

Contents

<i>Introduction by John Sanford</i>	5
<i>Editors' Preface</i>	9
<i>Preface to the First Edition</i>	11
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	12

PRELUDE

MATTHEW AND THE EVOLUTION OF CONSCIOUSNESS	21
Why Read the New Testament?	21
Why Matthew?	23
The Dynamic versus the Static Reader	27

Part One THE GATE

1. GENESIS	33
Jesus, Human or Divine? (1:1–15)	33
Scandalous (1:16–25)	34
2. THE NEW LIGHT	38
The Gate (2:1–8)	38
Violence Confronting Light Destroys Itself (2:9–23)	39
Meditation: The New Light	42
3. BAPTISM	44
John's Message: Confession, Repentance, Baptism (3:1–13)	44
Baptism as Jesus Experienced It (3:14–17)	46
4. TEMPTATIONS	50
The First Inner Steps: Three Temptations (4:1–11)	50
The New Goal	55
The First Outer Steps: The Beginning Mission (4:12–25)	55
Meditation: The Old and the New	57

Part Two
THE CHART OF INITIATION
 (The Sermon on the Mount)

Steps on the Way to the Kingdom of Heaven	61
5. THE MAGNA CHARTA OF SPIRITUAL EVOLUTION	63
Introduction	63
<i>The Kingdom of Heaven on Earth</i>	63
Emergence of Individual Consciousness	64
The Kingdom Proclaimed in the Beatitudes (5:1-12)	65
The Central Paradox of the Magna Charta (5:10-12)	70
The Salt and the Light-Bearers (5:13-16)	71
<i>Five Challenges to Spiritual Maturity</i>	72
The New Code of Spiritual Laws (5:17-20)	72
1. Cope with Your Resentments (5:21-26)	73
2. Sex versus Love (5:27-32)	75
3. God Is Not Your Weapon (5:33-37)	77
4. Meet Violence with Nonresistance (5:38-42)	78
5. Hate Yields to Love (5:43-48)	80
6. THE PRACTICE OF THE PRESENCE OF GOD	83
Introduction	83
<i>Three Spiritual Practices</i>	83
1. Giving Alms (6:1-4)	83
2. Fasting (6:16-18)	85
3. Private Prayer—The New Form (6:5-8)	87
<i>The Lord's Prayer</i>	88
The Climax of the Sermon on the Mount (6:9-15)	88
<i>Growing in Faith</i>	100
The Greatest Need: Spiritual Growth	100
Choose the Right Values (6:19-24)	100
Overcome Worries by Trust (6:25-32)	102
Search for the Kingdom (6:33-34)	104
7. SPIRITUAL DECISIONS	106
Introduction: Our Independence	106
Judge Not (7:1-6)	106
Seek and You Will Find (7:7-12)	107
Knock and the Door Will Be Opened	108
Enter by the Narrow Gate (7:13-14)	109
Know Them by Their Fruits (7:15-20)	110
Do the Will of the Father (7:21-23)	112
Build on the Invisible Rock (7:24-29)	113

Part Three

THE WAY

Introduction	117
8. THE INNER JOURNEY	119
Spiritual Power—Three Healings (8:1–17)	119
The Night-Sea-Journey—Test of Faith (8:18–27)	121
The Madmen—a Teaching Demonstration (8:28–34)	124
9. THE NEW WINE	127
Steps to Maturity	127
Who Is He Who Can Forgive Sins? (9:1–8)	127
Breaking Away from Social Prejudices (9:9–13)	129
The Power over Death (9:14–26)	130
The Creative Silence (9:27–34)	131
10. DISCOVERY BY TEACHING	133
Introduction	133
The Mission (9:35–38; 10:1–4)	133
Practice Teaching: “The Kingdom Is at Hand” (10:5–22)	134
The Son of Man (10:23–39)	136
The Hidden Reward (10:40–42)	141
11. THE COMING ONE	142
Inner Gain from Outer Experiences	142
The New Leader—The Christ? (11:1–14)	143
The Gap of Silence (11:15)	145
Victory in Defeat (11:16–30)	146
12. THE NEW SABBATH	148
Creative Introversion	148
Spiritual Growth Breaks with Tradition (12:1–21)	149
Integration of the New Power (12:22–37)	151
From Isolation to Brotherhood (12:38–50)	153
13. PARABLES OF THE KINGDOM	156
Introduction	156
The Soil and the Seed (13:1–23)	156
Seeds—Good and Bad (13:24–35)	158
The Treasure and the Pearl (13:44–46)	160
The Esoteric Aspect of Christianity (13:36–43; 47–52)	162
Creation Is Unlimited (13:53–58)	164

Part Four

THE CROSSROADS

The Turning Point	169
Conscious Search for the Christ	169

14. THE NEW START	171
Herodism (14:1-12)	171
The New Food (14:13-21)	172
The New Night-Sea-Journey (14:22-36)	174
15. THE HEART AND THE WHOLE	177
The Beginning of Spiritual Revolution (15:1-20)	177
Relating the Parts to the Whole (15:21-28)	179
Overcoming Racial Prejudice	180
The Redemptive Power Within (15:29-39)	182
16. THE DISCOVERY	184
Looking for Proof (16:1-4)	184
The Third Night-Sea-Journey (16:5-12)	184
Who Is the Son of Man? (16:13-16)	185
Silence	186
The Keys of the Kingdom (16:17-20)	187
The Spiritual We-Experience	188
The Way Down Is the Way Up (16:21-28)	188
17. SPIRIT AND MATTER	191
Spirit (17:1-8)	191
Assimilation of the Great Experience (17:9-13)	193
How Spirit Conquers Matter (17:14-27)	194
18. THE WE-EXPERIENCE	197
Introduction	197
Accept the Child in You (18:1-5)	197
Cause Not the Child to Stumble (18:6-10)	198
Silence (18:11)	200
Rescue the Little Ones (18:12-14)	200
The Reconciling Power (18:15-20)	201
Spiritual Laws, Inflexible (18:21-35)	202

Part Five

THE NEW WAY

Introduction	207
19. LOSS IS GAIN	209
Family Ties (19:1-12)	209
Return to Innocence (19:13-15)	210
Silence	211
Detachment from Material Values (19:16-30)	211
20. THE LAST WILL BE FIRST	213
Not for Reward but for the Kingdom (20:1-16)	213
Acceptance of Loneliness (20:17-34)	214
THE MISSING CHAPTER	217
Silence	217

Contents	17
21. ATTACKS	218
The Triumphant Entry (21:1–11)	218
Jesus' Declaration of Independence (21:12–17)	219
Grow or Perish! (21:18–22)	220
What Is Jesus' Authority? (21:23–27)	221
Three Parables Mirror Our Inner Opposition (21:28–46; 22:1–14)	222
22. COUNTERATTACK	225
What Is God's—What Caesar's? (22:15–22)	225
Is There Marriage in Heaven? (22:23–33)	226
The Two Great Commandments (22:34–40)	227
“What Do You Think of the Christ?” (22:41–46)	228
23. DEPTH CHARGES	229
Introduction	229
Egocentricity (23:1–12)	229
The Seven Woes (23:13–33)	230
Collective Guilt (23:34–39)	233

Part Six *THE NEW CHART*

The Mutation of Mankind Foretold	237
24. GREAT TRIBULATIONS	239
The False Christs (24:1–26)	239
The Son of Man (24:27–28)	241
The Growing Pains of the Human Spirit (24:29–44)	242
25. PREPAREDNESS	245
Introduction	245
A Faithful and Wise Servant (24:45–51)	245
The Inner Light Cannot Be Given Away (25:1–13)	246
The Responsibility for Self-Development (25:14–30)	247
The Last Judgment (25:31–46)	249

Part Seven *THE NEW GATE*

Meditation: The Two Gates	253
26. THE INNER GATE	255
Preparation (26:1–19)	255
The Last Supper (26:20–35)	257
Gethsemane (26:36–56)	259
27. THE OUTER GATE	262
The Charge (26:57–68)	262
The Betrayals (26:69–75; 27:3–10)	263

The Condemnation (27:1–2, 11–26)	264
The Crucifixion (27:27–44)	266
Death (27:45–56)	268
Burial (27:57–66)	269
Meditation: Golgotha Within	271
28. BEYOND THE GATE	273
The Resurrection (28:1–20)	273
The Light from Beyond	275
Meditation: Easter Within	276
The Voice from the “Beyond Within”	277
<i>Bibliography</i>	279
<i>About the Author</i>	