Pastor Scott Velain



# The Book of Matthew Introduction

Welcome to our study into the book of Matthew which is of course the first book of what most of us know as the "New Testament". We're excited to bring you this study because as we'll soon see, the New Testament is truly an extension of what we know as the Old Testament. The titles "New Testament" and "Old Testament" are not found anywhere within the original Hebrew or Greek texts or manuscripts. These titles have been added to our modern-day Bibles in order to divide and separate our God breathed Scripture more than anything else.

What's important to understand is that the Bible as a whole is indeed God breathed as the Apostle Paul tells us that it is in 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy chapter 3. The Torah, the writings of the Prophets and the Psalms along with the epistles and letters of the Apostles are all together God breathed and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness so that the man of God may be complete and equipped for every good work. But... what we must understand is that the Old Testament Scriptures are included in those Scriptures that are God breathed and profitable for teachings, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, they are not excluded as the church today often times likes for us to think.

If we negate or remove what we know as the Old Testament, or if we negate or remove what we know as the New Testament, we will not have the truth of God's word that God gave us in order for us to see the whole picture that Yehvoah God wants us to see. The Bible should be seen as a whole and not two separate and distinct stories. And I would submit to you that the titling of the Bible with two different sections has done today's modern-day Christian more harm than good. The Bible tells us one story. One complete story. One complete story, history and future that should be understood as one complete story, history, and future.

And the story that the Bible tells us is the story of mankind. It incudes the past, present, and future of mankind because the Elohim that we serve has the power to tell us the past, present and the future because he himself has created it, shaped it, and formed it. It is written that God proclaims the end from the beginning. (scrn 1)

# I Declare The End From The Beginning!

Isa 46:8 'Remember this and stand firm, recall it to mind, you transgressors, Isa 46:9 remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, Isa 46:10 declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,'

The book of Matthew is an extremely important book because it actually begins with the arrival of the Messiah that we first saw back in the book of Genesis clear back in the beginning of the Bible. Let's take a quick look at one of the first introductions of our Messiah that see in the Bible. We can find that in **Genesis 3:14-15 (scrn 2)** 

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### The Offspring of The Woman...

Gen 3:14 The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. Gen 3:15 I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."



There should be no doubt in our minds that the offspring of the women who would bruise the head of the serpent is indeed our Messiah Yeshua Hamashiach (Jesus in the Greek). And the english word "bruise" here in verse 15 actually comes form the Hebrew word "shuph"... and the Hebrew word "Shuph" can mean "bruise"... but it also means to "crush". And so, what we are actually seeing here in verse 15 is that the offspring of the women would crush the head of the serpent, and that the serpent would bruise his heel. Which is exactly what happened at the foot of the cross.

Make no mistake about it my friends... our Messiah certianly did crush the head of the serpent when he allowed himself to offered up as the propitiation for the sins of the whole world. The serpent at that point in time had no hold over mankind through sin and transgression. Everything that he had done to ensure that mankind would belong to him was taken away from him by that offspring of the human women who is our Messiah who is the seed of Abraham, and the son of David just as Matthew tells us that he is in the very first sentence of his writings which is also the very first sentence of our so called... New Testament.

But we must undersand that Yeshua Jesus has become much more than just the Son of Abraham and the Son of David. Just as our Father in heaven had promised... Yehvoah God himself ponted directly at our Messiah as being his only begotten Son because this was included in the covenenat promise that Yehvoah God had made with David so may years ago. Let's take just a moment to once again refreash our memories of that blessed covenent promise that God made with Davide in 2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel 7:12-17 (scrn 3)

## The Covenant Promise of David!

2Sa 7:12 When your days are fulfilled (David) and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom.

2Sa 7:13 He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

2Sa 7:14 I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men,

2Sa 7:15 but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you.

2Sa 7:16 And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever?"

2Sa 7:17 In accordance with all these words, and in accordance with all this vision, Nathan spoke to David.



One of the things that I love about the book of Matthew is that Matthew was a true Jew who was writing primarily to his native Hebrew Jewish people. Matthew was well aquianted with the whole Bible and not just half of it, and it is said that the book of Matthew has more quotes and allusions to the Old Testament than any other New Testament author.

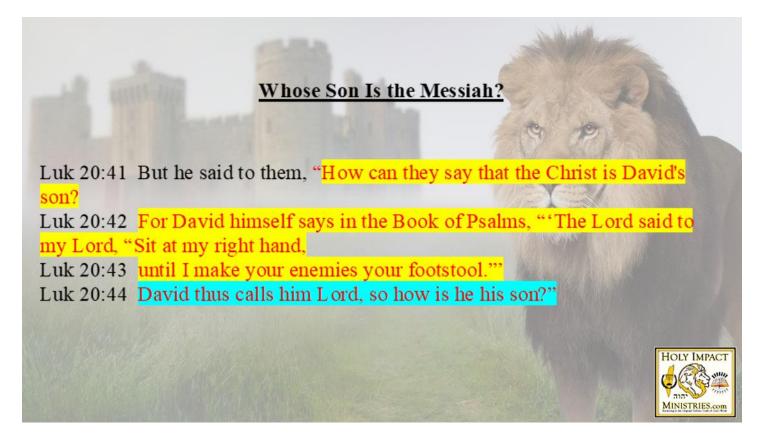
Matthew begins his writtings with the geneology of Yeshua Jesus by making sure that we clearly understand that Yeshua Jesus was indeed and I quote... "The Son of David, the Son of Abraham". And this is extremely important for us to understand right out of the gate before we ever even get started reading the wirtings of the Apostle Matthew because the church today has all but forgotten the first sentence of their so called "New Testament" which clearly proclaims our Messiah as being the Son of Abraham, the Son of David.

Matthew wanted the world to know who our Messiah truly was and where he truly came from, and Matthew would have been well aquinted with the covenant promise of David that we see in 2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel chapter 7, and Matthew would have known full well that God had told David that he would once again create a man from David's body... David's loins... David's bowls... and that, that man would indeed sit upon David's throne forever. A throne mind you that Yehvoah God himself would establish by fulfilling this promise to David. But there's more...

Yehvoah God also promised David that he would call Davids Son his own Son. God promised David that he would point to David's Son and call him his own Son and that David's Son would call him his Father just as it was wirtten in 2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel chapter 7 verse 14. The very reason that God ponted to Yeshau Jesus and said and I quote... "You are my Son, today I have begotten

you" was because this is what he promsed David in 2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel chapter 7 verse 14. Whats important to remember here is that Matthew's Jewish audience would have known all of this. Matthew's Jewish audience would have been keenly awair of the covenent promise of David and the fact that Yehvoah God had told David that he would call David's Son his own Son and that he would call him his Father.

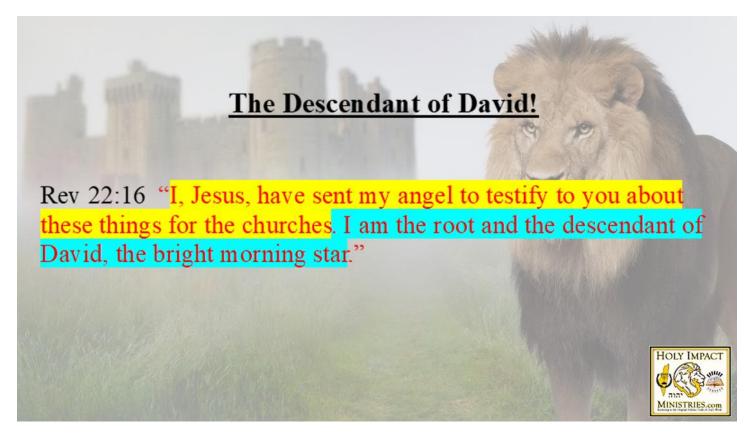
Knowing these biblical facts... some are perplexed and puzzed as to why our Messiah would have asked the Saduccees such a puzzeling question in Luke 20:41-44 (scrn 4)



Why did Yeshau Jesus ask the Sadducees this question? Once again, our Messiah was testing them in order to help them know that he truly was the Son of God and not just the Son of David. We must remember that even though our Messiah was the Son of David... God had promised David that God would call him a Son and that he would call him his Father. In other words God made it clear to David that once God had created David's Son from David's body as he promised in 2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel chapter 7 verse 12... that God would do just as Jacob did when he took Josephs sons Ephream and Manassa to be his own sons. And therefore... the greater title of our Messiah was not just the Son of David, the Son of Abraham which he was... but what the world needed to know was that he was also more importantly the Son of God because God himself had pointed to him just as he had promised David that he would and God had called him... his only begotten Son.

But make no mistake about it my friends... Yeshua Jesus was not saying that he was not the descendant of David here in the book of Luke. He was simply making it clear to the Saducees

and the world that he was indeed the Son of God. Our Messiah makes it very clear that he was indeed the descendant of David in **Revelation chapter 22: 16 (scrn 5)** 



Today's modern day denominational Christian churches often times will try to hide the fact that our Messiah was indeed a man that was clearly created by God from the body of David. But anyone with the will to truly know the truth can simply read the text for themselves and know without a doubt... that our Messiah had to be fully man in order to be able to be... the perfect unblemished sacrifice that he was.

It was written from the beginning of the book of Genisis that it would be the offspring of a human women that would crush the head of the serpent because it was the will of Yehovah God All Mighty to turn the tables on the serpent who had tricked man into doing what was evil in the sight of God. And thereore... the very throne that the Devil wanted to steal... would be given to a man. A man that the Devil hated with a passion that burned deep down into his very loins.

You see, Yehvoah God knows how to handle his adversaries. He knows how to crush them and how to bring them low before him. Yehvoah God has always been three steps ahead of his adversary at every turn and this is exactly why the Devil cannot win... even though he will continue to try until his last breathe.

In the end it does not matter what today's modern day denominational empires try to label our Messiah as, because our God breathed Scripture is clear about who he was... is... and always will be and what he came to do for those of us who willfully and intentionally choose to slow

down... sit down... and read his God breathed Scriptures for ourselves instead of letting some huckster standing behind a pulpit tell us who he thinks that he is according to the traditions of his denominational empire of dirt.

It will become clearly evidient that Matthew knew full well that God would speak to each and every man, women, and child through the God breathed Scriptures that had been laid out from the creation of mankind. And Matthew knew full well that his writings that were also God breathed would also be included in that truth that would be given to the world to see... to hear... and to know.

But once gain... the truth is only for those who truly seek it, and not from a man... but from God alone. It is writen that we are to Ask... Seek... and Knock. But who is it that we are to ask... who is it that we are to seek... and whose door is it that we are to knock upon? Is it man that we are to ask? Is it man that we are to seek? Is it man's door that we are to knock upon? Heaven forbid! For it is written... let God be true and every man a liar.

There is only one truth. And that one truth is the spoken word of Yehvoah God and if any man speaks outside of the spoken word of God... then he is simply not of God. And the Aposlte Matthew was well aware of these things and we will soon see that through the writings that Matthew has left behind for us all to see.

We will soon see that the geneology and legecy of our Messiah was exreemly important to Matthew. And this is why the very first thing that Matthew does is that he explains our Messiah's geneology by taking us through a long list of his desendants and he even takes us clear back to the patriarch Abraham so that there would be no quesiton about who our Messiah was... is... and always will be, and that he did have a human geniology just like each one of us, and so that we would indeed know that Yeshua Jesus was the Son of David that God had promised David that he would be being fourth and call his own Son.

We'll find that Matthew will often times use termonology and certain language that is dirived from the Old Testament and the tradition of the Jewish people back in that day. Matthew also teaches us dilidently that Yeshua (Jesus in the Greek) was indeed the "Son of David", and we'll see Matthews emphisis concerning this biblical fact all throughout his writings in chapters one, nine, twelve, fifteen, twenty, twenty one, and twentytwo.

Matthew also makes mention of the "Maji" or kings who were not Jews that came to worship the infant Yeshua in chapter two of the book of Matthew. And Matthew continues to make it abundantly clear so that the reader of his writings would know full well that this Messaih although fully Jewish... came for not only his Jewish people... but that he also came for all people who would receive the turth that he came to bring into the world.

The whole book of Matthew was designed to convince his Jewish people that this Yeshua Jesus was indeed the promised Messiah that they had all read about in the Torah, the writings of the

prophets and the Psalms. Matthew is one of the strongest advocates in championing the fulfillment of the Old Testament Scriptures concerning who this Yeshua Jesus was... is... and always will be. The Jewish history and background and liniage of Yeshua Jesus was extreemly important to the Apostle Matthew and we can see all throughout his writings that Matthew lauded the fact that Yeshua Jesus was indeed a very Jewish man with a very Jewish liniage and heritage who was sent into the world to fulfill a very Jewish prophecy.

As we should already know... our very Jewish Messiah was in fact a Jew who had come from the tribe of Judah and the house of David in order to fulfill many different Old Testament prophecies that had been recorded thousands of years ago about him. And it was this very Jewish Messaiah... (the Anointed One of Yehvoah God, this prophet likened unto Moses) that would come to bring not peace... but division to the world.

The very name "Matthew" means "gift of the Lord", but strangly enough Matthew is also called "Levi" in the books of Mark and Luke. The name "Matthew" is thought to have been the Christian name of Levi who was once again a Jewish man who was writing primarilly to a very Jewish audience.

It makes sense that Matthew's name would have originally been "Levi" since he was indeed a Jew but not only was Levi a Jew... he was a Jewish tax collector that worked for Herod Antipas who was the tetrarch of Galilee. Levi's occupation as a tax collector was just one of the reaons that the Pahrisees and Scribes had found distrust and contemp four our Messiah criticizing him for eating with tax collectors and sinners. Of course our Messiah fired back at them telling them that he did not come to call the righteous... but the sinners. And this is actually where we see our Messiah calling Matthew to come and to follow him. Let's turn to the book of Mark 2:14-17 (scrn 6)

### I Came Not To Call The Righteous... But Sinners...

Mar 2:14 And as he passed by, he saw Levi the son of Alphæus sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he rose and followed him. Mar 2:15 And as he reclined at table in his house, many tax collectors and sinners were reclining with Jesus and his disciples, for there were many who followed him.

Mar 2:16 And the scribes of the Pharisees, when they saw that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors, said to his disciples, "Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

Mar 2:17 And when Jesus heard it, he said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."



Notice here in the book of Mark, that Mark refers to Matthew by his Jewish name "Levi" in verse 14. The book of Matthew once again gives us this same information but with even more detail and in a little different manner. **Matthew 9:9-13 (scrn 7)** 

#### Yeshua (Jesus) Calls Matthew

Mat 9:9 As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he rose and followed him. Mat 9:10 And as Jesus reclined at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were reclining with Jesus and his disciples. Mat 9:11 And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

Mat 9:12 But when he heard it, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick.

Mat 9:13 Go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.' For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."

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If we will notice... these two recolections of what had happened that day are very simular but not exact. First of all Mark tells us that a man named "Levi, son of Alphaeus" was sitting at the tax booth. And Matthew tells us that a man called "Matthew" was at the tax booth. And so even though both Matthew and Mark agree... there is more information that can be gleened if we read both writtings from both Matthew and Mark. And this is exactly why it's important for us to read and be aware of all of the accounts of that historical time and not just to rely on one single account alone. Which brings us to what is known as the "Synoptic Gospels".

If you've never heard of the "Synoptic Gospels" before your really not missing out on anything of real importance. There are some scholars that will proclaim that the writings of Matthew, Mark, and Luke agree more closley than the writings of John. But I would submit to you my friends that it is never a good idea to trust the beliefs of so called "biblical schollars" without first testing these beliefs for yourself. Reading the text for ourselves may or may not help us to agree with what some biblical schollar thinks or believes. The God breathed Scripture that we have been given is not up for any mans interpretation. And this is something that we must never forget, and this is why you will very rarley if ever hear me teaching or preaching about what some so called "early church father" or "rabbinical sage" has said or written at any particular time in history.

Some of this information can indeed be helpful to know concerning the culture or the traditions of that time, but just because some so called "early church father" or Babylonion rabbinical sage believed something does not make it positivilly true and just in the sight of God. If we truly want to know the truth concerning any biblical topic the wisest way to find that truth and to know that it is indeed the truth... is to search the Scriptures and not the writings of some man that we know nothing about. Prayerfully reading and studying the spoken word of God is worth much, much more than 10 years worth of sermons from some man who has bought into the philosophies of men and their denominational chaters of men.

Man has labled the books of Matthew, Mark, and Luke as being "Synoptic" because some men believe that they agree more with one antoher than the book of John, or the writings of Paul or Peter, or Jude. But this argument is highly debated within many different circles and should be taken with a grain of salt considering the fact that all of these Apostles were brothers. They ate, drank, and slept together while following the only begotten Son of God who filled their minds with the wisdom that he wanted them to have. Of course they're going to agree. And even though some accounts may include more or less information does not mean that they do not agree. More times than not if we do seem to see a discrpency... it simply means that we are not understanding the text properly because of the differences in customs, cultures, languages and traditions that separate our time from thiers.

I tell you the truth my friends... these so called "early church fathers" and biblcial scholars and their so called higher learning have often times done more damage than good when it comes to sharing the truth of our Messiah's gospel message and what it was that he actually came to

accomplish. And this is something that I pray that we all keep in mind going forword in our studies as we read the text for ourselves.

During the writtings of Matthew we will notice that Matthew often times assumes that the reader will know and understand Jewish customs and thought and at times we will have to do some homwork in order to properly understand some of what the very Jewish Apostle Matthew is trying to tell us. The only way to know the truth is to do as the nobel Jews of Berea did and this is by searching the Scriptures to see if these things be true or not. Leaving the reaserch and study up to others is rarely a good idea as we will surly see during our study into the book of Matthew along with the rest of the writings of the Apostles.

Something else that is very important for us to known and understand is when the writings of the Apostles were actually written. When it comes to dating these different manuscripts there is a general concensus that these books from the Aposltes were written sometime between 50AD and 70AD which means that the New Testament would not have been written and cannonized until at least more than 70 years after the death, burrial, and resurrection of our Messiah. And so when we hear about the nobel Jews of Berea in Acts chapter 17 who searched the Scriputre to see if what the Apostle Paul was telling them about this Messaih was true or not... we must undersand that the nobel Jews of Berea were not searching the New Testament. There was no New Testamant at that time so search.

The Scriptures that the nobel Jews of Berea were searching to see if what Paul was telling them was true or not were the Old Testament Scriptures not the New Testament Scriptures. And as we can plainly see in Acts chapter 17, the nobel Jews of Berea who serched the Old Testament Scripture knew full well that what the Aposlte Paul was telling them was indeed the truth because they saw their Messaih in the Old Testament Scriptures. And this is something that we will see continuously througout our study into the New Testament and particully the book of Matthew. What we know as the Old Testament Scripture is in no way done away with as far as Matthew is concerned, nor was it for the nobel Jews of Berea, nor should it be for us today in our time.

When the Apostle Paul tells us in 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy chapter three verse 16 that all Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching and for reproof and for correction and for training in righteousness he's not talking about the New Testament. Paul was talking about the Torah, the writings of the prophets and the Pslams of the Old Testament. Once again... the New Testament had not yet been written when Paul spoke these words. And therefore... what Paul was telling us in his letter to Timothy is that the Old Testament Scripture are breathed out by God and profitable for teaching and for reproof and for correction and for training in righteousness. And this is extreemly important for us as modern day Christians to understand.

Although it could certanly be said that the New Testament Scripture should also be seen as God breathed... it was not the New Testament that the Apostles were talking about during that time because the New Testament simply had not been written as of yet.

Matthew who was a Jew does a tremendouse job of taking us back just as Paul did to the importance of the Old Testaemnt Scripture that according to Paul was profitable for training in righteousness much to the dismay of today's denominational empires of men... many of which wrongfully and shamefully proclaim that the Torah of God is dead and a curse to keep.

The study of the book of Matthew alone will shed a tremendous amount of light between what today's modern day church now teaches, and the truth that we can only find within our God breathed Scripture. And it's safe to say that we will indeed notice a huge difference between the two.

As we read through the writings of the Apostle Matthew we'll very quickly notice that Matthew is diligently trying to establish the link between the Torah and the true gospel message of our very Jewsih Messiah. And we will also notice that Matthew is also presenting our Messaih as the prophet likened unto Moses that we have already seen in the 18<sup>th</sup> chapter of the book of Deuteronomy. (scrn 8)

# A New Prophet like Moses

Deu 18:15 "The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me (Moses) from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen— Deu 18:16 just as you desired of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, 'Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.'

Deu 18:17 And the LORD said to me, 'They are right in what they have spoken.

Deu 18:18 I will raise up for them a prophet like you (Moses) from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him.

Deu 18:19 And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him.



Once again... Yehvoah God promised the house of Israel that he would raise up for them a prophet from among their brothers, not from angels, not from aliens, not from anywhere else but from among their brothers. And Yehvoah God once again promised that this prophet would be likened unto Moses and it is to him that they should listen because it will be from this prophet that Yehvoah God would speak, and if anyone does not listen to this prophet likened unto Moses, they would have to deal directly with Yehvoah God himself said... Yehvoah God

himself.

This prophet likened unto Moses is indeed Yeshua Hamashiach Jesus the Messiah who... just like Moses has been sent by God and will return to lead his people once again out of this fallen Egyptian world of sin... and back into his promised land once and for all. And this prophet that Yehvoah God has sent from among the brothers of the house of Israel... will indeed sit as king on the throne of David forever.

The book of Matthew will take us through the birth of our Messiah, the beginning of his ministry, his ministry in Galilee and Caesarea Phillippi, the prediction of his death, his ministry in Judea and Perea, and the book of Mathew will also show us where our Messiah commands us to keep the Torah of his Father and even how to keep it properly. The book of Matthew will show us that everything written in our Father's Torah (which is the first five books of the Bible) is important to our Messiah and according to our Messiah and that it should be important to us as well.

Matthew then continues on to explain what is known by many as "Passion Week" which is the week that our Messiah finally entered Jerusalem for the last and final time and what his triumphal entry into the kingdom means to us all. From there we'll see his cleansing of the Temple, the Olivet Discourse and his prophecies of the end of days and his arrest, his death, and his burial and last but not least his resurrection all of which brings to us what his Father calls the "New Covenant". And before we close this introduction, I would like for us to read exactly what this "New Covenant" is that our Messiah has brought to us through his very blood. We can find the "New Covenant" prophecy in **Jeremiah 31:31-33 (scrn 9)** 

### The New Covenant

Jer 31:31 "Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, Jer 31:32 not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD. Jer 31:33 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law (Torah) within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Right here in the book of Jeremiah we find the prophecy given to us by Yehvoah God our Elohim the God of Israel what is the most important peiace of his unfolding plan of salvation for mankind. A "New Covenant" that he will make only with the house of Isreal and no other. And it is this "New Covenant" that would write his laws in the hearts of his people so that he can once again be their God and so that they can once again be his people. And it is this very same "New Covenant" that we see being established in the New Testament in **Hebrews 10:16-17 (scrn 10)** 

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#### This Is The New Covenant!

Heb 10:16 "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws on their hearts, and write them on their minds,"

Heb 10:17 then he adds, "I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more."

It is this "New Covenant" that has been initiated by the very blood of our Messiah who tells us very clearly that his blood has brought us this New Covenant in Luke 22:19-20 (scrn 11)

The New Covenant That Writes The Law Upon The Heart...

Luk 22:19 And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Luk 22:20 And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.



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Once again... this "New Covenant" that was promised by Yehovah God the Elohim of Israel was set in motion through the very blood of our Messiah because Yehovah God knew full well that anyone who truly believed what his only begotten Son had done for them by offering his very life as a ransom for theirs would surely have his law written across their heart and in their minds. Surly after all that Yehovah had done for them even giving his only begotten Son so that not even one would perish... his true people would have his law written in their hearts and in their minds so that they would never again forget.

The so called "Protestant Churches" of today who no longer protest against anything have indeed once again become the daughters of the Devils demonically inspired church of Catholicism. And it is through this very entity that the harlot that rides the beast written of in the books of the prophets and the book of Revelation has thought to change the times and the law of God just as Daniel told us that the beast would do in Daniel chapter 7 verse 25. And it is because this beast system has thought to change the times and the law of God that we today stand in the gap ready and willing to fight against the authorities and the rulers and the cosmic powers of this present darkness and against the spiritual forces of evil in heavenly places that rule over this devilish harlot.

Today as we turn back to our God breathed Scriptures to read the text and hear the word of God our Elohim for ourselves... let us listen closely... let us be in prayer over these God breathed Scriptures and let us do as the noble Jews of Berea once did in searching the Scriptures to see if these things be true or not.

Let us once again be filled with the Ruach Hakodesh of Yehvoah God All Mighty and let us ask his Holy Spirit for the promised knowledge that has been promised to us by our Messiah and let us pray that the very Spirit of Yehvoah God would grant us the eyes to see and the ears to hear what his God breathed Scripture written by the hand of his faithful servant Matthew has to proclaim to the world. And let us ask... seek... and knock on his door and on his door alone so that the proper door can be opened to us as we venture into... the book of Matthew.

And with that being said... as we close this introduction into the book of Levi also known as the Apostle Matthew... I will once again ask as I always do that everyone within the sound of my voice would please... take what you have heard here today to your own prayer closet, and to bow your head, and bend your knee, and face the holy promised land of Jerusalem, and ask in the name of Yeshua Hamashiach if what you have heard here today be true... or not.

Ask, seek, and knock on his door, and his door alone and the proper door will be opened to you. And if you will do that, and if you will stay the course to the end... you and I will surely walk through the gates of his soon coming kingdom together.

I cannot wait to begin this journey with you next Saturday morning on our Father's 7<sup>th</sup> day Sabbath at 11am Eastern standard time.