

Matthew use of Prophecy: Purpose

- ∞ Matthew shows that all the events surrounding Jesus happened in order to fulfil what was written in the prophets and he is therefore the fulfilment of Jewish hopes.

Matthew includes the Visitors from the East

- ∞ Matthew depicts important visitors from the east – therefore Gentiles - greeting and honouring the infant Jesus
- ∞ Showing that Gentiles were accepting Jesus – indicates his significance – they are the first to recognise Jesus as King of the Jews.

Matthews primary concerns

- ∞ To show Jesus represents both:
 - **CONTINUITY**-(Jesus fulfills the Law and prophecies about the Messiah)
 - and*
 - **DISCONTINUITY** –(Jesus establishes a new Church)

The GOOD NEWS is not only for the Jews but for the whole world (eg seen in Wise Men at Birth)

Structure and Emphasis in Luke

- ∞ Luke, writing predominantly for Gentile Christians, emphasises salvation for all people – especially the oppressed, the poor, outcasts, sinners.....

Jesus is compared to Moses: Purpose

- ∞ By paralleling Jesus with Moses Matthew is emphasising Jesus' great importance for the Jewish people
- ∞ Matthew presents Jesus as the “New Moses” - teacher and Law-giver who has authority from God. He is the “fulfilment” of the law and therefore the messiah the Jews have been waiting for.

Luke compares the Birth of Jesus to the birth of John the Baptist: Purpose

- ∞ To demonstrate the transition of one epoch (period of history) – the Epoch of Israel – represented by John the Baptist to a new epoch – the Christian Epoch – represented by Jesus.
- ∞ Luke wishes the reader to recognise that Jesus and John are “twin agents of God's salvation.”
- ∞ John is great in the sight of the Lord (1:15), Jesus will be called the Lord (2:11); John will be filled with the Holy Spirit (1:15), Jesus is born in the Holy Spirit (1:35)
- ∞ John is a Prophet of the Most High (1:76), Jesus is the Son of the Most High (1:32)

Luke's Structure stresses symbolism:

- ☞ **Shepherds:** Shepherds were a poor, and despised class of people – their occupation did not allow for obeying all Jewish laws (eg time for prayer and cleanliness) – therefore they were considered sinners.
- ☞ **Purpose:** In contrast to Matthew (who depicts wealthy and influential people greeting Jesus) Luke has the poor and sinners greeting the child.....showing that Jesus has come for all people, the poor and sinful included.

Luke's Structure stresses symbolism:

- ☞ **No Room:** Not only are the lowly attracted to Jesus, but Jesus himself assumed the condition of the lowly –
- ☞ **Purpose:** To show that Jesus was born poor and homeless and therefore is identified with them.

Luke's Structure stresses symbolism:

- ☞ **Manger:** Jesus is placed in a manger – the trough out of which the animals feed.
- ☞ **Purpose:** To accentuate his poverty further.
This is also symbolic that just as animals feed from a manger, humanity is going to be fed by Jesus

Luke stresses Great Joy

- ☞ Luke's writing is joyful – Luke's characters are spirit-filled people rejoicing over what God has done for them.
 - The angels proclaim to the shepherds “good news of a great joy which will come to all people” (2:10);
 - Mary proclaims: “My soul magnifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my saviour.” (1:46-47)