

# Matthew

## Original Historical Setting

**Author:** Matthew

**Written:** ~55-65 A.D.

**Audience:** Jewish Christians, perhaps living in Antioch, Syria

**Occasion:** Matthew seems to have composed his Gospel in large part to help the Jewish Christians to know that the Messiah, Jesus, was the fulfillment of Old Testament Scripture.

### **Timeline:**

~6-2 BC – Jesus is born

~5-1 BC – King Herod dies

~27 AD – Jesus begins His ministry

~30 AD – Jesus is crucified

70 AD – Temple is destroyed

## World Events that occur simultaneously

30 B.C. –Cleopatra and Marc Antony commit suicide

14 A.D. –Tiberius begins 23 years as Roman emperor

43 A.D. –Rome invades Britain

## Features and Structure

Matthew notes a transition to a new aspect of Jesus' ministry by using the words, "from that time Jesus began to" (**4:17; 16:21**).

This serves as a way to organize the Gospel into three sections:

### **OUTLINE**

**1:-4:16**      **The** introduction to the King

**4:17-16:20**    **The** authority of/opposition to/response of the King

**16:21-28:20**   **The** official rejection of the King

## Genre/Literary style

A Gospel composed in ordinary (Koine) Greek

## Memory Verse: Matthew 6:33

## Key text(s)

**4:4** – Man shall not live by bread alone

**6:33** – Seek first the Kingdom of God

**7:12** – Golden Rule

**16:16-18** – Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God"

## What to look for

- Now that we have read through the Old Testament, try to remember some of the prophecies about the coming Messiah and see if you can recognize their fulfillment in Jesus as you read.
- Also note that Jesus does not fulfill all of the prophecies that are still yet to be fulfilled such as when Isaiah says that the poor and needy will be treated with fairness and wolves will rest with lambs (11:4, 6). Many of the prophecies concerning a Kingdom of everlasting peace will be fulfilled at the return of the Messiah.
- Notice how often the term "kingdom" is mentioned (more than fifty times) and usually in the phrase, "kingdom of Heaven" or "kingdom of God."
- Matthew presents the teachings of Jesus in five major discourses. He signals the end of each discourse with words such as, "when Jesus had ended these sayings" (**7:28; 11:1; 13:53; 19:1; 26:1**)

## Interesting facts

- In the family tree of Jesus (1:1-17) are four women with tarnished backgrounds—not the kind of people the Jews would expect in the family tree of the promised Messiah: Rahab, a pagan prostitute; Bathsheba, an adulteress; Ruth, a non-Jew; and Tamar who became pregnant by her father-in-law.
- Matthew is the only Gospel to use the term "church." (**16:18; 18:17**)
- Matthew is the name of Pastor Dave's first born son.