

New Testament Survey

Gospel of Matthew

I. Attestation and Authorship¹

A. Matthew is quoted by many church fathers and heretics.

1. The *Didache* mentions Matthew more than any other gospel.
2. The *Epistle of Barnabas* first uses the authoritative formula, "It is written" when quoting Matthew 20:12 and 22:14.
3. Hermas appears to paraphrase Matthew 13:5-8, 31, 32, and 18:3 in *Similitudes*.
4. Justin Martyr makes numerous references to Matthew.
5. Matthew was incorporated into Tatian's *Diatesseron*, the Old Latin, and the Old Syriac versions of the NT.

B. Written by Levi=Matthew, the son of Alphaeus.

1. The early church unanimously ascribed this gospel to Matthew.
2. Papias said, "Matthew composed the Logia in the Hebrew tongue; and each one interpreted them as he was able."
3. Irenaus and Origen ascribe this gospel to Matthew.
4. Additional evidence for Matthew's authorship is:
 - a. It would be strange for the early church to ascribe this gospel to Matthew since Matthew was a very obscure disciple.
 - b. Matthew was probably the most educated of the disciples, having been a tax-collector. As such, he would have a good understanding of Greek, Hebrew, and Aramaic. There are many references to the both the LXX and Hebrew versions of the OT.

II. Original Language²

A. There is some evidence from Papias that Matthew wrote an Aramaic Gospel.

1. Some use this statement to say that Matthew wrote the sayings (Logia) of Jesus and that some later author took these sayings and produced the book. This, of course, denies the authorship of Matthew.
2. Others say that Matthew wrote the gospel originally in Aramaic and later on it was translated to Greek.

¹ Henry C. Thiessen, *Introduction to the New Testament*, (Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Co, 1987), pp. 130ff.

² Robert G. Gromacki, *New Testament Survey*, (Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Co., 1993), pp. 68ff.

3. Another possibility is that Matthew wrote two gospels, one in Aramaic and the other in Greek. Only the Greek copy has survived to become part of the NT canon.
- B. Most likely, Matthew was originally written in Greek as there is no internal evidence that it is a translation.
- II. Occasion and Date
- A. Produced in response to the need to have a written history of Christ.
 - B. Written approximately A.D. 37-50.
- III. Purpose and Plan³
- A. To present Christ as the King of the Jews.
 - B. To show that Christ was the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies concerning the Messiah.
 - C. To answer the criticisms of the Jews regarding the person and work of Christ.
- IV. General Outline⁴
- A. The Birth and Qualifications of the Messiah - Matthew 1
 - B. The Recognition of the Messiah - Matthew 2
 - C. The Preparation of the Messiah for Ministry - Matthew 3:1-4:11
 - D. The Presentation of the Messiah to Israel - Matthew 4:12-16:20
 - E. The Words and Works of the Messiah in Face of the Cross - Matthew 16:21-20:34.
 - F. The Rejection of Israel by the Messiah - Matthew 21-23
 - G. The Messiah's Predictions to His Disciples - Matthew 24-25
 - H. The Passion, Triumph, and Commission of the Messiah - Matthew 26-28
- V. Chapters to Remember
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| Matthew 1 | The Royal Lineage of Christ |
| Matthew 2 | The Visit of the Wise Men |
| Matthew 4 | The Temptation of Christ |
| Matthew 5-7 | The Sermon on the Mount |
| Matthew 10 | The Discourse on Discipleship |
| Matthew 13 | The Parables of the Kingdom |

³ Thiessen, pp. 137-138.

⁴ Thiessen, p. 138.

Matthew 16	The Mount of Transfiguration
Matthew 18	The Childlikeness of the Believer
Matthew 22-23	Conflict with the Pharisees
Matthew 24-25	The Olivet Discourse
Matthew 26	The Lord's Supper
Matthew 27	The Crucifixion
Matthew 28	The Resurrection and Great Commission

VI. Points and Peculiarities.

- A. Matthew is Jewish.
- B. Chapters 1-4, 14-28 chronological, 5-13 topical.
- C. "Righteous" and "righteousness" occur more in Matthew than all the other synoptics combined.
- D. Only gospel in which the word "church" occurs.
- E. Six great addresses.
 - 1. Sermon on the Mount - Matthew 5-7
 - 2. Address to the Twelve - Matthew 10
 - 3. Parables of the Kingdom - Matthew 13
 - 4. Discourse on the Childlikeness of the Believer - Matthew 18
 - 5. Denunciation of the Pharisees - Matthew 23
 - 6. Olivet Discourse - Matthew 24-26
- F. 15 parables, 20 miracles of which 10 parables and 3 miracles are peculiar to Matthew.
- G. Matthew shows an interest in the Gentiles.
- H. Records Judas' "repentance."

VII. A Closer Look

- A. Matthew 1
 - 1. Genealogy of Christ
 - 2. *Parthenos* in verse 22
- B. Matthew 2
 - 1. Visit of the Wise Men

- C. Matthew 3
 - 1. John the Baptist
 - 2. The Baptism of Christ
- D. Matthew 4
 - 1. The Temptation of Christ - Peccability vs. Impeccability
 - 2. The Presentation of the Kingdom
- E. Matthew 5-7
 - 1. The Beatitudes
 - 2. Christ and the Law
 - 3. "It hath been said, but I say"
 - 4. Hypocrisy
 - 5. The Proper view of Wealth
 - 6. The Straight and the Narrow
- F. Matthew 10
 - 1. The Calling of the Twelve
 - 2. The Discourse on Discipleship
- G. Matthew 12
 - 1. The Rejection of the Messiah by Israel
- H. Matthew 13:1-52
 - 1. The Parable of the Sower
 - 2. The Parable of the Tares
 - 3. The Parable of the Mustard Seed
 - 4. The Parable of the Leaven
 - 5. The Parable of the Treasure in a Field
 - 6. The Parable of the Pearl of Great Price
 - 7. The Parable of the Dragnet
- I. Matthew 13:53-16:12 - The Parable of the Sower Illustrated
 - 1. Nazareth - Hard Soil - Matthew 13:53-58
 - 2. Herod - The Hard Soil - Matthew 14:1-12.

3. The Multitudes - Stony Soil - Matthew 14:13-23
 4. The Disciples - Good Soil - Matthew 14:24-33
 5. The Scribes and Pharisees - Hard Soil - Matthew 15:1-20
 6. The Syrophonecian - Good Soil - Matthew 15:21-28
 7. The Multitudes - Stony Soil - Matthew 15:29-39
 8. The Pharisees - Hard Soil - Matthew 16:1-12
- J. Matthew 16:13 -17
1. Peter's Confession
 2. The Mount of Transfiguration
- K. Matthew 18
1. The Childlikeness of the Believer
 2. Forgiveness
- L. Matthew 19
1. Adultery and Divorce
 2. The Rich Young Ruler
- M. Matthew 20
1. The Parable of the Laborers in the Vineyard
 2. Christ in Jericho
- N. Matthew 21
1. The Triumphal Entry
 2. The Cleansing of the Temple
 3. The Parable of the Vineyard
- O. Matthew 22-23
1. Christ Confronts His Critics
 2. The Woes against the Pharisees
- P. Matthew 24-25
1. The Olivet Discourse
 2. Illustrations Regarding Christ's Soon Coming
 - a. The Parable of the Fig Tree

- b. The Days of Noah
- c. The Thief
- d. The Parable of the Ready Steward
- e. The Parable of the Ten Virgins
- f. The Parable of the Talents

3. The Judgment of Nations

Q. Matthew 26-28

- 1. The Betrayal of Christ
- 2. The Trials of Jesus
- 3. The Crucifixion
- 4. The Resurrection
- 5. The Great Commission