



April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022 • Matthew 28:16-20  
Topical Message • by Pastor Marcus Johnson



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## The Resurrected Christ & the Great Commission

- All authority in heaven & on earth has been given to Jesus:** so courageously follow & worship Him (knowing He will build His church)
- Make disciples of all nations:**
  - by going or as we go...
  - baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son & the Holy Spirit
  - teaching them to obey all that Jesus commanded
- Behold – Jesus is with us always (all the days) to the end of the age:** so be reassured & empowered by His presence & His promise

## Excursus #1: Some Recurring Themes at the Beginning & End of Matthew

- Jesus the son of Abraham and the Great Commission:** Matthew begins with a Jewish focus, showing that Jesus the son of Abraham is Israel’s promised Messiah (see #2 below), foretold by the prophets, who would save His people from their sins (Mt 1-2). Matthew ends with an all nations focus (“His people” includes Gentiles), with Christ’s Great Commission to “make disciples of all nations” (Mt 28:16-20). These Jewish & all nations themes are interconnected, because God promised that “all the families (or peoples) of the earth will be blessed” thru Abraham (Ge 12:3b), and this Abrahamic blessing for all peoples comes thru Jesus (Mt 12:15-21, 38-42), the son of Abraham (Mt 1:1), in part by Christ’s disciples making disciples of all nations (Mt 28:19; cf. Mt 5:13-16). Also, this Abrahamic blessing is highlighted in, & The Great Commission is foreshadowed in, Matthew’s opening prologue (Mt 1-2), thru Matthew’s inclusion of Gentile women in Jesus’ genealogy (e.g. Rahab, Ruth), the wise men from the east who come to worship the one born king of the Jews, and Jesus being raised in Nazareth, a town in “Galilee of the Gentiles” (Mt 4:15). Galilee is also where Matthew’s book ends (Mt 28:16-20), when Jesus gives The Great Commission to make disciples of all nations!
- Jesus the son of David, King of the Jews, who will reign forever:** Matthew begins with a prologue that also emphasizes Jesus as the son of David (Mt 1:1ff). God promised King David he would have a descendant (Jesus) who would sit on David’s throne forever (2Sam 7:13). Jesus is also the one born “king of the Jews” who the wise men come to worship (Mt 2:1ff). Near the end of his book, Matthew gives the charge against Jesus (posted on the cross above His head): “This is Jesus, the King of the Jews” (27:37b). After Christ’s resurrection, Matthew records Jesus saying, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me” and “I am with you always, even to the end of the age” (Mt 28:18b, 20b). Jesus is King & reigns forever!
- Jesus, God with us:** During his birth narrative of the Christ child, Matthew reveals that Mary would conceive Jesus by the Holy Spirit, and that one of Jesus’ names would be Immanuel, “which means, God with us” (Mt 1:23b). Then in his resurrection account, Matthew records Jesus saying, “behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age” (Mt 28:20b). So Matthew begins & ends with the theme of Jesus (God) being with us!

## Excursus #2: the Five Discourses in Matthew

- The Sermon on the Mount (Mt 5:1-7:29).** Jesus teaches about the kind of life the kingdom produces and He demands (e.g. the beatitudes; love your enemies; store up treasures in heaven; seek first the kingdom and righteousness of God; build your house on the rock).
- The Mission Mandate: Commissioning of the Disciples (Mt 10:1-42).** Jesus commissions the twelve apostles, giving them instructions for their short term mission to Israel (the Jews) and for their global (long term) mission to the whole world (including the gentiles), and emphasizes the cost & rewards of discipleship as we pledge allegiance to Him.
- The Parables of the Kingdom (Mt 13:1-58).** Jesus teaches about the mysteries of the kingdom of God using parables, to show that the kingdom has been inaugurated with a surprising & largely unrecognized small beginning, and is advancing through the power of His word (it’s arrival, power & spread is not grounded in political & military power & victory).
- Discipleship: Kingdom-Community Living for Believers (Mt 18:1-35).** Jesus teaches about characteristics of Christian living within the community of believers (e.g. a child as the greatest in the kingdom of heaven; God seeking the lost sheep; forgiving and confronting fellow believers who sin against us; and consequences of unforgiveness).
- The Olivet Discourse: Eschatological Teachings (Mt 24:1-25:46).** Jesus teaches what will happen for Jerusalem & until the end of the age (e.g. tribulation, famines, wars, persecution, global gospel proclamation, false prophets & false Christs rising, signs of His coming, the call to watch & be ready, and the judgment at the end of the age when He returns).