

## New Testament Foundations: Session Three

# Matthew: The Gospel to the Jews

### AUTHORSHIP

1. Matthew was a tax-collector from \_\_\_\_\_ who gave a banquet to introduce his tax-collecting friends to Jesus.

“Tax collectors were ranked with murderers and robbers, and a Jew was permitted to lie to them if necessary. Tax collectors are lumped together with harlots (Matthew 21:31), Gentiles (Matthew 18:17), and most often sinners (Matthew 9:10). They were as offensive to Jews for their economic and social practices as lepers were for their uncleanness; both were excluded from the people of God.”<sup>1</sup>

2. Matthew was written sometime between \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_ AD and may have been the first recorded Gospel.
3. Matthew wrote for a Jewish audience to persuade them that Jesus was the \_\_\_\_\_ of their Messianic hopes as pictured in the Old Testament. It is a proper introduction to the New Testament and a bridge to the Old Testament.
  - Matthew has more than \_\_\_\_\_ quotations and seventy-five allusions from twenty-five Old Testament books. He does not explain Jewish customs but assumes that his readers are familiar with them. He begins Jesus’ genealogy from Abraham and David.
  - Christ is presented as \_\_\_\_\_ coming to the Jews and then to all of humanity. This is reflected in the inclusion of the Persian Magi (2:1-12), the Roman centurion who had greater faith than in all Israel (8:5-13), the Canaanite woman with her great faith (15:22-28), and the commission to “go and make disciples of all nations.” (28:19)

### BACKGROUND

1. Matthew was the most admired and most \_\_\_\_\_ Gospel by the Church Fathers during the first three centuries.
2. All the early canon lists place Matthew \_\_\_\_\_. The other three vary in their order.
3. Matthew’s account contains much information that is not included in the other Gospels.
  - He included ten parables, two miracles, four events concerning Christ’s infancy, and six incidents connected with the Passion and the Resurrection that are not in the other Gospels.

The Tares	13:24-30
The Hidden Treasure	13:44
The Net	13:47-50
The Pearl of Great Price	13:45, 46
The Unmerciful Servant	18:23-35
The Laborers in the Vineyard	20:1-16
The Two Sons	21:28-31

<sup>1</sup> Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary

The Marriage of the King's Son	22:2-14
The Ten Virgins	25:1-13
The Talents	25:14-26

The Visit of the Magi	2:1-16
The Massacre of the Infants	2:16-18
The Flight into Egypt	2:13-15
The Return to Nazareth	2:19-23

The Two Blind Men	9:27-30
The Coin in the Fish	17:24-27

The Bargain and Suicide of Judas	27:3-10
The Dream of Pilate's Wife	27:19
The Resurrection of the Departed Saints	27:52,53
The Watch at the Sepulcher	27:62-66
The Story of the Sanhedrim	28:11-15
The Earthquake on Resurrection Morning	28:2

## STYLE

1. Matthew's Gospel is \_\_\_\_\_. He is not as concerned with an exact chronology as he is with grouping events and teachings that have a thematic connection.
2. Matthew's Gospel is \_\_\_\_\_. One-fourth of the whole contains the words and teaching of Jesus.
3. Matthew's Gospel is \_\_\_\_\_. It has an introduction, a conclusion, and five main sections in between.
  - Matthew begins with a prologue divided into six sections (genealogy, birth, visit of the Magi, escape to Egypt, massacre at Bethlehem, and return to Nazareth) and ends with an epilogue.
  - He then follows with six clearly marked sections. Each section begins with narrative, ends with teaching, and contains a challenge. Each section ends with the words, "When Jesus had finished saying these...things, words, parables, etc." (Matthew 7:28; 11:1; 13:53; 19:1; 26:1)

SECTION	NARRATIVE	TEACHING	CHALLENGE
Prologue (1:1-2:23)			
Section #1 (3:1-7:29)	(3:1-4:25)	(5:1-7:29)	Challenge to Act on the Word (7:21-27)
Section #2 (8:1-11:1)	(8:1-10:4)	(10:5-11:1)	Challenge to Follow (10:32-39)
Section #3 (11:2-13:53)	(11:2-12:50)	(13:1-13:53)	Challenge to Understand (13:51)
Section #4 (13:54-19:2)	(13:54-17:27)	(18:1-19:2)	Challenge to Testify (16:13-15)
Section #5 (19:3-25:46)	(19:3-23:39)	(24:1-25:46)	Challenge to Repent (23:37-39)
Section #6 (26:1-28:10)	(26:1-28:10)	(???)	(???)
Epilogue (28:11-20)			Challenge to Go (28:18-20)

## THEME

1. Matthew's object was to show that Jesus was the Messiah of the Jews and the fulfilment of the law and the prophecies.
2. The promised kingdom has already come through the life, death, resurrection, and exaltation of Jesus. Matthew is the Gospel of Christ the King and His Kingdom.