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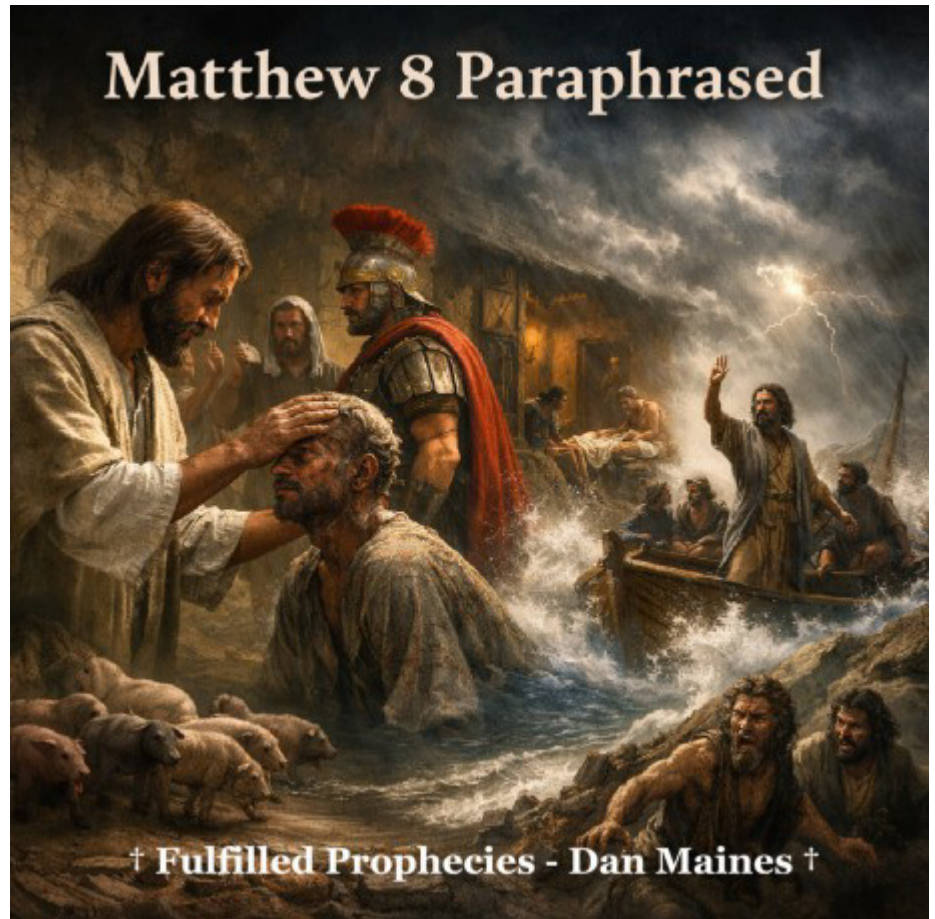
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Matthew 8 Paraphrased



By Dan Maines

Matthew 8 Paraphrased

Introduction

† Matthew 8 shows the authority of Jesus being demonstrated through real events that people witnessed. These miracles weren't performed for spectacle, they were signs proving the kingdom of God had arrived among them (Matthew 4:23; Matthew 12:28).

† The chapter moves from healing disease to commanding nature and casting out demons, revealing that every part of

creation answers to Christ's authority (Colossians 1:16-17).

† These events also fulfilled the prophetic expectation that the Messiah would restore what sin had broken and carry the burdens of the people (Isaiah 35:5-6; Isaiah 53:4).

Matthew 8:1

After Jesus came down from the mountain, large crowds followed Him.

† The crowds followed because His teaching carried authority that the religious leaders didn't have (Matthew 7:28-29).

† This moment continues the scene after the Sermon on the Mount, showing that the power behind His words was now being demonstrated through His actions.

† Eusebius recorded that reports about Jesus spread rapidly through Judea because people saw both His teaching and His power.

Matthew 8:2

A man with leprosy approached Him, bowed down, and said, Lord, if you're willing, you can make me clean.

† Leprosy caused complete separation from society under the Law of Moses (Leviticus 13:45-46).

† The man didn't question Christ's ability, he only appealed to His mercy and willingness (Mark 1:40).

† Irenaeus later pointed to this moment as proof that Christ had authority over the curse affecting human life.

Matthew 8:3

Jesus reached out and touched him saying, I am willing, be made clean. Instantly the leprosy disappeared.

† Under the Law touching a leper normally brought uncleanness, but Jesus reversed the condition by bringing cleansing instead (Luke 5:13).

† The immediate healing showed divine authority that only God

possesses (Psalm 103:2-3).

† Clement of Alexandria explained that Christ's healings showed the restoration power of God's kingdom.

Matthew 8:4

Jesus told him, See that you tell no one, but go show yourself to the priest and present the offering Moses commanded as a testimony to them.

† The Law required a priest to verify healing before someone could reenter society (Leviticus 14:2-4).

† This instruction forced the religious authorities to acknowledge the miracle officially.

† It served as evidence that the Messiah's work was occurring within Israel.

Matthew 8:5

When Jesus entered Capernaum, a Roman centurion came to Him asking for help.

† A centurion was a Roman officer commanding roughly one hundred soldiers (Luke 7:2).

† His presence shows that faith in Christ was already reaching beyond Israel.

† Tertullian wrote that this event foreshadowed the gospel spreading among the nations.

Matthew 8:6

He said, Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed and suffering terribly.

† The centurion's concern shows unusual compassion for a servant within Roman culture.

† Luke records that this servant was highly valued by him (Luke 7:2).

† This moment demonstrates humility from a man who held

significant authority.

Matthew 8:7

Jesus said to him, I will come and heal him.

† Jesus immediately showed willingness to help someone outside the Jewish nation.

† This demonstrated that God's mercy wasn't limited to ethnic Israel (Acts 10:34-35).

† The prophets had already foretold that the nations would receive the light of the Messiah (Isaiah 49:6).

Matthew 8:8

The centurion replied, Lord, I'm not worthy for You to come under my roof, but just speak the word and my servant will be healed.

† The centurion recognized Christ's authority without needing physical presence.

† His humility stands in contrast to many religious leaders who rejected Jesus (John 1:11).

† Augustine later noted that this Gentile demonstrated greater understanding than many in Israel.

Matthew 8:9

For I'm also a man under authority with soldiers under me. I say to one go and he goes, and to another come and he comes.

† The centurion understood how authority works through command.

† He recognized that Christ's authority operates the same way but on a greater level.

† This comparison reveals remarkable faith from someone outside the covenant nation.

Matthew 8:10

When Jesus heard this He was amazed and said to those

following Him, Truly I tell you, I haven't found such faith in Israel.

† This statement exposed the lack of faith among many who possessed the Scriptures.

† It also pointed toward the coming inclusion of Gentiles in the kingdom (Matthew 21:43).

† Justin Martyr later cited this passage to explain why believers from the nations entered God's kingdom.

Matthew 8:11

I tell you that many will come from east and west and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven.

† This predicted the gathering of believers from all nations.

† It fulfilled the promise that through Abraham all families of the earth would be blessed (Genesis 12:3).

† Jesus described the kingdom as a covenant gathering shared by those who believe (Luke 13:28-29).

Matthew 8:12

But the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.

† Physical descent from Abraham wasn't enough without faith (Matthew 3:9).

† This warning pointed toward the coming judgment upon unbelieving Israel.

† Josephus later recorded the suffering and destruction that came upon Jerusalem in AD 70.

Matthew 8:13

Jesus said to the centurion, Go your way, it will happen just as you believed. And his servant was healed at that very moment.

† The healing occurred instantly without Jesus being physically present.

† This demonstrated the authority of Christ's spoken word (John 4:50-53).

† Faith became the means by which the blessing was received.

Matthew 8:14

When Jesus came into Peter's house, He saw Peter's mother in law lying sick with a fever.

† This event shows that Jesus ministered within ordinary homes as well as public places (Mark 1:29-30).

† The passage confirms that Peter was married.

† Early Christian records acknowledge Peter's family life.

Matthew 8:15

Jesus touched her hand and the fever left her, and she got up and began serving Him.

† The immediate recovery shows the completeness of Christ's healing power.

† Her response of service shows gratitude and restored strength.

† This moment reveals the practical compassion of Christ.

Matthew 8:16

That evening many people who were demon possessed were brought to Him, and He drove out the spirits with a word and healed everyone who was sick.

† Jesus demonstrated authority over both physical sickness and spiritual oppression.

† The deliverance from demons showed the defeat of the forces of darkness (1 John 3:8).

† These widespread miracles confirmed that the kingdom of God had arrived.

Matthew 8:17

This fulfilled what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet saying

He took our weaknesses and carried our diseases.

† Matthew directly connects the healing ministry of Jesus to Isaiah 53:4.

† The Messiah was prophesied to bear the burdens of humanity.

† Early Christian teachers consistently used Isaiah 53 as proof of Christ's identity.

Matthew 8:18

When Jesus saw the crowd around Him growing larger, He gave orders to cross over to the other side of the lake.

† Jesus often withdrew from crowds to continue His mission elsewhere.

† His ministry wasn't driven by popularity but by purpose.

† Movement across the Sea of Galilee was common in His ministry.

Matthew 8:19

A scribe came and said to Him, Teacher, I'll follow You wherever You go.

† The statement sounded devoted but didn't yet understand the cost of discipleship.

† Many were attracted to Jesus without realizing the sacrifice involved (Luke 9:57).

† This reveals the difference between enthusiasm and commitment.

Matthew 8:20

Jesus said to him, Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.

† Jesus lived without permanent earthly security.

† His mission required sacrifice and constant movement.

† Discipleship meant sharing in that same willingness to follow

without comfort.

Matthew 8:21

Another disciple said, Lord, first let me go and bury my father.

† This request likely referred to delaying discipleship responsibilities.

† Cultural obligations often competed with spiritual commitment.

† Jesus was revealing the urgency of the kingdom.

Matthew 8:22

But Jesus said to him, Follow Me and let the dead bury their own dead.

† Jesus emphasized that the call of the kingdom takes priority.

† Spiritual life requires immediate response.

† The statement contrasts spiritual life with those spiritually unresponsive.

Matthew 8:23

When He got into the boat His disciples followed Him.

† The disciples continued learning through both teaching and experience.

† Traveling by boat across the Sea of Galilee was common for reaching nearby towns.

† These journeys often led to moments revealing Christ's authority.

Matthew 8:24

Suddenly a violent storm developed on the sea so that waves were covering the boat, but Jesus was asleep.

† The Sea of Galilee is known for sudden storms caused by surrounding geography.

† The storm created real danger for the boat and those inside.

† The scene sets the stage for another demonstration of

Christ's authority.

Matthew 8:25

They came to Him and woke Him saying, Lord save us, we're going to die.

† The disciples reacted with fear even though they had already witnessed miracles.

† Their response reflects how easily faith can be shaken by circumstances.

† This moment highlights the difference between fear and trust.

Matthew 8:26

He said to them, Why are you afraid, you people of little faith? Then He got up and rebuked the winds and the sea and everything became calm.

† Jesus addressed their fear before calming the storm.

† His command over nature revealed divine authority (Psalm 107:29).

† The sudden calm demonstrated power beyond human control.

Matthew 8:27

The men were amazed and said, What kind of man is this that even the winds and the sea obey Him?

† The disciples recognized that this authority belonged only to God.

† The miracle deepened their understanding of who Jesus truly was.

† The event confirmed that creation itself responds to the voice of Christ.

Matthew 8:28

When He came to the other side into the region of the Gadarenes, two demon possessed men came out from the tombs and met Him. They were extremely violent so that no one

could pass that way.

† Living among tombs symbolized isolation and spiritual darkness.

† These men were feared because of the destructive power of the demons controlling them.

† This encounter reveals the severe reality of spiritual oppression.

Matthew 8:29

They shouted saying, What do You want with us Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the appointed time?

† The demons recognized Jesus as the Son of God even when many people didn't.

† Their question shows awareness of coming judgment.

† This moment reveals the authority of Christ over the spiritual realm.

Matthew 8:30

Now a large herd of pigs was feeding some distance away.

† The presence of pigs shows this was a predominantly Gentile region.

† Pigs were considered unclean animals under Jewish law (Leviticus 11:7).

† The setting highlights that the event occurred outside traditional Jewish territory.

Matthew 8:31

The demons begged Him saying, If You drive us out send us into the herd of pigs.

† The demons recognized that Jesus had the authority to remove them.

† Their plea shows their limited power under Christ's command.

† The moment demonstrates that even demonic forces must

obey Him.

Matthew 8:32

He said to them, Go. They came out and entered the pigs and the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea and drowned.

† The destruction of the herd revealed the destructive nature of the demons.

† It also confirmed that the men were truly delivered.

† The dramatic event made the reality of the miracle undeniable.

Matthew 8:33

Those who were tending the pigs ran away and went into the city reporting everything including what happened to the demon possessed men.

† Witnesses spread the news quickly because of the shocking event.

† The transformation of the men would have been immediately visible.

† The report caused widespread reaction among the people.

Matthew 8:34

The entire city came out to meet Jesus, and when they saw Him they pleaded with Him to leave their region.

† Instead of celebrating the miracle many feared the disruption it brought.

† The loss of the pigs likely affected their economy.

† This reaction shows that some people reject Christ even when they witness His power.

Historical References

† Josephus described the climate of expectation surrounding miracle workers and prophets during the first century in Antiquities of the Jews.

† Irenaeus wrote that Christ's miracles proved the restoration of creation through the Messiah.

† Eusebius recorded that the early church viewed these events as historical demonstrations of divine authority.

How It Applies To Us Today

† Faith recognizes the authority of Christ just as the centurion did.

† Following Jesus requires commitment beyond comfort or convenience.

† Christ's authority over sickness, demons, and nature reminds us that all creation remains under His rule.

† The response to Jesus still divides people between faith and rejection.

Q & A Appendix

Q Why did Jesus praise the centurion's faith?

A Because the centurion trusted Christ's authority without requiring physical presence, showing deeper faith than many in Israel (Matthew 8:10; John 4:50-53).

Q What does sitting with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob mean?

A It represents participation in the covenant promises fulfilled through Christ and extended to believers from every nation (Matthew 8:11; Galatians 3:28-29).

Q Why did Jesus calm the storm?

A The miracle revealed His authority over creation and strengthened the disciples' understanding of who He was (Psalm 107:29; Matthew 8:26-27).

Q Why did the people ask Jesus to leave after the demons were cast out?

A The event disrupted their lives and economy, showing that some people reject Christ even when confronted with His power (Matthew 8:34).

Q Why did Jesus tell the healed leper to show himself to the priest?

A The Law required a priest to confirm that a leper was cleansed before returning to society. By sending the man to the priest, Jesus provided official proof that the healing was real and that the Messiah's work was happening in Israel (Leviticus 14:2-4; Matthew 8:4).

Q What does this chapter show about the authority of Jesus?

A Matthew 8 shows that Jesus has authority over disease, demons, and even the forces of nature. Each event demonstrates that creation itself responds to His command, confirming His identity as the Son of God (Matthew 8:3; Matthew 8:16; Matthew 8:26-27).

Q Why were demons afraid of Jesus in the region of the Gadarenes?

A The demons recognized Jesus as the Son of God and understood that He had authority to judge them. Their fear shows that even spiritual powers are subject to Christ's authority (Matthew 8:29; Luke 8:31).

Q What lesson about faith is taught through the centurion?

A The centurion believed that Jesus only needed to speak a word for healing to happen. His understanding of authority led him to trust Christ completely, which is why Jesus said He had not found such faith in Israel (Matthew 8:8-10).

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

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Source Index

† Matthew 8; Matthew 3:9; Matthew 4:23; Matthew 7:28-29; Matthew 12:28; Matthew 21:43; Matthew 23:36; Isaiah 35:5-6; Isaiah 53:4; Genesis 12:3; Luke 7:2-9; Luke 13:28-29; Mark 1:29-34; John 1:11; John 4:50-53; Psalm 103:2-3; Psalm 107:29; 1 John 3:8; Colossians 1:16-17

† Josephus, Antiquities of the Jews; Irenaeus, Against Heresies; Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History; Clement of Alexandria, Stromata; Tertullian, Apology.

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