

Matthew: Jesus Is King

Give Him the Throne of Your Heart



- *Who is Jesus Christ - a good man, a prophet, the promised Messiah, God in human flesh, the Savior of the World?*

The four gospels present four pictures of Jesus Christ. They were each written to a different audience: **Matthew** to the *Jews*, **Mark** to the *Romans*, **Luke** to the *Greeks*, and **John** to *Christians*. The term **gospel** means "good news." Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John are *good news* about Jesus Christ dying on the cross and arising from the dead to pay for the sins of the world.

Bible teacher Ray C. Stedman writes: "I love the Gospels. They are the most fascinating sections of the Bible to me because they are the eyewitness accounts of the life of that wonderful Someone around whom all the rest of the Bible revolves. In the Gospels, we see Christ as He is..... If you are a Christian, a follower of Christ, then all that He is, you have. All the fullness of His character and life is available to you. We learn what those resources are as we see Him as He was—and as He is. That is why the Gospel accounts are so important to us." *Adventuring through the Bible*, p.488.

Central Lesson: Jesus is the King who fulfilled the Messianic prophecies. Give him the throne of your heart.

Author: The author of the book is **MATTHEW**. He was also called Levi, one of the twelve disciples (10:2-4). The writings of the early church fathers from the first several centuries verified Matthew as the author.

Matthew was a tax collector for the Roman government. Tax collectors (also called publicans) were empowered to assign an inflated value to the goods to be taxed and regularly over-taxed the people. Most tax collectors were wealthy from pocketing the extra revenue. The Jews viewed the Jewish tax collectors as traitors to Israel as well as thieves.

Jesus met Matthew and invited him to join Him. Matthew immediately left everything and followed Jesus (Matthew 9:9-13; Luke 5:27-29). Also, Matthew immediately organized a party (**a Matthew party**) for his friends and work associates so that they could personally meet Jesus (cf. Matt. 9:10-13).

Many scholars believe that Matthew's name was given to him **after his conversion** to Christ to **remind him of his new life in Christ**. His old name, "Levi," was more associated with his past life as a dishonest tax collector. **Lesson:** The mistakes and bad reputation of your past do not prevent you from being used by God as His representative in the present and future. God will use you if you turn from your past sins and live daily for Christ.

Date: Probably between A.D. **60-65**. Bible scholars agree that Matthew had to be written **before the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70** because he wrote as if it is yet future (Matt. 24:1-3) and referred to Jerusalem as if it still existed at the time of his writing (20:17; 21:1, 10).

Key Word: Three key words:

- "**KING of the Jews**" (1:2; 5:35; 21:5; 27:11, 29, 37, 42).
- "**KINGDOM**" - the realm where Jesus reigns. It may reference the Millennium, where Jesus reigns over the earth for a thousand years (Rev. 20). Matthew referred to the kingdom repeatedly throughout the book (3:2; 4:17, 23; 5:3, 10, 19-20; etc.).
- "**FULFILL**" or "**fulfilled**" (1:22-23; 2:15, 17-18, 23; 4:13-16; 8:17; 12:17-21; 13:13-15, 34-35; 21:4-5; 26:31, 54, 56; 27:9-10).

Key Verses: **Matthew 16:15-16** show Matthew's purpose of presenting Jesus as the King and Messiah. "¹⁵ *Then he asked them, 'But who do you say I am?'* ¹⁶ *Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah [The King of Israel], the Son of the living God.'*" (NLT)

Key Chapter: Matthew chapter **16**. It best portrayed the book's purpose - Jesus discussed his identity with the disciples.

Outline: The book can be outlined as follows:

I. **The Coming of the King—Chapters 1:1-4:16**

"This is how Jesus the Messiah was born...." Matt. 1:18 NLT

II. **The Communication of the Kingdom—Chapters 4:12-25:46**

"From then on Jesus began to preach, 'Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near.'" Matt. 4:17 NLT

III. **The Cross of the King—Chapters 16:21-28:20**

"From then on Jesus began to tell his disciples plainly that it was necessary for him to go to Jerusalem, and that he would suffer many terrible things at the hands of the elders, the leading priests, and the teachers of religious law. He would be killed, but on the third day he would be raised from the dead." Matt. 16:21 NLT

Purpose & Theme: Jesus of Nazareth is the **KING of the Jews** (and the Universe). We must surrender the throne of our hearts to Him.

Matthew sought to prove that Jesus is the King in the following ways:

- (1) Document how Jesus **fulfilled** the Messianic Old Testament prophecies.
- (2) Refer to Jesus as the "**Son of David**" (Matt. 1:1; 9:27; 12:23; etc.), pointing to Jesus as the Messiah.
- (3) Document **the genealogy of Jesus Christ** as a descendant of Abraham, the father of the Jewish nation, and his lineage through David, making him "*the son of David*" and **heir** to the throne (Matthew 1:1-17).
- (4) Record the supernatural **virgin birth** of Jesus as foretold of the coming Messiah (Isaiah 7:14 and Matthew 1:18-25).
- (5) Repeatedly connected Jesus to the coming "**Kingdom**." This connection was a significant anticipation of the Jews. They were waiting for the fulfillment of the Davidic Covenant (2 Samuel 7:8-16) in which the Messiah would rule over the earth (3:2; 4:17, 23; etc.).

Central Lesson: Jesus is the King who fulfilled the Messianic prophecies. Give him the throne of your heart.

► Accept Christ as your Savior. ► As a Christian, dedicate your life to Christ. ► Invite someone to next Sunday's study. ► Attend a small group. ► Read the Bible & journal meaningful verses. ► Pray for friends that need Jesus.