

--they are that, but they are more importantly portraits of Christ.

They look at Him from different angles. You have a much better idea of something if you try to look at it from different angles, than if you try to fuse them all together into one picture. So that is what we have here. We have four pictures, four portraits of the life of Christ, and God prepared four different men to look at Him from four different angles and thus to give us a picture of the coming of God in human flesh, and I believe Ezekiel had a glimpse of the way God would reveal Himself in the Person of His Son in this 10th verse.

"Their faces looked like this: each of the four had the face of a man, and on the right side each had the face of a lion. And on the left the face of an ox. He also had the face of an eagle." Now on the right side they had the face of a lion.

I believe that lion gives us a picture in advance of the view of Christ that Matthew was == would see and pass on to us. It is a very important aspect of Christ's life. There was a man named Levi, a man who looked upon the government, the control the Romans were exercising over the Jews, and he pondered over it. He felt it would not always continue to be this way, but that the time would come when the Jews would get back their sovereignty, get back their and he studied the OT to see if in these God had predicted such a thing, and as he studied the OT he saw the picture of the coming King.

The picture of the King that he saw was quite different from the control the Romans exercised, and as he read the OT more and more he got a clearer and clearer picture of this coming king, this One he would like to worship, follow and serve. One day as he sat at the seat of customs he saw passing near him what other people would have thought of as just a group of Galillean peasants. There was one who was leading them and talking with them. Matthew with his mind filled with the OT, filled with the picture of the coming King to whom the Jews looked forward, saw that this man was indeed the promised King. We read in the NT that he left his work under the Romans and went and followed Jesus, and Jesus made him one of his Apostles.

So we have the Book of Matthew which gives us a picture of the king, a picture that is roughly symbolized by the lion. Now in the book of Matt. you have many quotations from the OT. Far more than in Mk. and Lk. put together because Mat. was thoroughly familiar with the OT. The Jews for whom in the first instance he wrote this gospel were also quite familiar with the OT. Over and over he quoted from the OT to show how Jesus indeed fulfilled the picture of the coming king. You look at the gospel of Mat. from this viewpoint, and you immediately see the picture of the king, how it fits with it.

You start in the beginning with the genealogy of Jesus Christ the son of David, the son of Abraham. Then you get the story of His wonderful birth. Then in the second ch. you find another king, Herod who fears the coming of this new king and tries to kill him. In ch.3 you have the account of the forerunner who goes before the coming