



ASKING BETTER QUESTIONS -
GRAND THEMES 18 – NATIONS &
CALL III

A thick black L-shaped frame surrounds the text. The top-left corner is a horizontal bar extending to the right, and the bottom-right corner is a vertical bar extending upwards. The text is centered within the open space of the frame.

WELCOME TO “GRAND THEMES”

Each week we will trace a major theme through the
whole Bible.



Nations & Call



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Theme gallery



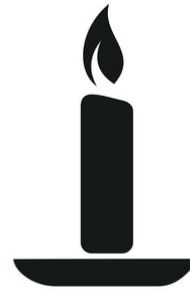
TEMPLE



COVENANT



EXODUS



L&D




KINGDOM



ORDER &
CHAOS

Theme gallery



					
NATIONS & CALL					

Matthew

The Genealogy of Jesus the Messiah

1:1-17pp — *Lk 3:23-38*

1:3-6pp — *Ru 4:18-22*

1:7-11pp — *1Ch 3:10-17*

¹ This is the genealogy¹ of Jesus the Messiah² the son of David,^a the son of Abraham:^b

² Abraham was the father of Isaac,^c

Isaac the father of Jacob,^d
Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers,^e

³ Judah the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar,^f

Perez the father of Hezron,
Hezron the father of Ram,

⁴ Ram the father of Amminadab,
Amminadab the father of Nahshon,
Nahshon the father of Salmon,

⁵ Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab,^g

Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth,
Obed the father of Jesse,
⁶ and Jesse the father of King David.^h

David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah's wife,ⁱ

⁷ Solomon the father of Rehoboam,
Rehoboam the father of Abijah,

Abijah the father of Asa,
⁸ Asa the father of Jehoshaphat,
Jehoshaphat the father of Jehoram,

Jehoram the father of Uzziah,

⁹ Uzziah the father of Jotham,
Jotham the father of Ahaz,
Ahaz the father of Hezekiah,

¹⁰ Hezekiah the father of Manasseh,^j
Manasseh the father of Amon,

Amon the father of Josiah,
¹¹ and Josiah the father of Jeconiah³ and his brothers at the time of the ex-

Matthew's Gospel - Tracing the Theme



- Matthew 1 Genealogy – mentions 5 women. Only 1 Jewish
- Rahab– Canaanite
- Tamar – Canaanite (mother of Perez and Zerah)
- Bathsheba (Solomon's mother) daughter of Ekusm a Gilinite, wife of Uriah a Hittite,
- Ruth – the Moabite, great grandmother of king David.
- Mary – mother of Jesus.



Matthew 2 – Visit of the Magi



- Matthew 2
- Visit of the Magi (from the East – astrologers) worshipped Jesus in the house Mt 2:11 and gave gifts.
- Family goes to Egypt.



Galilee of the Gentiles



- Jesus' teaching ministry
- Land of Zebulun and Naphtali – Galilee of the Gentiles prophecy
- Nazareth (grew up) and Capernaum (centre of ministry),
- In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honor Galilee of the nations, by the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan—The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest.... For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this. (Isa 9).



The Centurion (Mt 8)



- Faith of the Centurion – a Roman soldier.
- When Jesus heard this, he was amazed and said to those following him, “Truly I tell you, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith. I say to you that many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. But the subjects of the kingdom will be thrown outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”
- What is Jesus saying here?



Blowing some minds..



- Pharisees plotting to kill Jesus,,,
- Aware of this, Jesus withdrew from that place. A large crowd followed him, and he healed all who were ill. He warned them not to tell others about him. This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah:“Here is my **servant** whom I have chosen, the one I love, in whom I delight;I will put my Spirit on him, and he will **proclaim justice to the nations**.He will not quarrel or cry out; no one will hear his voice in the streets.A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out, till he has brought justice through to victory. **In his name the nations will put their hope, .**” (Mt 12:25-21, Isa 42:1-4)
- What does a bruised reed or smoldering wick represent?
- If Jesus is comparing himself to the religious leaders, what is he saying?
- What are the implications today for leaders and for us personally?



Faith of the Canaanite Woman

- Leaving that place, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to him, crying out, “Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is demon-possessed and suffering terribly.”
- Jesus did not answer a word. So his disciples came to him and urged him, “Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us.”
- He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel.”
- The woman came and knelt before him. “Lord, help me!” she said. He replied, “It is not right to take the children’s bread and toss it to the dogs.” “Yes it is, Lord,” she said. “Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master’s table.”
- Then Jesus said to her, “**Woman, you have great faith!** Your request is granted.” And her daughter was healed at that moment.
- Only sent to the lost sheep of Israel? What about the nations?
- Why is this story here? What is it showing?

Feeding the 4000



- (Mt 15:21-32) Jesus left there and went along the Sea of Galilee. Then he went up on a mountainside and sat down. Great crowds came to him, bringing the lame, the blind, the crippled, the mute and many others, and laid them at his feet; and he healed them.
- The people were amazed when they saw the mute speaking, the crippled made well, the lame walking and the blind seeing. **And they praised the God of Israel.**
- Jesus called his disciples to him and said, “**I have compassion for these people**; they have already been with me three days and have nothing to eat. I do not want to send them away hungry, or they may collapse on the way.





Feeding the 4000



- His disciples answered, “Where could we get enough bread in this remote place to feed such a crowd?”
- “How many loaves do you have?” Jesus asked. “Seven,” they replied, “and a few small fish.” He told the crowd to sit down on the ground. Then he took the seven loaves and the fish, and when he had given thanks, he broke them and gave them to the disciples, and they in turn to the people. They all ate and were satisfied.
- Afterward the disciples picked up **seven** basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. The number of those who ate was four thousand men, besides women and children
- Second account. Feeding 5000 in Mt 14. Why two similar stories?
- Symbolism in Numbers : 7= perfection, 4000 = 4 (earth) x 1000



The lost sheep...



- (Mt 15:24) He answered, “I was sent only to the lost **sheep** of Israel.”
- (Mt 15:32) Jesus called his disciples to him and said, “**I have compassion for these people**; they have already been with me three days and have nothing to eat. I do not want to send them away hungry, or they may collapse on the way.
- (Mt 9:36) When he saw the crowds, he had **compassion** on them, because they were harassed and helpless, ...
- ... like sheep without a shepherd.

Matthew 24



- (Mt 24:1-3) Jesus left the temple and was walking away when his disciples came up to him to call his attention to its buildings. “Do you see all these things?” he asked. “Truly I tell you, not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down.” As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. “Tell us,” they said, “when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?” ...
- (Mt 24:7-8) Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of birth pains.
- (Mt 24:9) Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by **all nations** because of me...
- So, the nations will hate the disciples....

Matthew 24



- (Mt 24:14) And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony **to all nations**, and then the end will come.
- So here it looks like trouble and persecution is going to come from **the nations**.
- Yet, who conspired against Jesus and forced his arrest and crucifixion?
- (Mt 26:1-4) When Jesus had finished saying all these things, he said to his disciples, “As you know, the Passover is two days away—and the Son of Man will be handed over to be crucified.” Then the chief priests and the elders of the people assembled in the palace of the high priest, whose name was Caiaphas, and they schemed to arrest Jesus secretly and kill him.
- (Acts 4:27) Indeed **Herod** and Pontius **Pilate** met together with the **Gentiles** and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed.
- So, really, the persecutors of Jesus and his followers will come from both Jews and Gentiles.

Sheep and the Goats



- (Mt 5:31-33) “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. **All the nations will be gathered before him**, and he will **separate the people one from another** as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.
- If you were listening to this as a first century Jew, what do think the basis of the separation would have been?
- Jew v Gentile? No!
- Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’
- What’s the basis?

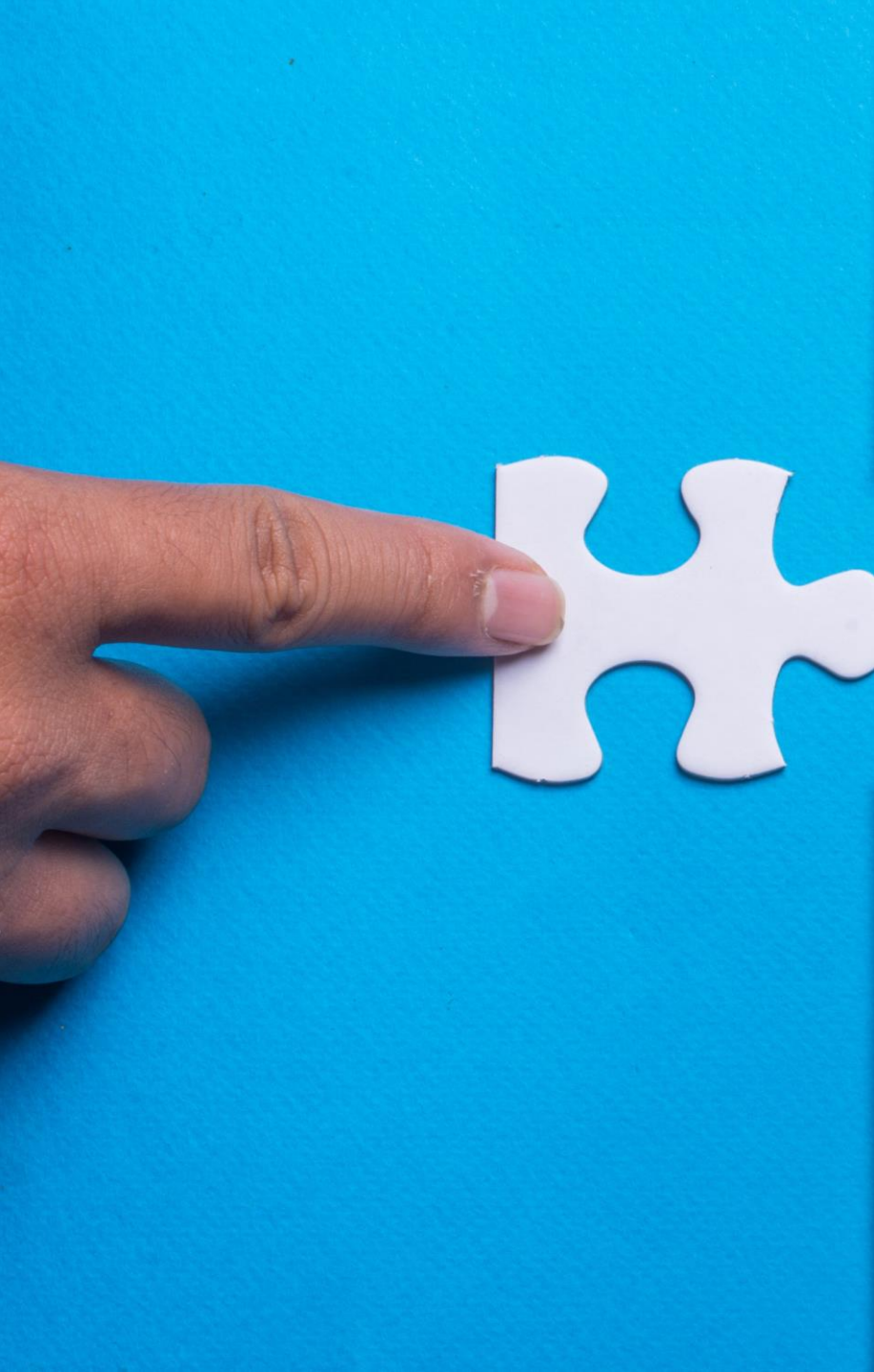




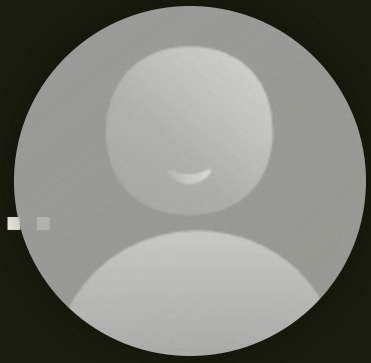
Hearing it



- (Acts 7:45) seen. After receiving the tabernacle, our ancestors under Joshua brought it with them when they **took the land from the nations God drove out before them**. It remained in the land until the time of David,
- (Acts 7:51-53) You stiff-necked people! Your **hearts and ears are still uncircumcised**. You are just like your ancestors: You always resist the Holy Spirit! Was there ever a prophet your ancestors did not persecute? They even killed those who predicted the coming of the Righteous One. And now you have betrayed and murdered him — **you who have received the law that was given through angels but have not obeyed it.**
- What is the basis? What is God looking for?



Putting it all together...



- The law and the message of the Bible should actually be teaching us that living lives of justices is actually the core thing God is interested in. Otherwise you end up like the Pharisees. ... now if you preach this you are going to get stoned!
- **Change of basis** needed in their hearts: No longer think Jew v Gentile but Faithful v Unbelieving.
- What do you think about that?
- How does this play out for us today? Thinking in terms of tribe v thinking in terms of the heart of the law.
- (Gal 3:28-29) **There is neither Jew nor Gentile**, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all **one in Christ Jesus**. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise

All nations, God with us



- (Isa 7:14) Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.
- (Mt 1:23) All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had said through the prophet: “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “**God with us**”).
- (Mt 28:18-20) Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and **make disciples of all nations**, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to **obey** everything I have commanded you. And surely **I am with you always**, to the very end of the age.”



Reflection



- What have you learnt today from our discussion?
- Any rethinking about “basis”?
- How much does justice and practical love for neighbour figure in my thinking and my life?



NEXT TIME...NATIONS &
CALL IV