

He has all authority of heaven and earth ~ the disciple's teacher is now revealed as The Lord of all. He is The One, King of Kings, Lord of Lords, The bright morning star, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Author of our faith I could go on and on ~ all power resides in the person of Jesus.

All nations: God's purpose is to be reconciled with all people ~ God wants everyone to be saved, which includes every nationality and race. Jesus ministry was primarily limited to the Jewish people throughout Matthew's gospel, but here the boundaries are now expanded to include all people I find it interesting that it does not say to take the gospel to all nations (although it is implied), what Jesus actually says is that they are to make disciples of all nations ~ this is the primary verb of the section and it is a command. Jesus intent is a robust task ~ they (and we) are to become devoted followers of Jesus and together live out His teachings within broader society.

And the third part of the command is to teach those who become followers everything or all that Jesus commanded (which back in chapter 5 and again in chapter 7 He underlines that this is not just lip service, but that our actions should reflect our beliefs). Matthew reminds us that faith without appropriate behaviour is empty.

And the promise is that He is always with us. This is right up there with the most comforting statements in Scripture: Jesus, Lord of all, promises to be with us, the church, always even until the final consummation of everything.

This continuing, abiding presence of Jesus is a profound promise.