



Bible Study Reference Guide

The Gospel
According to
Matthew

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Introduction to the Bible Reference Guide

Welcome to the Bible Reference Guide for the Book of Matthew! This resource is specifically designed to enhance your understanding of one of the most significant Gospels in the New Testament. Whether you are new to studying the Bible or are looking to deepen your insights, this guide will serve as a valuable tool in your journey through the life and teachings of Jesus as presented by Matthew.

Purpose of the Guide

The purpose of this guide is to provide clarity and insight into the key themes, characters, and passages found in the Book of Matthew. By exploring various aspects of this Gospel, including historical context, thematic elements, and practical applications, you will gain a richer appreciation for the message Matthew conveys about Jesus as the Messiah and the nature of the Kingdom of Heaven.

How to Use the Guide

This reference guide is organized into several sections, each focusing on different aspects of Matthew and related topics. You can use this guide in a variety of ways:

- **Study Companion:** As you read through 1 Kings and 2 Kings, refer to this guide for background information, explanations of key terms, and summaries of important events.
- **Teaching Resource:** If you are preparing a lesson or sermon, this guide provides a wealth of material to support your teaching, including timelines, glossaries, and thematic discussions.
- **Personal Reflection:** Use the study questions and practical applications to reflect on how the lessons of 1 Kings apply to your own life and faith journey.

Author and Historical Context

The Book of Matthew is traditionally attributed to Matthew, one of Jesus' twelve apostles, who was a tax collector before following Jesus. Written primarily for a Jewish audience, the Gospel of Matthew emphasizes Jesus as the Messiah prophesied in the Old Testament. It was likely composed between AD 70 and 100, during a time of transition for the early church as it sought to establish its identity in the wake of the Jewish-Roman conflicts.

Key Themes

- **Fulfillment of Prophecy:** Matthew frequently cites Old Testament prophecies to demonstrate how Jesus fulfills these predictions, establishing Him as the awaited Messiah. Key examples include the virgin birth (Isaiah 7:14) and the slaughter of infants (Jeremiah 31:15).
- **Kingdom of Heaven:** This Gospel emphasizes the concept of the "Kingdom of Heaven," detailing its nature, values, and the ethical standards expected of its citizens. Jesus' teachings provide a radical reinterpretation of the law and highlight the inclusivity of God's grace.
- **Discipleship:** Matthew highlights the call to discipleship, emphasizing commitment to Jesus and the transformation required to follow Him. The teachings of Jesus in this Gospel challenge traditional views and encourage believers to live out their faith actively.
- **Authority of Jesus:** The Gospel showcases Jesus' authority through His teachings, miracles, and ultimately His resurrection. Matthew presents Jesus as a teacher with authority, contrasting Him with the religious leaders of the time.
- **Mission to All Nations:** The final commission of Jesus in Matthew 28:19-20 underscores the call to spread the Gospel to all nations, laying the groundwork for the mission of the church.

Structure

The Gospel of Matthew can be divided into five main sections, mirroring the five books of the Torah:

Birth and Preparation of Jesus (Chapters 1-4):

- Genealogy and birth of Jesus (Matthew 1)
- Visit of the Magi, flight to Egypt, and return to Nazareth (Matthew 2)
- John the Baptist's ministry and Jesus' baptism (Matthew 3)
- Temptation of Jesus (Matthew 4:1-11)

The Sermon on the Mount (Chapters 5-7):

- Jesus teaches about the Beatitudes, the law, prayer, fasting, and the importance of inner purity.

Ministry of Jesus (Chapters 8-10):

- A series of miracles and teachings demonstrating Jesus' authority and compassion.
- Jesus calls His disciples and sends them out to preach (Matthew 10).

Opposition to Jesus (Chapters 11-16):

- Encounters with the religious leaders and responses to doubts about His identity.
- Peter's confession of Jesus as the Messiah (Matthew 16:13-20).

Passion and Resurrection (Chapters 17-28):

- Jesus' transfiguration, final teachings, crucifixion, and resurrection.
- The Great Commission to make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:16-20).

Glossary of Key Terms

Beatitudes: A series of blessings pronounced by Jesus during the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:3-12) that highlight the values of the Kingdom of Heaven.

Baptism: A ritual washing or immersion in water, signifying repentance and purification. In Matthew, John the Baptist baptizes Jesus (Matthew 3:13-17).

Capernaum: A fishing village on the northern shore of the Sea of Galilee where Jesus performed many miracles and began His ministry (Matthew 4:13).

Christ: The title for Jesus, meaning "Anointed One." It signifies His role as the Messiah in fulfilling Old Testament prophecies.

Disciples: Followers of Jesus who learned from Him and spread His teachings. The twelve apostles are a subset of His disciples (Matthew 10:1-4).

Emmanuel: A name given to Jesus that means "God with us," as prophesied in Isaiah and cited in Matthew 1:23.

Epiphany: A Christian feast day celebrating the revelation of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, as symbolized by the visit of the Magi (Matthew 2:1-12).

Faith: Trust and belief in God and His promises, which is a central theme in Jesus' teachings throughout Matthew.

Pharisees: A religious group in Judaism known for strict adherence to the Law and traditions. They often clashed with Jesus regarding interpretations of the Law (Matthew 23:1-36).

Rabbi: A teacher of Jewish law and theology. Jesus is often referred to as a Rabbi (Matthew 26:25).

Scribes: Experts in the Jewish Law who copied and interpreted the Scriptures. They often worked alongside the Pharisees (Matthew 23:2).

Sermon on the Mount: A collection of teachings by Jesus found in Matthew chapters 5-7, which includes the Beatitudes, the Lord's Prayer, and various moral instructions.

Temptation: The testing of Jesus in the wilderness by Satan after His baptism (Matthew 4:1-11), where He resisted temptations to misuse His divine power.

Kingdom of Heaven: A central theme in Matthew that refers to God's sovereign rule and the spiritual reign of Christ, emphasizing both present and future realities.

Zion: Often used to refer to Jerusalem, it symbolizes God's dwelling place and is mentioned in the context of Jesus' triumphal entry (Matthew 21:5).

Parables: Short, simple stories that convey spiritual truths and moral lessons. Jesus frequently used parables to teach (e.g., the Parable of the Sower in Matthew 13:1-23).

Last Supper: The final meal Jesus shared with His disciples before His crucifixion, during which He instituted the practice of communion (Matthew 26:26-29).

Great Commission: The directive given by Jesus to His disciples to spread the Gospel and make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:19-20).

Apostles: The twelve chosen disciples of Jesus who were sent out to preach the Gospel and heal the sick (Matthew 10:2-4).

Miracles: Supernatural acts performed by Jesus as signs of His divine authority and compassion, including healing, exorcisms, and nature miracles (Matthew 8-9).

Geographical Locations

Biblical Location	Biblical Reference	Modern Location
Bethlehem	Matthew 2:1	Bethlehem, West Bank, Palestine
Jerusalem	Matthew 21:10	Jerusalem, Israel
Nazareth	Matthew 2:23	Nazareth, Israel
Capernaum	Matthew 4:13	Capernaum, Israel (near the Sea of Galilee)
Sea of Galilee	Matthew 4:18	Sea of Galilee, Israel
Jordan River	Matthew 3:6	Jordan River, Jordan
Mount Sinai	Matthew 5:1	Traditionally identified as Jebel Musa, Egypt
Gethsemane	Matthew 26:36	Gethsemane, Jerusalem, Israel
Galilee	Matthew 4:12	Galilee region, Israel
<u>Tyre and Sidon</u>	Matthew 15:21	<u>Tyre and Sidon</u> , Lebanon
Decapolis	Matthew 4:25	Modern Decapolis region, Jordan (near the border of Israel)
Jericho	Matthew 20:29	Jericho, West Bank, Palestine
Samaria	Matthew 10:5	Samaria region, West Bank, Palestine
The Wilderness	Matthew 3:1	Judean Wilderness, Israel