

The Gospel of Matthew (Introduction)

Written by the apostle of the same name in the early period of the church, probably in between 55-65 A.D., This was a time when most Christians were Jewish converts, so Matthew's focus on Jewish perspective in this Gospel is understandable. The writing style of the book is exactly what would be expected of a man who was once a tax collector. Matthew is very orderly and concise.

Tax collectors were expected to be able to write in a form of shorthand, which essentially meant that Matthew could record a person's words as they spoke, word for word. This ability means that the words of Matthew are not only inspired by the Holy Spirit, but should represent an actual transcript of some of Christ's sermons he himself witnessed.

In his writing, Matthew intends to prove to the Jews that Jesus Christ is the promised Messiah. More than any other Gospel, the Gospel of Matthew quotes the Old Testament to show how Jesus fulfilled the words of the Jewish prophets. Because Matthew's purpose is to present Jesus Christ as the King and Messiah of Israel, he quotes from the Old Testament more than any of the other three Gospel writers.

The Gospel of Matthew is an excellent introduction to the core teachings of Christianity. Matthew is especially useful for understanding how the life of Christ was the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies.

Matthew 1 Bible Study

1 The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

2 Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, **3** and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram, **4** and Ram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of

Salmon,**5** and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, **6** and Jesse the father of David the king.

Q1. What are some reasons genealogies are important in Scripture?

Q2. In verse 1 Matthew refers to Jesus as “Jesus Christ”. What does “Christ” mean?

Q3. Why is Jesus called the “son of David” in verse 1?

Q4. Why is Jesus called the “son of Abraham” in verse 1?

And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, **7** and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asaph, **8** and Asaph the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah,**9** and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, **10** and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josiah,**11** and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon. **12** And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, **13** and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, **14** and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of

Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, **15** and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, **16** and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ.

17 So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations.

Q5. How many sinners are mentioned in Jesus' family tree? Which one of Jesus' parents does this genealogy detail?

Q6. Does it matter if Jesus is sinless or not? How can Jesus be considered sinless if His family tree was full of sinners?

18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. **19** And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. **20** But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.

Q7. What does "betrothed" mean in verse 18? (*"Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit."*)

Q8. Verse 19 calls Joseph a “just man” or a “righteous” man. What does that mean? Was Joseph sinless? Why did he seek to divorce her quietly? (*“And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly.”*)

21 She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” **22** All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

23 “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel”

(which means, God with us). **24** When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, **25** but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

Q9. What Old Testament verse is the angel quoting in verse 23? (*“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel which means, God with us.”*)

Q10. The message from the angel of God changed Joseph's mind. What does verse 25 mean by"he knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus'? Why are both these things important?