

Book of Matthew

His Name

"Matthew" is a contraction of Mattathias, meaning "gift of the Lord." He is also called "Levi."

His Career

A former "tax collector" (customs) who was stationed in Capernaum (lots of traffic and trade)

Called by Jesus to discipleship (Mt 9:9-13)

One of the "twelve" (Mt 10:3; Mk 3:18; Ac 1:13)

No other biblical references

Tradition suggests Matthew spent 15 years in Palestine working among the Jews then he moved on to other areas

Tax Collectors

Numerous collectors were employed by Rome. They were dishonest individuals whose perception among the Israelites is seen in Mt 21:31-32. It's thought that a tax collector was a man with no conscience who could make a ton of money. Their business netted a big income - primarily from customs and tariffs on goods from out of the country or passing through the country. Part of the large income was a result of individuals not being well informed about customs rates. Primary targets included caravan traders and local merchants whom tax collectors would try to collect large amounts from.

Date and Place of Writing

Matthew likely wrote the Gospel around 50 AD from Palestine??

Purpose for Writing

To show that Jesus is the Messiah promised to the Jews in the Old Testament.

CHARACTERISTICS AND STYLE OF MATTHEW'S GOSPEL

Read Matthew 9:9-13 and then consider the following thoughts...

Construct this day in Matthew's life -

At the beginning of the day, what was on his mind?

At the beginning of the day, what was Matthew's attitude about the following:

- himself/his career?
- his relationship with God?
- his fellow Jews?
- the Pharisees?
- Jesus?

At the end of the day, what was his attitude about:

- himself/his career?
- his relationship with God?
- his fellow Jews?
- the Pharisees?
- Jesus?

Considering his culture, career, and call to discipleship by Jesus, what stylistic elements might you expect to find in Matthew's gospel?

Outline		<i>"Jesus Is the Messiah"</i>
Introduction & Preparation for Ministry		1:1 - 4:11
I. Galilean Ministry		4:12 - 7:27
Ministry (4:12-25)		
Messages (5:1 - 7:27)		
II. Miracles & Disciples Sent Out		7:28 - 10:42
Ministry (7:28 - 9:34)		
Messages (9:35 - 10:42)		
III. Growing Conflict & 7 Parables		11:1 - 13:52
Ministry (11:1 - 12:50)		
Messages (13:1-52)		
IV. Withdrawals & Sermon on Forgiveness		13:53 - 18:35
Ministry (13:53 - 17:27)		
Messages (18:1-35)		
V. Final Conflicts & Final Sermons		19:1 - 25:46
Ministry (19:1 - 22:46)		
Messages (23:1 - 25:46)		
Grand Conclusion		26:1 - 28:20
Suffering, Death, & Resurrection		

5 formula passages, "When Jesus had finished saying these things" - 7:28; 11:1; 13:53; 19:1; 26:1]

Things to Think about as you read Matthew's Gospel:

- ✓ Matthew quotes more OT prophecies than any other gospel writer
- ✓ Matthew calls Jesus the "Son of David" more often than any other gospel writer
- ✓ Matthew traces the genealogy of Jesus by starting with Abraham (Jewish Ancestry) while not ignoring the Gentiles (N.B. the women in Matthew's genealogy of Christ; the wise men)
- ✓ Matthew usually emphasizes the facts in a brief way and has a tendency to shorten his account
- ✓ Matthew has a fondness for arranging his material in groups of 3, 5, 7, and 10
- ✓ In the introduction, Matthew has 10 OT prophecies, 7 of which are Messianic
- ✓ 10 miracles are grouped in chap 8-9
- ✓ 7 parables in chap 13
- ✓ Matthew arranges material topically rather than chronologically
- ✓ Matthew is the only gospel to use the word "church"
- ✓ "kingdom of heaven" used 53 times in the book
- ✓ references to metals, money, official seal