

GOSPEL of *Grace*
FELLOWSHIP

Matthew

Jesus Christ, the Promised Messiah

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Meaning of the Name

Matthew, the apostle, was originally called Levi and identified as a tax collector, the son of Alphaeus (Matt. 9:9; Mark 2:14; Luke 5:27).

His new Christian name was probably contracted from the Semitic *Mattathias*, which means “gift of Yahweh.” (Heb. *Mattityahu*)

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F – L – I – G – H – T

F – Though the Gospel of Matthew does not name its author, church tradition asserts that Jesus’ disciple Matthew, originally named Levi, wrote the account. Matthew was a tax collector who became a disciple of Jesus.

The date Matthew was written is unknown. Most Bible scholars project it to be between AD 60 and 70, but it may have been written as early as AD 38.

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F – L – I – G – H – T

L – Matthew presented Jesus Christ as the true Messiah and King of the Jews. He wrote for the benefit of the Jews scattered abroad who had no access to the apostles’ teaching. His skill at record-keeping made him quite capable of presenting the facts of Jesus’ life right alongside OT references to him. In particular, Matthew quoted a number of prophecies fulfilled by Jesus’ first coming to convince Jews of Jesus’ messiahship and authority.

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F – L – I – G – H – T

I

- Preparation for the King (1:1-4:11)
- Principles of the Kingdom (4:12-13:52)
- Proofs of the Kingly Power (13:53-18:35)
- Parables of the Kingdom Life (19-25)
- Passion and Power of the King (26-28)

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F – L – I – G – H – T

G – The four Gospels – the four proclamations of the *euangelion*, the good news – serve less as biographies and more as testimonials to the most astonishing historical event ever: God became flesh and walked among us in the person of the Messiah, Jesus Christ.

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F-L-I-G-H-T

G – The key word in Matthew’s gospel is *fulfilled*. As Jesus fulfilled prophecy after prophecy about the Messiah, Matthew made note of it and quoted those OT prophecies in his writing, looking to persuade his Jewish audience.

F-L-I-G-H-T

H – When we left Malachi, the Persian Empire ruled the world. When the book of Matthew opens, we see a new leading power in Europe and the Middle East: the Roman Empire.

Augustus Caesar was the Roman Emperor from 27 BC-AD 14. Tiberius Caesar was the Roman emperor from AD 14-37. Pontius Pilate was the Roman procurator of Judaea from AD 26-36.

F-L-I-G-H-T

H – The Romans put a descendent of the Edomites on the throne of Judea, Herod the Great, who built up Zerubbabel’s temple into a majestic complex, but also ordered the slaughter of innocent children as he hunted the foretold Messiah.

His son, Herod Antipas, succeeded him in Jesus’ day, reigning over the regions of Galilee and Perea.

F-L-I-G-H-T

T – **The world’s idea of what it means to be blessed – having health, wealth, and beauty – is the opposite of what Jesus taught in the sermon on the mount: Happiness comes from being poor in spirit, mournful, and meek (5:2-12).** It’s a paradox, but it’s consistent with Scripture: God honors those who humble themselves.

F-L-I-G-H-T

T – **Jesus is the Great Liberator.** Matthew included the names of 4 women in his genealogy of Christ – something that just wasn’t done at that time in Jewish history. Jesus recognized women, talked with them, healed them, and made them part of his plan to shake up the world. Feminists didn’t liberate women; Jesus did.

F-L-I-G-H-T

T – **The Golden Rule (7:12) is the summary statement of God’s kingdom ethics – how we as his children are to treat others.** It sets Christianity apart from all other belief systems. Instead of *not* doing what you *don’t* want others to do to you, Jesus told us to *do* the right thing – to be loving, kind, and generous.

Genealogy of Christ

- 14 Generations from Abraham to David (1:2-6a)
- 14 Generations from David to Exile (1:6b-11)
- 14 Generations from Exile to Christ (1:12-16)

1:17

Five Discourses

- Sermon on the Mount (5-7)
- Instruction of the Disciples (10)
- Kingdom Parables (13)
- Obligations of Discipleship (18)
- Olivet Discourse (24)

Events Unique to Matthew

- Vision of Joseph (1:20-24)
- Visit of the Magi (2:1-12)
- Flight to Egypt (2:13-15)
- Massacre of the Infants (2:16)
- Dream of Pilate's Wife (27:19)
- Death of Judas (27:3-10)
- Resurrection of the Saints (27:52)
- Bribery of the Guard (28:12-15)
- Baptismal Commission (28:19-20)

Parables Unique to Matthew

- The Tares (13:24-30)
- The Hidden Treasure (13:44)
- The Pearl of Great Price (13:45-46)
- Drawing in the Net (13:47-50)
- The Unforgiving Servant (18:23-35)
- The Workers in the Vineyard (20:1-16)
- The Two Sons (21:28-32)
- The Ten Virgins (25:1-13)
- The Sheep and the Goats (25:31-46)