

# People, Places, and Things in the Gospel of Matthew — Deep Dive

Gospel of Matthew presents Jesus as the promised Messiah and King, writing especially to a Jewish audience and emphasizing fulfillment of prophecy and the arrival of the Kingdom of Heaven. Below is a structured deep study of **People, Places, and Things**, including narrative purpose and theological meaning.

## PEOPLE IN MATTHEW

### 1. Jesus Christ

- Titles:
- Son of David
  - Son of Abraham
  - Son of Man
  - Son of God
  - King of the Jews
  - Emmanuel ("God with us")

Matthew presents Jesus as:

- The New Moses (Sermon on the Mount)
- The Greater David (royal lineage)
- The Suffering Servant
- The Risen King (28:18–20)

**Theme:** All authority in heaven and earth.

### 2. Joseph

- Receives divine dreams.
- Protects Mary and Jesus.
- Obedient and righteous.

Represents covenant faithfulness.

### 3. Mary

- Virgin mother.
- Fulfills Isaiah 7:14.
- Quiet but pivotal in salvation history.

### 4. Herod the Great

- Herod the Great
- Orders massacre of infants (Matt 2).
  - Symbolizes worldly power threatened by divine kingship.

### 5. The Magi

- Gentile worshippers from the East.
- Bring gold, frankincense, myrrh.
- Recognize the King before Israel's leaders.

**Theme:** Kingdom inclusion of Gentiles.

### 6. John the Baptist

- Prepares the way.
- Calls for repentance.
- Baptizes Jesus.

Bridges Old Covenant prophecy and New Covenant fulfillment.

### 7. The Twelve Disciples

- Key figures:
- Peter (confession of Christ)
  - James & John
  - Matthew (tax collector)
  - Judas Iscariot (betrayal)

They move from confusion → mission → global commission.

### 8. Religious Leaders

**Pharisees**  
Legalists focused on outward righteousness.

**Scribes**  
Experts in Mosaic Law.

**Sadducees**  
Temple elites denying resurrection.

**Caiaphas**  
Leads prosecution of Jesus.  
**Theme:** Religious resistance to true righteousness.

### 9. Political Authorities

**Herod Antipas**  
Executes John the Baptist.

**Pontius Pilate**  
Declares Jesus innocent yet orders crucifixion.

### 10. Women of Faith

- Canaanite woman
- Woman with issue of blood
- Mary Magdalene

Often display stronger faith than male disciples.

### 11. The Crowds

- Amazed but inconsistent.
- Represent mixed responses to the Kingdom.

## PLACES IN MATTHEW

### 1. Bethlehem

Birthplace of Jesus.  
Fulfills Micah 5:2.

### 2. Nazareth

Childhood home of Jesus.  
"Can anything good come from Nazareth?" (later echoed in John).

### 3. Sea of Galilee

Teaching and miracle hub.  
Calling of disciples.

### 4. The Mount (Sermon on the Mount)

Symbolically parallels Sinai.  
Jesus authoritatively interprets the Law.

### 5. The Temple in Jerusalem

Center of Jewish worship.  
Cleansed by Jesus (Matt 21).  
Location of final confrontations.

### 6. Jerusalem

City of the Great King.  
Place of triumphal entry, crucifixion, resurrection.

### 7. Wilderness

- Temptation of Jesus.
- Echo of Israel's 40 years.

### 8. Caesarea Philippi

Confession of Peter ("You are the Christ.")

## THINGS IN MATTHEW

### 1. The Kingdom of Heaven

Matthew's preferred phrase (used ~32 times).  
Central theme of the book.

### 2. Fulfillment Formula

"Thus it was fulfilled..."  
Links Jesus to Old Testament prophecy.

### 3. Thirty Pieces of Silver

Price of betrayal.  
Fulfills Zechariah imagery.

### 4. The Cross

Instrument of Roman execution.  
Becomes symbol of atonement and kingship.

### 5. The Tomb

Sealed and guarded.  
Empty on third day.

### 6. Baptism

Heavens open.  
Spirit descends like a dove.

### 7. Loaves and Fish

Miracles of multiplication.  
Echo manna and Elisha narratives.

### 8. Fig Tree

Cursed by Jesus.  
Symbol of fruitless Israel.

### 9. Parables

Kingdom teaching method:

- Sower
- Mustard seed
- Wheat and tares
- Talents

Reveal truth to believers; conceal from hardened hearts.

## Structural Overview

Section	Focus
Matthew 1–2	Birth & Kingship
Matthew 3–4	Preparation & Temptation
Matthew 5–7	Kingdom Ethics
Matthew 8–10	Authority & Mission
Matthew 11–13	Rejection & Parables
Matthew 14–20	Identity & Discipleship
Matthew 21–25	Conflict & Judgment
Matthew 26–28	Passion & Resurrection

## Major Theological Threads

- Jesus as the New Moses
- True righteousness vs. hypocrisy
- Kingdom reversal (last → first)
- Authority over nature, demons, sin, death
- Global mission (28:19–20)

## Summary Table

Category	Central Emphasis
People	Responses to the King
Places	From Bethlehem to Jerusalem
Things	Kingdom, Cross, Fulfillment

If you'd like, I can next provide:

- Chapter-by-chapter people, places, things
- Genealogy deep analysis (Matthew 1)
- A printable teaching outline
- Comparison with Mark and Luke
- A sermon series framework

Just tell me how deep you want to go next.