

# **MATTHEW**

First of the Four Gospels

# Writing of the Book

- The apostle Matthew was universally recognized as the author of this gospel very early on in church history, with Irenaeus and Origin, among many others, attesting to this.
- We don't know exactly when it was written, but it was almost certainly written before the fall of Jerusalem in 70, so sometime during the 50's or 60's.

# Outline of Matthew

## I. The Birth and Preparation of Jesus (1:1-4:16)

- a. Birth and Childhood of Jesus (1:1-2:23)
- b. Preparation for Ministry (3:1-4:16)

## II. Jesus' Public Ministry (4:17-16:20)

- a. Jesus Begins His Public Ministry (4:17-25)
- b. Jesus' Teaching on Discipleship (5:1-7:29)
- c. Jesus Authority Manifested (8:1-9:34)

## **II. Jesus' Public Ministry** *(continued)*

- d. The Disciples' Ministry (9:35-11:1)
- e. Jesus' Ministry Receives Diverse Response (11:2-12:50)
- f. Jesus' Parables of the Kingdom (13:1-53)
- g. Jesus' Teaching and Parables Receive Diverse Response (13:54-16:20)

## **III. Jesus Private Ministry in Galilee** (16:21-18:35)

- a. Teaching on Jesus' Mission (16:21-17:27)
- b. Teaching about Relationships among Jesus' Followers (18:1-35)

## **IV. Jesus' Ministry in Judea (19:1-25:46)**

- a. Teaching on the Way to Jerusalem (19:1-20:34)
- b. Arrival in Jerusalem (21:1-22)
- c. Confrontation in Jerusalem (21:23-23:39)
- d. Jesus' Teaching about the Future (24:1-25:46)

## **V. Jesus' Passion and Resurrection (26:1-28:20)**

- a. Preparation for the Passion (26:1-46)
- b. Jesus' Arrest and Trial (26:47-27:26)

## IV. Jesus' Passion and Resurrection *(continued)*

c. Jesus' Crucifixion (27:27-56)

d. Jesus' Burial and Resurrection (27:57-28:20)

# Purpose and Message

- Matthew nowhere formally states his purpose, so **we must discern his purpose from reading the Gospel** and seeing what he emphasizes.
- And really, he has multiple purposes, wanting to communicate the **ministry, teaching, and passion of Jesus Christ** while also addressing **contemporary issues** in his own ministry.

## **Purpose/Message** *continued*

- He tells us that the kingdom is present in some way in Jesus Christ through his life, death, and resurrection, **even as it is still future and will be consummated when he returns, but we are able to experience this reign as we come to Jesus, submitting to his authority, overcoming temptation, enduring persecution, and embracing his teaching.**

# Major Themes

Jesus is the Fulfillment of God's Intention

- Matthew emphasizes that the coming of Jesus is not just another event in history, but the supreme event in history, planned and prophesied by God long before it occurred.
- Not only was his life foretold in advance, God was actively involved as everything unfolded in Jesus' life.
- God was with Jesus in remarkable ways, just as he was with us as God.

# Major Themes

Jesus is the Savior of Israel and the World

- Jesus is the fulfillment of Scripture and of Israel itself.
- Just as Abraham began the nation, Jesus brings it to completion, just as David ruled, so Jesus will rule forever as his descendent.
- He is the final Word of God to God's people.
- Jesus also came to minister to the Gentiles, and to bring the Gentiles into God's kingdom.

# Major Themes

## Jesus the Supreme Authority

- The Great Commission ends with this, and it is clear throughout the Gospel.
- Jesus has authority over people, paralysis, suffering, illness, disease, blindness, leprosy, wind, water, the temple, sin, demons, nature, history, the destinies of all human beings, his own death, his mission, time, and the future.
- Matthew also uses many titles to denote the authority of Jesus: Lord of the Sabbath, Son of Man, and Son of God.

# Major Themes

Jesus the Teacher, Preacher, and Healer

- His entire public ministry is dedicated to instructing others and leading them into a deeper understanding of God.
- He taught in Galilee, in Judea, across the Jordan, on the road to Jerusalem, on the Mount of Olives, in the temple courts, in synagogues, houses, grainfields, hill country, and from a boat.
- He taught on weekdays and the Sabbath.

# Major Themes

Jesus the Teacher, Preacher, and Healer

- As a preacher, Jesus was the prophet expounding the Word of God and calling people to repentance, warning of coming judgment, announcing the arrival of the kingdom, proclaiming the end of the age.
- As healer, Jesus delivered the people from physical and spiritual bondage, rescuing from illness and demons.
- At one point, he sends out his disciples to heal.

# Major Themes

## The Followers of Jesus and the Church

- Matthew is the only Gospel that mentions the church by name.
- He also records lengthy sections of Jesus' teaching, presenting him as a new Moses giving a new law, founding the church, the people of God from all ethnicities.
- We now live in this church age, anticipating the kingdom, waiting for his return, obeying and sharing his Word.