

# **Matthew**

## **The King Is Coming/ The King Is Here**

### **I. Introduction to Matthew**

#### **A. The Gospel**

The New Testament contains a total of 27 books written by at least eight authors.

Matthew is the first book of the New Testament.

Matthew through Acts are narrative and historical.

Matthew tells the story of Christ's life, beginning with His birth and including with His great commission.

Matthew has 28 chapters and has 1071 verses.

The book of Matthew is one of the four gospels.

The four Gospels combine to give us the inspired history of the life of Christ. The only way to answer the question of "Who is Jesus?" is to carefully examine the Gospel accounts. Much has been written about who Christ is.

The Koran claims Jesus is a being created out of dust, born of a virgin, worked miracles, died but was not crucified and is not the Son of God.

**However, those claims contradict the eyewitness testimony of the Gospels.**

Thomas Jefferson edited his own version of the record of Christ's life and teaching. It is commonly referred to as the Jefferson Bible. He literally cut (with a razor) and pasted (with glue) and formed his own version. He removed all miracles, and references to the resurrection.

**However, his claims contradict the eyewitness testimony of the Gospels.**

Bill Reilly recently authored "Killing Jesus", where, among other things, he claims that Jesus never said, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do."

**His claim contradicts the eyewitness testimony of the Gospels.**

The same could be said of any who create their own idea about Jesus, rather than consulting Scripture.

**Jesus is not a fictitious character who becomes whoever or whatever we want Him to be.**

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Matthew declares Him to be the Son of God and King.

**Matthew's gospel serves to bridge the gap between the Testaments.**

To do so, he focused on fulfilled prophecy.

Matthew quotes the Old Testament more than fifty times and references even more. Matthew links the Old Testament prophecy with its New Testament fulfillment. He uses the terms:

“It is written” 9 times

“Fulfilled” 15 times“

“Heard it said” 7 times

#### **The Date**

The date of Matthew cannot be pinpointed exactly, but we do know

- It was written between 30-80 A.D.
- It was first written in Aramaic; a second edition was written in Greek, which is the one in our Bibles

Most conservative scholars date it circa 50 A.D.

#### **The book of Matthew is an anonymous manuscript.**

It does not bear Matthew's name as author; in fact, he is only mentioned two times.

In contrast, Peter is mentioned 24 times.

Tradition is unanimous in crediting this Gospel to the apostle Matthew.

- The oldest manuscripts entitle the book “Gospel according to Matthew”
- Justin Martyr (100 - 165 A.D.) attributes it to Matthew, as does Didache and Eusebius
- No doubt, the early church believed Matthew wrote this Gospel and his writing was inspired as Scripture

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### **B. Matthew**

All we know about Apostle Matthew is recorded in three New Testament references.

- All three synoptic Gospels record his conversion and his calling.
- Acts 1 lists him among those who are waiting for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.
- Chapter 9 records how he and Jesus met.

For quite some time Jesus had been ministering in Galilee. In Matthew 9:9, Jesus passed by Matthew's tax office and called him to follow.

Matthew made the decision to follow Christ.

His decision was marked by:

- **Repentance** - For over sixty years Israel had been occupied by Rome. Among other things, this required the Jews to pay taxes to Rome. Roman Senators purchased the right to extract taxes from certain provinces. They hired collectors who would become quite rich, but were hated by the people. Matthew was one of these men, but like Moses, he chose to forsake all to follow Christ. (Hebrews 11:24-26)
- **Conversion** - Luke 5:27 tells us that his birth name was Levi, but upon conversion, Jesus called him Matthew. His name, Matthew, means 'gift of God'. His life started fresh once he came to Christ. Levi dies and Matthew comes alive.
- **Outreach** - Matthew 9:10 and Mark 2:15 tell us Matthew's first act was to invite others to hear Christ.
- **Longevity** - Years later Matthew was still faithfully following Christ. Luke 10 records his call to ministry. Jesus always calls His disciples to ministry.

The only other mention of Matthew by name is in Acts where he waits for the Holy Spirit.

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Matthews' story is not followed in Acts.

We have no records of his teaching, pastoring or evangelizing. However, we do have the record of his writing.

According to tradition Matthew

- Wrote his Gospel in Aramaic for the Jews in Palestine (Ancient Roman name for Israel). Later he wrote in Greek for the Jews outside of Israel.
- Traveled as a missionary to Persia, Ethiopia and Syria
- Was beheaded in persecution

#### **C. Purpose**

Matthew's goal was to introduce the world to Jesus and prove that he is the promised and long awaited for Messiah. The entirety of the Old Testament has been painting a picture of the coming Messiah. Matthew will prove that Jesus alone can lay claim to David's throne.

Matthew starts by presenting the genealogy of Christ, linking Him to Abraham and David.

Then he uses fulfilled prophesy to prove Jesus is Messiah (5:17-18).

1:22 Virgin birth

2:5 Bethlehem

2:15 God's Son would come out of Egypt

2:17 Sorrow at His birth

2:23 a Nazarene

4:14 Salvation to Galilee

8:17 Ministry of healing

11:10 Messenger to herald His coming

13:14 Hardness of people

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13:35 Need for parables

21:4 Triumphal entry

26:54 Cross

26:56 Disciples forsake Him

27:35 Gamble for clothes

### **II. Outline**

Sometimes Biblical books are difficult to outline for our Western minds. We must keep in mind that this is not a biography of Jesus' life, but a Gospel tract designed to evangelize the lost and disciple the Christian.

Matthew was the most copied and quoted Gospel in the 1st two centuries. It was used to disciple new converts.

The following simple outline may help to package the book into more manageable segments.

I.	Introduction	1:1 - 4:17
II.	Ministry	4:18 - 20:34
III.	Passion	21:1 - 28:20

More detailed outline

#### **I. Introduction**

1:1-17	Genealogy
1:18-2:23	Birth and Childhood
3:1-17	Baptism
4:1-11	Temptation
4:11-17	Proclamation of the Gospel

#### **II. Ministry**

4:18-22	Calling the 1 <sup>st</sup> Disciples
5:1-7:29	Sermon on the Mount

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8-9	Miracles
10 – 12	Revealing who Jesus is
13	The Kingdom Parables
14-15	Further Miracles
16	Peter's Confession of Christ
17 - 20	Lessons on living

**III. Passion**

21	Triumphant entry
22 – 23	Dealing with the Religious Leaders
24-25	Olivet Discourse
26	Last supper and arrest
27	Cross
28	Resurrection and Great commission