

Discover the New Testament – Matthew

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- The New Testament is a collection of 27 books by 8 or 9 authors (Hebrews is disputed), written over a 50 year time period.
- Major Book Divisions of the New Testament:
 - Historical – Matthew, Mark, Luke, John & Acts
 - Doctrinal – Romans, I & II Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, I&II Thessalonians, Hebrews, James, I & II Peter, Jude and I John.
 - Personal – I & II Timothy, Titus, Philemon, and II & III John
 - Prophetic – Revelation
- New Testament authors:
 - All of the writers were Jews except Luke.
 - Only Matthew, Peter, and John were of the original 12 disciples of the Lord.
 - Mark, James, and Jude were engaged in active ministry in the early church and had been with the apostolic group.
 - Neither Luke nor Paul were eyewitnesses of the life of Christ, but both men were well known to those who were.

The Gospels

- Matthew, Mark, and Luke are known as the “Synoptic Gospels” because they take similar views of the life, ministry, and teaching of Jesus.
- They focus on the Kingdom of God.
- The Gospel of John approaches the Life of Jesus from a completely different view point. It omits things the others cover and covers things the others omit. John focuses on Eternal Life, not the Kingdom.

The Gospel of Matthew

- Matthew, also known as Levi, was a tax collector and was one of the original 12. He was an eyewitness to the life, ministry, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus.
- Written before 70 A.D, probably from Antioch (Turkey)
- Emphasizes Jesus as Messiah showing the genealogy to Abraham.
- Written to Jewish converts to Christ.
- Around 60 Old Testament references are used to verify the advent of Jesus.
- Written to show that Jesus fulfilled the law
- The only gospel where the word “church” appears.
- Contains the largest amount of discourse material found in the Gospels; about 3/5s of the Gospel are the words of Jesus.
- The theme of Matthew is “The Kingdom of God.”
- Matthew’s Gospel reveals Jesus as the King.
 - Stresses the royalty of Christ
 - Shows the genealogy and includes King David
 - The wise men come seeking a King.
 - Jesus is hailed as King in his triumphal entry (Palm Sunday)
 - Jesus as King seen ruling the Nations – Matthew 25
 - Reveals the inscription over the cross – King of the Jews

- Matthew stresses Jesus as the Jewish Messiah and shows His death as it relates to prophecy.
- Although Jewish in character, Matthew is written to show the reach of the Gospel beyond the Jews, to the Gentiles – Matthew 29:19
- Book Content:
 - Record of Jesus' birth, baptism, temptation, and ministry - (Matthew 1-4)
 - Sermon on the mount - (Matthew 5-7)
 - Various miracles - (Matthew 8-11)
 - Parables – (Matthew 11:2-13:53) – Each reveals the Kingdom of Heaven
 - Rejection at Nazareth – (Matthew 13:54-58)
 - Threat of Herod – (Matthew 14:1-12)
 - Disciples slow to understand – (Matthew 15:12, 16:5-11)
 - Transfiguration – (Matthew 18:15-35)
 - Teaching on forgiveness – (Matthew 18:15-35)
 - Conflict with religious groups and prophecy of future doom on the city of Jerusalem – (Matthew 19:3 – 26:2)
 - Passion – Death – Resurrection – (Matthew 26:3-28:10)
- While Matthew contains:
 1. 20 of the 36 recorded miracles of Jesus
 2. 6 major discourses of Jesus
 1. The Sermon on the Mount
 2. The Charge to the 12 Apostles
 3. The Kingdom Parables
 4. Teaching about Greatness and Forgiveness
 5. The Rebuke of the Religious Leaders
 6. The Olivet Discourse
- His main focus is on “The Kingdom of God,” and he mentions it 38 times.
- The Kingdom of God has three basic elements:
 1. A ruler with power and authority
 2. Subjects to be ruled
 3. The actual exercise of his power and authority through his subjects.
- Matthew shows the Kingdom of God in a:
 1. Spiritual Kingdom

Matthew 6:33 - But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.
 2. Literal Earthly Kingdom

Matthew 4:17 - From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, “Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

 - It was this aspect of the Kingdom that Israel rejected when it was offered to them by Jesus.
 3. Future Kingdom
- The Prophecies of Jesus the King: (Matthew 24:1 through 25:46)
 1. The first half of the Tribulation (24:4-8)
 2. The second half of the Tribulation (24:9-25)
 3. The Second Coming of Christ (24:26-30)

4. The gathering of Israel at the end (24:31)
5. The exhortation to be watchful (24:32-51)
5. The Judgments of the living at the end of the Tribulation (25:1-46)

Matthew 20:20-28 – **20** Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Him with her sons, kneeling down and asking something from Him. **21** And He said to her, "What do you wish?" She said to Him, "Grant that these two sons of mine may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on the left, **in Your kingdom.**" **22** But Jesus answered and said, "You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" They said to Him, "We are able." **23** So He said to them, "You will indeed drink My cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with; but to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but it is for those for whom it is prepared by My Father." **24** And when the ten heard it, they were greatly displeased with the two brothers. **25** But Jesus called them to Himself and said, "You know that **the rulers** of the Gentiles **lord it or rule over** them, and those who are great **exercise authority over** them. **26** Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. **27** And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave or servant — **28** just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to **give His life** a ransom for many."