

Matthew

Breakdown

- The Gospel of Matthew was written by one of Jesus' disciples named Matthew, who was previously called Levi. The name Matthew means "gift of the Lord" – which based on his name change, Matthew obviously believed his call from Jesus to be.
- Matthew begins his gospel with the birth of Jesus which scholars believe actually took place around 4 B.C., and the book ends with the resurrection around 33 A.D. Matthew wrote his gospel to the Jews in the early 60s A.D.

Main Points

- The Old Testament focused mainly on God's promise to redeem His people who had been separated from Him since the fall in the Garden of Eden. The Old Testament ended with God's people still waiting for that promise to be fulfilled.
- In their own unique way, each of the gospels shows Jesus as the fulfillment of God's promise. Matthew specifically focused on Jesus as the long-awaited King – the Messiah who came to restore the goodness of creation by bringing God's kingdom from heaven to the earth. Matthew shows us how Jesus fulfilled God's promise of redemption through Himself, but he doesn't stop there. He ends his gospel with Jesus sending His disciples (including us) into the world to take the good news of Jesus to all nations.

Did you know?

- Family lineage is very important to the Jews, so Matthew begins his gospel with the lineage of Jesus. Why is it important for us to know the lineage of Jesus, and which Old Testament people stand out to you as you read the genealogy of Jesus?
- One of Jesus' most famous messages was the Sermon on the Mount. At the end of this message, the crowds were amazed at His teaching. Why was His teaching different from the teachers of the Law?
- Matthew is the writer of the Gospel of Matthew, but Jesus also called him to be one of His disciples. What was Matthew's occupation before becoming a disciple?
- One of the main things Jesus taught about in his ministry was the kingdom of God, but in Matthew's gospel, he always calls it the kingdom of heaven. Why?
- Jesus warned his disciples about his upcoming death on 5 different occasions. Can you name all 5 times?
- Pilate's wife sent him an urgent message about Jesus, saying he should "leave that innocent man alone". Why was Pilate's wife so adamant about leaving Jesus alone?

Further Thought

- Jesus' focus throughout His ministry was teaching about the Kingdom of God (Heaven). He even told us that we should seek the kingdom above anything else. What impact does seeking the kingdom have on our lives?
- Another thing Jesus talked a lot about was authority. He has ALL authority, and when we make Him our Lord, He give us the right to use His authority. What should we do differently in our lives, knowing that we have the authority of Jesus?