

# MATTHEW

ORDER IN NEW TESTAMENT

NUMBER OF CHAPTERS

TYPE

1 28

GOSPEL, SYNOPTIC



## OVERVIEW

One of the Gospels, this book is an account and testimony of Jesus Christ. It was written by Matthew, an educated tax collector who was one of the original Twelve Apostles. His account is unique in that it was written for the Jewish people, to persuade them that Jesus was the promised Messiah. Matthew understood the importance of supporting his testimony with Old Testament prophecy, which he cited more than 50 times. The book is a balance of stories, teachings, miracles, and prophecies.



WRITTEN  
50–60 AD



TIME PERIOD COVERED  
7 BC to 26 AD



AUTHOR  
Matthew the Apostle

1

THE BIRTH OF  
CHRIST  
SINGULAR TO  
THIS GOSPEL

MATTHEW 1–2

Matthew gives the genealogy of Jesus Christ going back to Abraham. When Joseph is hesitant to wed Mary, an angel appears to him and tells him not to fear taking her as his wife. Matthew also tells of the Magi, Herod's slaughter of babies, the escape to Egypt, and Jesus's family's return to Nazareth.

2

THE TEACHINGS  
OF CHRIST  
SINGULAR TO THIS  
GOSPEL

MATTHEW 3–25

Matthew shares the Sermon on the Mount. Of the 23 parables included, nine are original and include the Parable of the Sower, the Parable of the Ten Virgins, and the Parable of the Sheep and the Goats.

3

THE MIRACLES OF  
CHRIST SINGULAR  
TO THIS GOSPEL

MATTHEW 3–25

Of the 18 miracles mentioned, Matthew tells of two that are unique: Peter walking on the sea, and the coin found in the fish to pay the temple tax. A healing of two blind men may also be unique.

4

THE PROPHECIES  
OF CHRIST  
SINGULAR TO THIS  
GOSPEL

MATTHEW 3–25

Matthew's account refers to Peter as the Rock of the future church. He also shares Christ's prophecies that the kingdom would be handed over to the Gentiles, that the destruction of the Temple would occur in less than 50 years, and a famous description of the End Times.

5

THE DEATH,  
RESURRECTION,  
AND ASCENSION  
DETAILS  
SINGULAR TO THIS  
GOSPEL

MATTHEW 26–28

Matthew recounts the 30 pieces of silver and suicide of Judas, Pilate's wife's disturbing dream, the earthquake at the Resurrection, and the great commission to share Christ's teachings with the world.

# MATTHEW THE APOSTLE

## AT-A-GLANCE

### BOOK(S) WRITTEN:

**Book of Matthew**

### TYPE OF BOOK(S):

**Gospel (Matthew is the first of four gospels)**

### PROBABLE DATES OF WRITING:

**50-60 AD**



#### AUTHOR BACKGROUND:

Matthew's gospel was unique in how often he quoted Old Testament scripture to prove a point or show a prophecy fulfilled. Before his conversion, Mathew was a tax collector, which was considered an underhanded and dishonest occupation. Hence his following Jesus was remarkable, as was his gospel.

Matthew the apostle was born in Palestine. He became a tax collector in Capernaum, which is one of the dusty, working-class cities far north of Jerusalem bordering the Sea of Galilee. It was here he met Jesus in a story covered in Matthew 9. He followed Jesus through much of his ministry and into Jerusalem, where he stayed until after Pentecost.



#### UNUSUAL PLACES THIS AUTHOR WROTE:

Matthew is thought to have returned to his homeland of Palestine to share the gospel with his family and former community. The Orthodox Church documents him writing the gospel from the land of his birth.



#### UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH THIS AUTHOR WROTE:

As the author of Matthew, being surrounded by the Jewish people and traditions he knew so well inspired him to document his story with more than 90 references from the Old Testament. His gospel uses Old Testament proofs more than the other three put together.



# THE LAND OF THE GOSPELS

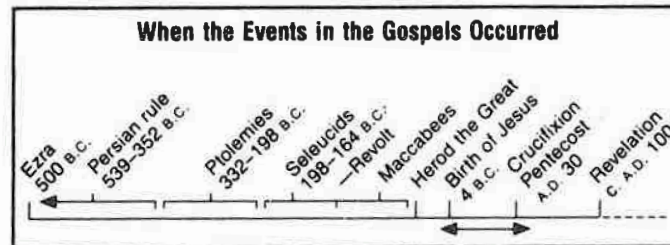




## Why Four Gospels?

Gospel	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
Audience	Jews	Romans	Hellenists	Greek World
Portrait of Jesus	Jesus is the <b>Messiah/King</b> who fulfills Old Testament prophecy and expectations	Jesus is the authoritative Son of God	Jesus is the perfect <b>Son of Man</b> who came to save and minister to all people through the power of the Holy Spirit and prayer	Jesus is the fully <b>divine Son of God</b> in whom we should believe to receive eternal life (the "I AM" of God)
Key Verses	Matthew 1:1; 16:16; 20:28	Mark 1:1; 8:27; 10:45; 15:34	Luke 19:10	John 20:31
Key Words	Fulfilled	Immediately	Son of Man	Believe; Eternal Life

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## THE ROMAN EMPIRE IN NEW TESTAMENT TIMES

