

GOD'S MASTERWORK, VOLUME FIVE
GOD WITH US—A SURVEY OF MATTHEW—ACTS
AN IMPORTANT INTERLUDE
MATTHEW TO REVELATION



The Heart of the Matter

We now begin the second phase of our safari through Scripture. Having concluded our study of the Old Testament, we need to complete the picture by getting a grip on the New Testament . . . God's final word to humanity. Our desire is to see all twenty-seven books as a whole, to see how they fit together, how they relate to us, and the value of each section to the person who reads and believes the Bible. Of special interest is the "flow" of thought carried through these books and letters of the New Testament. Obviously, these books revolve around the person and work of Christ, the Son of God, who came (as promised in the Old Testament); who lived, died, arose, and ascended (as recorded in the Gospels); who revealed truth to live by (as seen in Acts as well as the epistles); and who will someday come again (as foretold in Revelation).



Discovering the Way

1. Some Essential Information about the Bible (Luke 24:25–27, 44–46)

Before we dive into the New Testament, let's clarify some key information about Scripture: the writers and time involved, the divisions and language used, and the theme and means employed.

2. The New Testament in Particular

As we dive more deeply into the New Testament, we will take a close look at each section, showing how each part points to Christ and how each section relates to us today.



Starting Your Journey

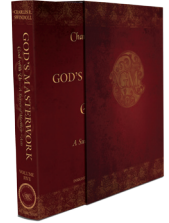
How about trying something different? Why not commit to reading through the New Testament this year?



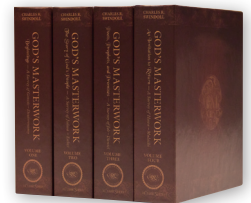
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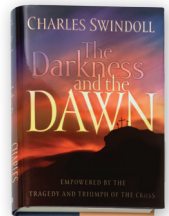
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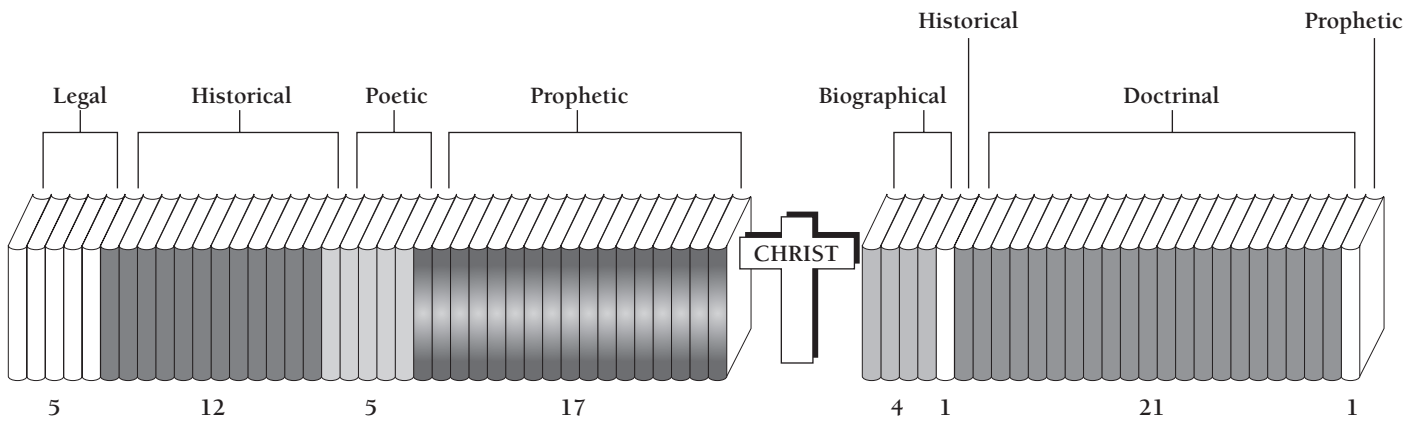
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The Bible

Old Testament Thirty-nine Books

New Testament Twenty-seven Books



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GOD WITH US—A SURVEY OF MATTHEW—ACTS
MATTHEW: LET'S MEET THE KING
A SURVEY OF MATTHEW



The Heart of the Matter

As we undertake this survey of the New Testament, we come first to the four gospel accounts of the life of Jesus. They were written to awaken and to strengthen faith in Christ and to answer objections and misconceptions about Him. As the flame of Christianity spread rapidly beyond the Holy Land, the oral testimony of the apostles was no longer adequate; the truth concerning Christ needed to be recorded in written form. Matthew, a tax collector by trade, wrote his book to emphasize Christ, the King. The book includes numerous facts and expressions that would have appealed to the Jewish reader. The fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies and the presentation of Jesus as Messiah are clearly emphasized by Matthew. When we understand the book of Matthew, we bow before King Jesus, the promised Messiah of Israel.



Discovering the Way

1. A General Glance at All Four Gospels

Written to specific audiences and emphasizing distinct themes, each of the four gospels contributes a particular perspective to our knowledge of Jesus.

2. Some Interesting Facts about Matthew's Account

We can enhance our understanding of Matthew's gospel by learning more about the writer, his reason for writing, his specific style, and the overarching theme and thrust of the work.

3. Hitting the Highlights of Matthew's Message

We can divide Matthew's portrait of the promised King into four segments: the King arrived, the King accepted, the King opposed, and the King victorious.

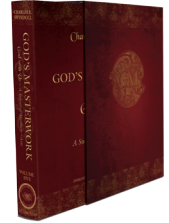


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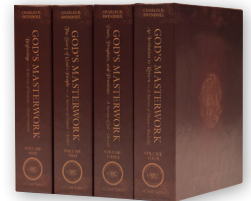
Matthew's gospel reminds us that when we were born again, the King arrived in our hearts; as we began to grow, the King demonstrated His power; as growth continued, opposition increased; and ultimately, the King will win out!



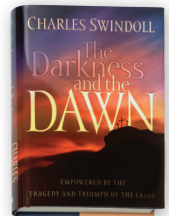
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GOD WITH US—A SURVEY OF MATTHEW—ACTS
MATTHEW: LET'S MEET THE KING
A SURVEY OF MATTHEW

MATTHEW

	Announcement and Arrival of the King Main Emphasis: His Credentials <u>Birth</u> <u>Baptism</u> <u>Temptation</u> <i>CHAPTERS</i> 1–4	Proclamation and Reception of the King Main Emphasis: His Message <u>Sermon on the Mount</u> <u>Miracles</u> <u>Discourses</u> <u>Parables</u> <i>CHAPTERS</i> 5–15	Opposition and Rejection of the King Main Emphasis: His Suffering and Death <u>Spread of opposition</u> <u>Preparation of disciples</u> <u>Final predictions</u> <u>Crucifixion</u> <i>CHAPTERS</i> 16–27	Resurrection and Triumph of the King Main Emphasis: His Conquest <u>God's power</u> <u>Great Commission</u> <i>CHAPTER</i> 28
The King	His identity: Israel's promised King		His destiny: "Crucify Him!"	
Scope	Teaching the vast multitudes		Teaching the Twelve	
Location	Bethlehem and Nazareth	Ministry in Galilee	Ministry in Judea	
People's Reaction	Increased popularity		Increased hostility	
Theme	Jesus is the King, Israel's long-awaited Messiah.			
Key Verses	16:16–19; 28:18–20			
Christ in Matthew	Jesus, the Messiah, fulfills the prophecies, promises, types, and expectations of the Old Testament Scriptures (16:16–19; 28:18–20).			

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GOD'S MASTERWORK, VOLUME FIVE
GOD WITH US—A SURVEY OF MATTHEW—ACTS
MARK: THE SERVANT AT WORK
A SURVEY OF MARK



The Heart of the Matter

Action. Movement. Involvement. Service. *Eutheos* is the Greek term repeated throughout the gospel of Mark, appearing nearly forty times. It means “immediately.” Although the shortest of the four gospels, the book of Mark wastes no words portraying the Savior as a servant to others. The tone is practical, which appealed to the Roman mind. We want to observe the Servant at work in this account of His life, noticing especially how clearly the key verse of the book (Mark 10:45) outlines the two major phases of His earthly existence and ministry.



Discovering the Way

1. General Observations of Mark's Gospel

Understanding the author and his style — especially what he emphasized and what he omitted — can prepare us to get the most out of Mark's account of the life of Jesus.

2. An Overview of the Book

We can divide Mark's gospel into four sections: the Servant introduced and prepared, the Servant at work, the Servant resisted and rejected, and the Servant triumphant and exalted.

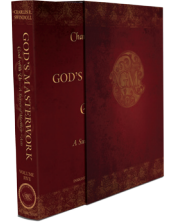


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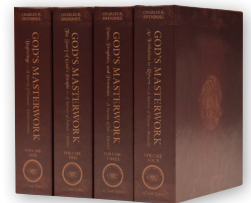
The book of Mark reveals three insights for today: if Jesus is our model, then servanthood is the method; if servanthood is the method, then people are our ministry; and if people are our ministry, then involvement is the means.



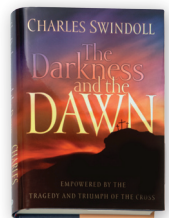
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MARK: THE SERVANT AT WORK
A SURVEY OF MARK

MARK

	Introduction and Preparation A brief introduction sets Jesus's ministry in motion. John the Baptizer prepares the way. Jesus is tempted in the wilderness. <i>CHAPTER</i> 1:1–13	The Servant at Work An unbroken chain of events reveals Jesus helping people in need. Because people are in darkness, He enlightens. Because people are sick/afflicted, He heals. Because people are without hope, He encourages. Because people are in bondage to satanic control, He liberates. Because people are sinful, He forgives. <i>CHAPTERS</i> 1:14–8:30	The Servant Rejected . . . Then Exalted A growing discontent among the authorities leads to Jesus's suffering and death. He presses the claim, "Messiah." He spends more time alone with His disciples. He comes into open conflict with His enemies. He is hated, deserted, tortured, crucified, and buried. He is raised bodily from the dead! <i>CHAPTERS</i> 8:31–16:20
Emphasis	Service to others		Sacrifice for others
Scope	Ministry to the multitudes		Ministry to the Twelve
Sections	Action . . . reaction . . . confrontation		Revelation . . . crucifixion . . . exaltation
Theme	Jesus is the Suffering Servant, who gives His life to save the world.		
Key Verse	10:45		
Christ in Mark	Jesus suffered and died so that salvation would be available to all people (10:45).		

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GOD'S MASTERWORK, VOLUME FIVE
GOD WITH US—A SURVEY OF MATTHEW—ACTS
LUKE: THE PHYSICIAN'S OPINION
A SURVEY OF LUKE



The Heart of the Matter

Dr. Luke, Paul's traveling companion, was probably the only Gentile writer of any part of the New Testament. His gospel focuses on providing a complete account of the life of Jesus. Certainly, none of the other three evangelists gave us a more detailed or descriptive analysis of the Savior's birth, childhood, and manhood. The physician, writing to Greeks, revealed his own distinctiveness by (1) showing an uncommon interest in various individuals, (2) displaying an unusual emphasis on medical matters, (3) giving a prominent place to women in his account, and (4) emphasizing the humanity of our Lord during His earthly pilgrimage. As we might expect, the first-century physician was extremely careful in both his research and the documentation of his facts. Luke's keen interest in Christ's teachings provides us with a wealth of insight behind the scenes of Jesus's many parables.



Discovering the Way

1. The Author and His Style

Meeting the physician-turned-author of this gospel, followed by an understanding of his approach to writing the work, provides a strong foundation from which we can approach this text.

2. The Gospel and Its Distinctives

With its emphasis on the humanity of Jesus, Luke's gospel can be divided into four sections: the Son of Man announced and appearing, the Son of Man ministering and serving, the Son of Man instructing and submitting, and the Son of Man resurrected and commissioning.



Starting Your Journey

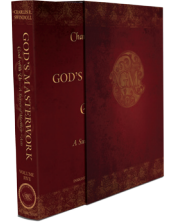
We are grateful for Luke's gospel because it is a careful presentation of the facts, it is a realistic portrayal of humanity, it is a compassionate record of concern, and it is a faithful reminder of sacrifice.



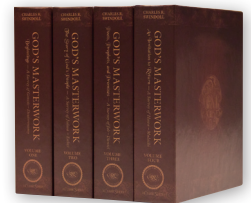
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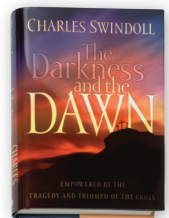
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LUKE: THE PHYSICIAN'S OPINION
A SURVEY OF LUKE

LUKE

		The Son of Man				
		Announced and Appearing	Ministering and Serving	Instructing and Submitting	Resurrected and Commissioning	
Preface	About 90 percent unique to Luke	“Jesus the Nazarene . . . a prophet . . .”	“. . . mighty in deed . . .”	About 60 percent unique to Luke	“. . . and word in the sight of God and all the people.” (24:19)	
<i>CHAPTER</i> 1:1–4	<i>CHAPTERS</i> 1:5–4:13	<i>CHAPTERS</i> 4:14–9:50	<i>CHAPTERS</i> 9:51–23:56	<i>CHAPTER</i> 24		
Activity	Coming	Seeking		Saving		
Location	Bethlehem, Nazareth, and Judea	Galilee	Judea and Perea		Jerusalem	
Time	About 30 years	1½ years	6 months	8 days	40 days	
Theme	Jesus is the ideal Man, who comes to save all humankind — Jew and Gentile alike.					
Key Verse	19:10					
Christ in Luke	Jesus is the perfect God-Man, who comes to offer salvation to all people (19:10).					

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GOD'S MASTERWORK, VOLUME FIVE
GOD WITH US—A SURVEY OF MATTHEW—ACTS
JOHN: THAT YOU MAY BELIEVE
A SURVEY OF JOHN



The Heart of the Matter

A question frequently asked by new Christians is, “Which book of the Bible should I study first?” Bible-translating teams often ask a similar question: “Which book should we translate first?” Believers occasionally wonder, “Which section of Scripture would be good for my non-Christian friends to read?” All three questions are usually answered the same way: *the gospel of John*. The fourth gospel is considered a primer on the essential basics of Christianity. In the book of John, Christ is clearly and preeminently exalted as deity. In simple (yet profound) terms, Jesus is set forth so that all may believe that He is indeed the Son of God. Hopefully, this lesson, which provides a bird’s-eye view of the twenty-one chapters in John, will help all of us realize that eternal life begins with Christ.



Discovering the Way

1. Introduction: Why This Fourth Gospel Account?

God brought us this fourth gospel account through the apostle John to teach us that Jesus is God.

2. Examination: What Was John’s Motive?

John wrote his gospel so that his readers may believe that Jesus is the Son of God.

3. Observation: How Did John Present It?

John began this gospel by emphasizing the public ministry of Jesus (John 1–12). John then turned his attention to a few days of Jesus’s private ministry before His crucifixion and resurrection (John 13–21).



Starting Your Journey

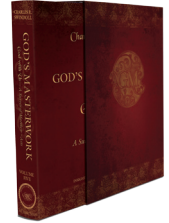
Those who believe the message will acknowledge Jesus’s claims and commit themselves to Him without reservation.



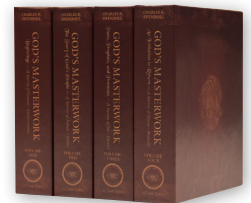
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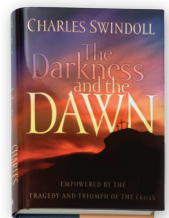
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JOHN: THAT YOU MAY BELIEVE
A SURVEY OF JOHN

JOHN

	Deity "The Word was God" (1:1).	God-Man "The Word became flesh" (1:14). <i>Miraculous signs:</i> Turns water into wine (2) Heals official's son (4)	Ministry <i>Miraculous signs:</i> Heals invalid at Bethesda (5) Feeds 5,000 (6) Walks on water (6) Heals blind man (9) Raises Lazarus (11)	Discourse <i>Private talks:</i> Servanthood (13) Heaven (14) Abiding (15) Promises (16) Prayer (17)	Trials and Death 	Empty Tomb <i>Private talks:</i> Appearances (20)	Assurance <i>Private talks:</i> Future (21)	
	CHAPTER 1:1–13	CHAPTERS 1:14–4:54	CHAPTERS 5–12	CHAPTERS 13–17	CHAPTERS 18–19	CHAPTER 20	CHAPTER 21	
Stage	Prologue	Acceptance	Conflict	Preparation	Crucifixion	Triumph		Epilogue
Audience	Public message			CHANGE	Private message			
Time	Three years			Several days				
Jesus's Seven "I Am" Statements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "I am the bread of life." (6:35) • "I am the Light of the world." (8:12) • "I am the door." (10:9) • "I am the good shepherd." (10:11) 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "I am the resurrection and the life." (11:25) • "I am the way, and the truth, and the life." (14:6) • "I am the true vine." (15:1) 				
Theme	Salvation comes only through Jesus Christ, the Son of God.							
Key Verse	20:31							
Christ in John	Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, the way, the truth, and the life who alone is the revelation of God and salvation of people (1:1–18; 20:31).							

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GOD'S MASTERWORK, VOLUME FIVE
GOD WITH US—A SURVEY OF MATTHEW—ACTS
ACTS: LIKE A MIGHTY ARMY
A SURVEY OF ACTS



The Heart of the Matter

All too often Christians look upon their religious roots with much-too-low esteem. Intimidated by the giant boot-stomping of secular events that occupy the attention of most history books, we entertain the false idea that the church of Jesus Christ is little more than a piece of lint on the page . . . a tiny, fragile thread woven through the centuries. Not so! The church is rather like a mighty army marching through time deliberately, confidently, victoriously . . . spurred on by the promise of its Founder that the gates of Hades will not overpower it. No other book in the Bible underscores the richness and courage of our history better than the book of Acts. And no other book affirms more clearly our God-given power to persevere. We may be small in number, but no remnant was ever surer of its destiny.



Discovering the Way

1. Some Helpful Facts about Acts

In approaching the book of Acts, it is best if we understand some key contrasts between this book and the books of the Gospels. In addition, we should answer four key questions: Who wrote the book? Why do we have the book? What do we find in the book? And where did the events of the book take place?

2. An Easy Outline to Remember

We can divide the book into three sections based on its geography. The church was established in Jerusalem (1–7), the church was enlarged in Judea and Samaria (8–12), and the church expanded to the remotest part of the earth (13–28).

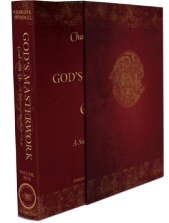


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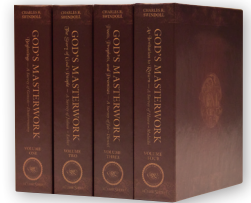
God works in our lives in three stages, the same way He did with the church in Acts: He establishes His place in our lives, He enlarges us through problems and trials, and He expands us so we can take in our own spiritual food.



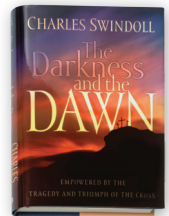
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 ACTS: LIKE A MIGHTY ARMY
 A SURVEY OF ACTS

ACTS

	The Church Established at "Jerusalem" The church is . . . born tested purified strengthened <i>CHAPTERS</i> 1–7	The Church Enlarged to "Judea and Samaria" The gospel is . . . spreading multiplying changing lives breaking traditions <i>CHAPTERS</i> 8–12	The Church Expanded to "the Ends of the Earth" The witness is . . . extended received and rejected changing lives unifying Jews and Gentiles <i>CHAPTERS</i> 13–28		
AD 30			AD 60		
Leaders	The apostle Peter		The apostle Paul		
Emphasis	Jewish evangelism	Transition	Gentile evangelism		
Time	AD 33 (1:1–2:47)	AD 36 (8:1)	AD 40 (9:32)	AD 46 (13:1)	AD 57 (21:18)
Scope	City evangelism	National evangelism		Cross-cultural evangelism	
Theme	In the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus's followers carry the good news of Christ to the world.				
Key Verse	1:8				
Christ in Acts	Jesus is the glorified, enthroned Savior, who continues His ministry in the world by means of the Holy Spirit working through His disciples until He returns (1:7–9).				

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