



Atlanta Belvedere SDA Church

The Gospel of

Matthew

Jesus, the Unexpected King

Pastors' Bible Class

Study Guide

Facilitators

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The Gospel According to Matthew

Introduction

As we begin the study of Matthew, we cannot overlook the challenges that Biblical scholars have encountered over time. As we read the gospels, we will quickly realize that there are similarities between Matthew, Mark, and Luke while John is quite different. Because of the similarities the question arose “Should we do all three together or not?” The first three gospels agree extensively in language and events from the life of Christ. The story of the healing of the paralytic is an example of content Matt. 9:2-8; Mark 2:3-12; and Luke 5:18-26. An example of the exact wording is seen in Matthew 10:22, Mark 13:13, and Luke 21:17. Over 90% of Mark’s gospel is found in Matthew and 53% of Mark in Luke. The conclusion is that it could be that the writers had a common source. They could have used oral tradition, an early gospel, written fragments, material

dependence, two major sources, the use of Matthew is a combination of all of the above.

The position of Matthew at the beginning of the New Testament reveals the regard in which the early church held it. The term gospel reflects the proclamation by Jesus that the kingdom of God has come and the declaration of the disciples that the humiliation and exaltation of Jesus reveals the inauguration of the kingdom, sinners are forgiven, and eternal life is secured. The presence of the kingdom is demonstrated in Jesus casting out demons and such mighty works.

For the better part of the first century the message depended on oral tradition. The passage from Isaiah 61:1 where the unknown speaker introduces Himself by saying, "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me because He has anointed me (Lk. 4:17-21).

For the first 30 years after the death and resurrection of Jesus the need for a written account was not greatly felt. Eyewitnesses were alive to authenticate the account with confidence. We also have the words of Jesus who came preaching the gospel that the kingdom of God

had arrived and that His hearers should repent and believe the gospel (Mk. 1:14). The record of His works (Lk. 7:16) and the crumbling of the dominion of evil (Matt. 12:22-29; Lk. 11:14-22).

We also have the apostolic tradition (Acts 1:1) manifested in apostolic preaching, missionary preaching demonstrated in the Pauline epistles (1 Cor. 15:3), early church teaching which provided instruction on marriage (1 Cor. 7:10), and maintenance of gospel preachers (1 Cor. 9:14). In early Christian worship, the words and works of Jesus were recalled. The Lord's supper provided a regular opportunity for recounting the story of His death (1 Cor. 11:26).

THE DATE AND PLACE OF WRITING

It is believed that it may have been written in Palestine, while others think it could have been written in Antioch. Because of the highly Jewish content it is believed it was written around AD 50 when the church was largely Jewish, and the gospel was preached to Jews (Acts 11:19). Those who believe that Matthew and Luke draw from Mark date it later, around the late 50's and 60's. Others believe it could be as late as the 70's.

Matthew was written in Greek hence the readers were Greek speaking. They were Jews based on his concern with the fulfillment of Old Testament teachings, such as Jesus descending from Abraham (1:1-17). The sources of explanation of Jewish customs such as “kingdom of heaven”, “Father in heaven”, “Son of David” (1:1; 9:27; 12:23; 15:22; 20:30-31; 21:9, 15; 22:41-45). We should not conclude that Matthew limited the gospel to simply Jews because he records the coming of the Magi to worship the infant Jesus (2:1-12), the field (13:38), and the great commission (28:18-20).

PURPOSE

Matthew sets out to prove that Jesus is the Messiah by showing how His life and ministry fulfill the Old Testament scriptures. While the other gospels cite the Old Testament, Matthew includes additional proof texts (1:22-23; 2:15; 2:17-18; 2:23; 4:14-16; 8:17; 12:17-21; 13:35; 27:9-10) to make it clear that Jesus is the fulfillment of Old Testament predictions. Matthew emphasizes the Davidic lineage of Jesus. The true people of God is the Christian church.

STRUCTURE

Matthew arranges the material in such a way to display an artistic touch. It is woven around five great discourses with a fitting prologue (1-2) and a challenging epilogue (28:16-20).

1	Chapters 2-7
2	Chapter 10
3	Chapter 13
4	Chapter 18
5	Chapters 24-25

Jesus is the new Moses, and the gospel as a new Torah.

THEME

Jesus is the Divine-human Messiah, who gathers the people of the kingdom of heaven.

OUTLINE

- I. **The Lineage, Birth, and Childhood of Jesus (1-2)**
 - a. His Genealogy (1:1-17)
 - b. His Birth (1:18-2:12)
 - c. His time in Egypt (2:13-23)

II. Preparation for Public Ministry as the Divine-Human Messiah (3:1-4:11)

- a. His Forerunner (3:1-12)
- b. His Baptism (3:13-17)
- c. His Temptation (4:1-11)

III. The Gathering and Teaching of His Disciples, or the Galilean Ministry (4:12-14:12)

- a. The Beginning of the Galilean Ministry (4:12-25)
- b. The Sermon on the Mount (5-7)
- c. A Collection of Miracles (8-9)
- d. The Commissioning of the Apostles (10)
- e. Ministry Throughout Galilee and Reactions to the Messiah (11-12)
- f. The Parables of the Kingdom of Heaven (13:1-52)
- g. Herod's Reaction to Jesus' Ministry (14:1-12)

IV. Jesus' Withdrawal from Galilee (14:13-17:20)

- a. Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand (14:13-21)
- b. Jesus Walks on Water (14:22-33)
- c. Clean and Unclean (14:34-15:20)
- d. The Faith of the Canaanite Woman (15:21-28)

- e. Jesus Feeds the Four Thousand (15:29-39)
- f. The Demand for a Sign (16:1-12)
- g. To Caesarea Philippi (16:13-17:20)
 - i. Peter's Confession (16:13-20)
 - ii. Jesus Predicts His Death (16:21-28)
 - iii. The Transfiguration (17:13)
 - iv. Healing of the Boy with a Demon (17:14-20)

V. Jesus' Last Ministry in Galilee (17:22-18:35)

- a. Prediction of Jesus' Death (17:22-23)
- b. Temple Tax (17:24-27)
- c. The Greatest in the Kingdom (18:1-9)
- d. The Parable of the Lost Sheep (18:10-14)
- e. A Brother Who Sins Against You (18:15-20)
- f. The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant (18:21-35)

VI. Jesus' Ministry in Judea and Perea (19-20)

- a. Divorce (19:1-12)
- b. Teaching Concerning Little Children (19:13-15)
- c. The Rich Young Ruler (19:16-30)
- d. The Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard (20:1-16)

- e. Prediction of Jesus' Death (20:17-19)
- f. A Mother's Request (20:20-28)
- g. Restoration of Sight at Jericho (20:29-34)

VII. **Passion Week** (21-27)

- a. The Triumphal Entry (21:1-11)
- b. The Cleansing of the Temple (21:12-17)
- c. The Fig Tree Withers (21:18-22)
- d. The Authority of Jesus Questioned (21:23-27)
- e. The Parable of the Two Sons (21:28-32)
- f. The Parable of the Tenants (21:33-46)
- g. The Parable of the Wedding Banquet (22:1-14)
- h. Paying Tribute to Caesar (22:15-22)
- i. Marriage at Resurrection (22:23-33)
- j. The Greatest Commandment (22:34-40)
- k. Whose Son is the Christ (22:41-46)
- l. Seven Woes (23)
- m. The Olivet Discourse Concerning the End of the Age (24-25)
 - i. Signs of the End of the Age (24:1-35)
 - ii. The Day and Hour Unknown (24:36-51)
 - iii. The Parable of the Ten Virgins (25:1-13)
 - iv. The Parable of the Talents (25:14-30)

- v. The Sheep and the Goats (25:31-46)
- vi. The Anointing of Jesus (26:1-13)
- vii. Judas Agrees to Betray Him (26:14-16)
- viii. The Lord's Supper (26:17-30)
- ix. Jesus Predicts Peter's Denial (26:31-35)
- x. Gethsemane (26:36-46)
- xi. Jesus' Arrest (26:47-56)
- xii. Before the Sanhedrin (26:57-68)
- xiii. Peter Disowns Jesus (26:69-75)
- xiv. Judas Hangs Himself (27:1-10)
- xv. Jesus Before Pilate (27:11-26)
- xvi. The Soldiers Mock Jesus (27:27-31)
- xvii. The Crucifixion (27:32-44)
- xviii. The Death of Jesus (27:45-56)
- xix. The Burial of Jesus (27:57-61)
- xx. The Guard at the Tomb (27:62-66)

VIII. The Resurrection (28:1-10)

- a. The Guard's Report (28:11-15)
- b. The Great Commission (28:16-20)

Notes

- I want to be baptized
- I need more Bible study
- Pray for me
- Please contact me

Last Name _____

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