

Purpose

To prove that Jesus is the Messiah, the eternal King

To Whom Written

Matthew wrote to the Jews

Date Written

Approximately 60-65 AD

Setting

Matthew was a tax collector who became one of Jesus' disciples. This Gospel forms the connecting link between the Old and New Testaments because of its emphasis on the fulfillment of prophecy.

Key People

Jesus, Mary, Joseph, John the Baptist, the disciples, the religious leaders, Caiaphas, Pilate, and Mary Magdalene

Key Places

Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Capernaum, Galilee, Judea

Key Verse

"Don't misunderstand why I have come. I did not come to abolish the law or the prophets. No, I came to fulfill them." *Matthew 5:17*

Special Feature

Matthew is filled with Messianic language (Son of David) and 129 Old Testament references.

An Overview (28 Chapters)

- Birth and Preparation of Jesus (1:1-4:11)
- Message and Ministry of Jesus (4:12-25:46)
- Death and Resurrection of Jesus (26:1-28:20)

Major Themes

- *Jesus Christ, the King:* 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 other person.
- *The Messiah:* 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, to free His people from sin's oppression.
- *Kingdom of God:* Jesus came to earth to begin His Kingdom. His full Kingdom will be realized at His return and will be made of anyone who has faithfully followed Him.
- *Teachings:* Jesus taught the people through sermons, illustrations, and parables. Through His teachings, He showed the true ingredients of faith and how to guard against a fruitless and hypocritical life.
- *Resurrection:* When Jesus rose from the dead, He rose in power as the true King. In His victory over death, He made a way for His followers to have eternal life.