

God's Amazing Book

Journey Through the New Testament

GREAT EXPECTATIONS

A Quick Look at the Gospel According to Matthew

Matthew is the gospel written by a Jew to Jews about a Jew. Matthew is the writer, his countrymen are the readers, and Jesus Christ is the Subject. **Matthew is no more and no less than the written record that the apostles had personally received from Jesus during the years they accompanied him in his ministry.** Through a selection of Old Testament Scriptures, Matthew documents Jesus Christ's claim to be Messiah (or Anointed Deliverer).

The Promised Messiah must come from the kingly line – and Jesus does. He must bear the name of royalty – and Jesus' name means "the Lord saves." He must be worthy of worship – and wise men from the east travel great distances to show Him honor. He must be a light to the Gentiles, be announced by a forerunner, and demonstrate power over Satan, demons, disease, death – and Jesus does all this and more.

The reader is faced with the inescapable conclusion: **Jesus Christ is King.**

| This is Jesus the King of the Jews (27:37) | | | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|---|---|---|
| PERSON OF THE KING EARLY LIFE AND MINISTRY | PRECEPTS OF THE KING SERMON ON THE MOUNT | POWER AND PLAN OF THE KING MIRACLES AND MISSION | PARABLES OF THE KING REJECTION AND REVELATION | PREACHING AND POWER OF THE KING MIRACLES AND RESPONSES | PRESENTATION OF THE KING ENTRY AND CONTROVERSY | PASSION OF THE KING DEATH, RESURRECTION AND COMMISSION |
| 1:1 – 4:25 | 5:1 – 7:29 | 8:1 – 10:42 | 11:1 – 13:52 | 13:53 – 18:35 | 19:1 – 25:47 | 26:1 – 28:20 |

Chart source: Daniel Akin, "Matthew" (danielakin.com)

Fast Facts on Matthew

1. Who? Matthew (Levi), tax-collector and one of the 12 disciples.

2. When? 40-42 AD

3. Why? To present Jesus as the King of the Jews, the long-awaited Messiah.

5. Key Phrase:
Jesus Christ is King

Quick Facts

- Sermon on Mt (ch 5-7)
- Jesus Tempted (ch 4)
- to JEWISH people
- Lineage from Joseph

Reading Matthew You'll See Jesus Christ ...

...THE KING (there's no one like Him)

Jesus is revealed as the King of kings. His miraculous birth, his life and teaching, his miracles, and his triumph over death show his true identity. Jesus cannot be equated with any person or power. He is the supreme ruler of time and eternity, heaven and earth, humans and angels. We should give him his rightful place as king of our lives, as well.

...THE MESSIAH (The Anointed Deliverer Bringing Salvation)

Jesus was the Messiah, the One for whom the Jews had waited to deliver them from Roman oppression. Yet tragically, they didn't recognize him when he came because his kingship was not what they expected. The true purpose of God's anointed deliverer was to die for all people to free them from sin's oppression – this is what we call SALVATION.

...THE TEACHER (Explaining How To Live Right before God)

Jesus taught the people through sermons, illustrations, and parables. Through his teachings, he showed how to live right before God, the true ingredients of faith and how to guard against a fruitless and hypocritical life. He lived what he taught, and we too must practice what we preach.

...Beginning the KINGDOM of God (God's rule in our lives)

Jesus came to earth to begin his kingdom. He spent a lot of time speaking about the kingdom of God. Matthew 6:33 says, "Seek first the kingdom of God..." This just means to seek God's rule. The way to enter God's kingdom is by faith – believing in Christ to save us from sin and change our lives.

...Risen from the DEAD (He is alive)

When Jesus rose from the dead, he rose in power as the true king. In his victory over death, he established his credentials as king and his power and authority over evil. The resurrection shows Jesus' all-powerful life for us – not even death could stop his plan of offering eternal life.

THINGS TO REMEMBER ABOUT MATTHEW¹

1. Matthew makes the first mention of the "church" in the New Testament (16:18) and makes the only reference to it in the Gospels.
2. Matthew contains the shortest prayer in the Bible: "Lord, save me!" (14:30)
3. Matthew contains one of the only two genealogies of Jesus (chap. 1), and it traces Him back to Abraham.
4. In Matthew's genealogy of Jesus, there are references to four Old Testament women with tainted pasts: Tamar (harlotry); Rahab (prostitute); Ruth (Moabitess); and Bathsheba (adulteress).
5. Only in Matthew's Gospel do we have the record of the visitation by the Magi to the Christ Child (chap. 2).
6. Only Matthew refers to himself in Scripture as a "tax collector" (10:3) – the other Gospel writers refer to him as Levi.
7. There are several unique dreams recorded in the Gospel of Matthew. In chapter 1, there is Joseph's dream in which an angel explains Mary's pregnancy to him, thereby averting a divorce. In chapter 2, there is Joseph's dream in which an angel wards him to flee from Herod with Mary and the Child into Egypt. Later on, in another dream, an angel tells Joseph that he can return to Israel from Egypt. In the same chapter, in still another dream, God instructs Joseph to relocate to Galilee. [note: It is interesting that each time, God spoke directly to Joseph, not to Mary.]
8. Matthew's inclusion of monetary words (3 words for money not found elsewhere in Scripture) reflect his background as a tax collector. Unique to Matthew is the account of the payment of the temple tax (17:24-27)

Life Lessons from MATTHEW²

1. Jesus shows you the Word of God is your best defense against the devil's temptations.
2. Jesus has entrusted His message to His disciples, or His followers. You become a follower when you trust in Him.
3. Jesus did not merely preach abstract religious ideas, but a new way of living.

¹ First seven are from Jeff Lasseigne, *Highway 66* (Santa Ana, CA: Calvary Chapel Publishing, 2004), Matthew.

² Jim George, *The Bare Bones Bible Handbook*, Matthew.