

The Book of Matthew

From ancient prophecy to the risen King

Step into the site

Open this first scroll of the New Testament, and you step onto the roads of Judea and the shores of Galilee. Here, Israel's long story meets its promised end and new beginning. Matthew writes so that we will see Jesus clearly: the Son of David, the Son of Abraham, Emmanuel. He is the King who fulfills the Scriptures, brings the kingdom of heaven to earth, and calls ordinary people to follow Him.

Identifying the Writer

Matthew, the tax collector Jesus called to discipleship, records this Gospel with the precision of a trained scribe and the warmth of a transformed heart. From the earliest days, the church recognized him as the author, arranging eyewitness testimony to show how the Law and Prophets are fulfilled in Christ. This is the work of a Jewish believer who knows his Scriptures and wants you to know the King.

Determining the Audience

Matthew writes first to Jewish Christians, many of them wrestling with questions of identity under Roman rule and amid synagogue pressure. He shows them that following Jesus is not a departure from Israel's story but its goal. From Magi at the manger to the mandate on a Galilean mountain, the Gospel announces good news for all nations.

Sifting through the Setting

The story unfolds in Judea and Galilee during the decades before Jerusalem's fall in AD 70. The temple still stands, Rome rules, and expectations for the Messiah run high. Against this backdrop, Matthew presents Jesus as the greater Moses who gives God's word from the mountain, the true Son of David who brings a better kingdom, and the righteous Servant who gives His life as a ransom for many. The narrative moves steadily toward Jerusalem, where the King is crucified, raised, and revealed as Lord of heaven and earth.

Deciphering the Divine Message

God preserved Matthew because it reveals Jesus as the promised King and summons us to follow Him as citizens of His kingdom. Matthew teaches us that:

- God keeps His promises, fulfilling the Law and the Prophets in His Son.
- Jesus is Emmanuel, God with us, who remains present with His people to the end of the age.
- The kingdom of heaven has come, revealed through the words, works, and cross of Christ.
- True righteousness flows from a transformed heart and is lived out in the way of the cross.
- The mission of the King is global, sending His church to make disciples of all nations.

We study Matthew because the King has come, and His kingdom is here. This Gospel is not merely a message to be remembered. It is a call to worship the King, to walk in His ways, and to proclaim His reign until He returns.

Uncovering the Layers

Matthew alternates deeds and discourse, revealing Jesus' authority in action and word. The Sermon on the Mount sets the ethics of the kingdom. The parables unveil the kingdom's mystery and growth. Fulfillment formulas stitch the Old Testament into the life of Christ. The Gospel also forms a people. It instructs disciples, shapes community life, warns against hypocrisy, and sends the church on mission with the King's presence.

Key Verse

"Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Matthew 28:19–20

Synthesizing the Story

Matthew stands in Scripture as the bridge where promise meets fulfillment. The covenant with Abraham to bless the nations and the royal promise to David find their Yes in Jesus. He is the true Israel who obeys in the wilderness, the greater Moses who speaks from the mountain, and the King whose cross becomes His throne. The Gospel looks back to all God pledged and looks forward through the Great Commission, gathering a people from every nation who live under the reign of the risen Lord.



Scan
code
for
full
overview