performing many “Mighty Deeds” (10 Miracles) such as: healing the sick, calming the sea, and casting out demons
  - He selected the 12 Apostles (those who are sent out) after the 12 tribes of Israel
  - He then taught them their challenging mission

# Review of the Gospel of Matthew (Cont)

- **Book III: Controversy and the Kingdom (11-13)**
  - Jesus went about the towns and villages of Galilee proclaiming the coming of the “Kingdom of God”
  - After their initial curiosity about His possibility of being the Messiah, the Pharisees began to doubt His mission, and sought to stop Him through a series of challenges to His teaching
  - This led Jesus, (following the example of Isaiah), to speak in parables to those listening to Him because they had decided to tune Him out

# Review of the Gospel of Matthew (Cont)

- **Book IV: Instruction of the Disciples (14-18)**

- Matthew reminded his listeners of the death of John the Baptist
- Then, he pointed out the additional mighty deeds of Jesus: Walking on the sea, feeding of the five thousand men, and the **commissioning of Peter** as *El Bayith (the one over the house)*
- Immediately afterward, Matthew discussed the beginning of Jesus' journey "on the way" to Jerusalem for His passion
- En route, he discussed the significance of the **Transfiguration** (witnessed by Peter, James, and John) with Jesus discussing His Exodus with Moses (the Law) and Elijah (the prophets)
- Also, on the way, Matthew offered a few additional parables of Jesus

# Review of the Gospel of Matthew (Cont)

- **Book V: The Journey to Jerusalem (19-25)**

- Before leaving Capernaum, Jesus gave another example of His clarification of the Law via His discussion with the Pharisees over marriage and divorce
- Then, three times, Jesus informed His disciples that He had to go to Jerusalem, be put to death, which would be followed by His resurrection from the dead
- Upon His arrival in Jerusalem, He made a triumphant (kingly) entry into the city, riding on a donkey, with a cheering crowd of followers proclaiming Him the Messiah
- However, instead of leading this mass of people in an attack on the Roman authorities at the Antonio Fort, He entered and cleansed the temple



# Review of the Gospel of Matthew (Cont)

- Jesus then conducted a heated debate with the Jewish leaders (the Pharisees, Sadducees, and Herodians) concerning His authority, resulting in their final decision to put Him to death
- Jesus then predicted the destruction of the temple (carried out by the Romans in 70 A.D.) using language of the events that led to the Babylonian captivity
- Many see these passages as a prediction of Jesus' second coming at the end of time

# Review of the Gospel of Matthew (Cont)

- **Conclusion: Suffering, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus (26-28)**
  - This section contains the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus to include:
    - His anointing at Bethany
    - Judas' betrayal
    - The Passover with the disciples (Last Supper where He instituted the Eucharist and the Priesthood)
    - The agony in the Garden of Gethsemane
    - His trial before the Jewish leadership (Annas and Caiaphas)
    - His trial and scourging by the Roman Governor *Pontius Pilate*

# Review of the Gospel of Matthew (Cont)

- His crucifixion (the 7 last words), death, and burial
- The resurrection
- His ascension

# Conclusion

- The total destruction of the Temple and Jerusalem by the Romans in 70 A.D.
- How would you as a 1<sup>st</sup> Century Jew vote on the fact that Jesus was the Messiah?
- Did Matthew help you, as a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Christian, believe that Jesus is the Christ (Messiah), Son of God, Third Person of the Trinity, your personal Lord, and Savior?

# Transition

- We will now begin our study of the **Book of Acts** and the **Epistles of St. Paul**