

INTRODUCTION TO THE NEW TESTAMENT

- ❖ The 4 Canonical Gospels (4 sessions)
- ❖ Acts & Pauline Epistles (5 sessions)
- ❖ Catholic Epistles, letters & Revelation (1 session)

Recap - 1st Session covered

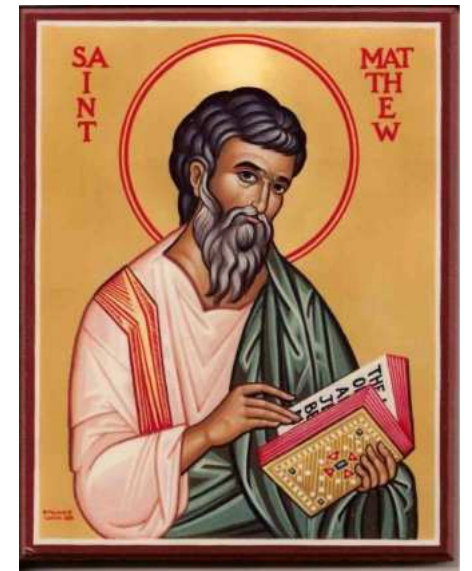
- ❖ 1 Gospel – 4 writers
 - ❖ Meaning of the word Gospel (Ευαγγέλιο) and proper titles
 - ❖ No discrepancies but complete picture
 - ❖ Internal & External evidence of the Gospel's authenticity
 - ❖ The wisdom behind the existence of 4 Gospels
 - ❖ Why was a written Gospel needed?
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Gospels According to St. Mathew & St. Mark

1. **Who** is the author & who are the addressees?
2. **When & Where** was it written?
3. **Which** language was it written in?
4. **Why** was it written (purpose)?
5. **What** are the features of his Gospel?



I- The Gospel According To St. Mathew



1-The Author:

- Writer of the 1st Gospel. **Original name was Levi.**
- His Mathew name was most probably adopted as his new apostolic name, and it means (gift of Jehovah). It is a contraction of Mattathias, as is also Matthias.
- He was the son of Alphaeus (Different person from St James' father – also Alphaeus).
- A Jew from Galilee who was the chief tax collector at Capernaum - Greatly hated by the Jews.
- Jesus passed by his office and said to him “Follow Me.” So he left everything & followed Him.
- Levi gave Christ a great feast in his house which caused anger for the Jewish Leaders.
- From that time on Mathew followed Jesus.
- St. Matthew preached in Ethiopia, Persia & few other places.
- He was martyred (12th Babah) by being stoned by orders of Festos the governor.

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO
ST. MATTHEW

CHAPTER 1
Book of the generation of
Christ, the son of David, the
Abraham begat Isaac; and Isaac
Jacob; and Jacob begat Judas
his brethren;
And Judas begat Phares and
Saram; and Esrom begat Aram;
And Aram begat Salmon;
And Salmon begat David the king;
And Booz begat Obed of Ruth;
And Obed begat Jesse;
And Jesse begat David the king;
And David the king begat Solomon
his son; and Solomon begat Roboam;
And Roboam begat Abias;
And Abias begat Asa;
And Asa begat Josaphat;
And Josaphat begat Joram;
And Joram begat Ozias;
And Ozias begat Joatham;
And Joatham begat Achaz;
And Achaz begat Manasses;
And Manasses begat Amon;
And Amon begat Josiah;
And Josiah begat Jechonias;
And Jechonias begat Salathiel;
And Salathiel begat Zorobabel;
And Zorobabel begat Abiud;
And Abiud begat Eliakim;
And Eliakim begat Azor;
And Azor begat Simeon;
And Simeon begat Judas;
And Judas begat Joseph;
And Joseph begat Jesus the Christ;
the son of David.

The consensus among Church fathers is that St. Matthew wrote his Gospel in 2 languages

- It was also written before the desolation of Jerusalem (It did not mention anything post 70AD) So the Sixties are most likely time for writing this gospel.

St. Irenaeus wrote "St. Matthew wrote his gospel while St. Paul & St. Peter were preaching in Rome". So it was 62- 67AD

I- The Gospel According To St. Mathew....

3- The Addressees (To whom it was written):

To the Jews in general, especially those who were recently converted to Christianity.

External evidence: Early church fathers Inc Iranius, Origen, Eusebius, Gregory of Nyssa witnessed to this.

Internal Evidence (from the text itself):

1. The genealogy of Christ in the 1st Chapter starts from **Abraham** (Father of the Hebrews).
He is proving that Christ is the legitimate heir of David's Kingdom & of Abraham through whom God gave the promises to the Hebrews.
2. It is quoting & referring to many passages/prophecies from the OT.
3. It is talking about Pharisees, Sadducees, Scribes, Jerusalem, Jewish Priesthood & Traditions, more than the other gospels.
4. St. Matthew did not explain the Jewish traditions & customs, like other evangelists did. Proof that he wrote to Jews who are familiar with them.
5. When he spoke of Jerusalem, he called it **The Holy City**.



I- The Gospel According To St. Mathew....



3- The Addressees (To whom it was written).....

Internal Evidence (from the text itself):

6. He did not explain the meaning of the Aramaic words he wrote, Ex. **“Raca”** in (5:22), which is a word of strong abuse meaning fool Or the meaning of **“Korban”** in (5:23) i.e. (gift.)
7. He portray the NT as a fulfillment of OT. **He alone mentioned** what Jesus said in His Mount Sermon: **“Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill” Matt 5**
The Sermon on the Mountain in his gospel is the antitype of the Sinai Law & is founded in the concept that **Christ came to fulfill the law & the prophets, so Christianity is superior to Judaism.**
8. He mentioned the main corner stones of the Jewish worship:
Charitable deeds, Prayer & Fasting (5:1,5), The Temple Tax (17:24-27), the Tithes (23:7) & Washing of hands for purification (27:24).

I- The Gospel According To St. Mathew....

3- The Addressees (To whom it was written).....

9. The only evangelist who recorded the statements by Jesus

To the Canaanite women:

“I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” Matt 15:24

And to His 12 Disciples:

“Do not go into the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter a city of the Samaritans.

But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. Matt 10:5

St Mark & St Luke would not write this!

This of course was in the early stages of service – until they received Power:

“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth” Acts 1:8



I- The Gospel According To St. Mathew....

4- The Purpose of St Mathew's Gospel:

1. Dogmatic: Introducing Christ to the Jews as:

- I. The awaited Messiah according to the prophets (Messiah mentioned 4 times in Ch1 alone).
- II. The King that reigns over David's Kingdom;
- III. The Christ in Whom all prophecies & promises of the OT. are fulfilled.

This gospel is last call for the Jews "Either accept Christ as the Messiah or be ready for His judgment"

2. Apologetic :

To defend Christ against Jewish claims & plots. He detailed matters such as (Examples):

- I. Christ's virginal birth from St Mary, how the angel defended her against her fiancé's doubts.
- II. Christ's triumphal Resurrection & the bribe given to the guards by the Jewish leaders to deny it.

That is why this gospel is considered to be "**the early Christian Apology.**" By a scholar named R.V.G. Stasher.

1. Liturgical Purpose:

Another scholar (G. D. Kilpatrick) sees that this gospel was written for a liturgical purpose, to be read during the early Christian Liturgical Worship, due its clarity, concision, consistency & balanced style.

Other scholars believe that it is because of these characteristics the gospel was used for a liturgical purpose.

I- The Gospel According To St. Mathew....

5- Characteristics of St Mathew's Gospel:

1. Doctrinal & Nonlinear:

This gospel is composed on doctrinal basis, St. Matthew brought together **Christ's doctrines that deal with a particular subject in one setting regardless of the chronological order**; while St. Luke recorded Christ's doctrines dealing with the same doctrines chronologically / separately.

We find the narration in *St. Mark & St. Luke* continuous, while in Matthew it is interrupted by 5 main discourses:

At the end of each big discourse, we read the conclusion: **"when Jesus has ended these sayings"**

It is obvious that St. Matthew put emphasis on Christ's Teachings, formulating them thoroughly.



5 main discourses:

1. Sermon on the Mount (Chs.5-7), as a contrast between the righteousness of the NT vs the OT
2. Instructions to the apostles (All in Ch 10.)
3. Parables of the Kingdom of Heaven (All of Ch13.)
(The Sower, Wheat and the Tares, Mustard seed, Leaven, Hidden Treasure, Pearl of Great Price, Parable of the Dragnet)
4. Qualifications required being disciples of Christ Ch18.
5. Eschatological discourses & prophetic teachings about the end of Age, the desolation of Jerusalem & the 2nd coming (Chs 24-25)

I- The Gospel According To St. Mathew....

5- Characteristics of St Mathew's Gospel:

1. Doctrinal & Nonlinear...

Here I need to mention..

As St Matthew collates topics/subjects of **doctrines in one setting (regardless of the chronological order)** – Ex:

- I. The Sermon on the mount is in one place Ch5-7 whereas Luke spread it all over the gospel.
- II. The Miracles are concentrated in Ch 8 & 9 whereas in other Gospels are in many places (chronologically).
- III. The Parables in Ch 13 all together.

Here is the problem: Was the Sermon on the mount said in one sitting, or in various settings?

Ex: In the sermon in Ch6 **In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven,...**

But In Luke 11 – the Lord's prayer is at a particular place

Now it came to pass, as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, that one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples." So He said to them, "When you pray, say: Our Father...

Q: Did Jesus say this on the mount? Or in a separate occasion as in Luke 11?

Also: many verses from the sermon on the mount we find in GA Luke Chs 6, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16.

A: It is possible the Lord taught on many occasions, then combined all into one sermon – or the opposite.

A simple example about this repetition from the Bible:

I- The Gospel According To St. Mathew....

5- Characteristics of St Mathew's Gospel:

1. Doctrinal & Nonlinear...

“17 Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; therefore hear a word from My mouth, and give them warning from Me: 18 When I say to the wicked, ‘You shall surely die,’ and you give him no warning, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life, that same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand. 19 Yet, if you warn the wicked, and he does not turn from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered your soul.

Ezekiel 3: 17-19



“7 So you, son of man: I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; therefore you shall hear a word from My mouth and warn them for Me. 8 When I say to the wicked, ‘O wicked man, you shall surely die!’ and you do not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand. 9 Nevertheless if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered your soul.

Ezekiel 33: 7-9

Same also The 10 Commandments are in Exodus 20 and Deuteronomy 5

I- The Gospel According To St. Mathew....



5- Characteristics of St Mathew's Gospel.....:

2. Semitic:

This gospel has more Semitic features than St. Mark who has more of Latina features & St. Luke that leans more towards Greek. Because he wrote to Christians **of Jewish origin** & his concern was introducing Christ as the awaited Messiah who was rejected, resisted & crucified by the Jews. He portrays Christ as the King who will restore David's Kingdom, through:

- A. Matt 1 Genealogy of Christ - From Abraham - Vs Luke & Mark to (Son of God).
- B. Matt 2:2 "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews?"
- C. Matt 10:5, 6 "...but go rather to **the lost sheep of the house of Israel.**"
- D. Matt 15:24 "...I was not sent except to the **lost sheep of the house of Israel.**"
- E. Mat.19:28 "you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, **judging the twelve tribes of Israel.**"
- F. He focuses on the fulfillment of the OT prophecies in Christ, Who came to fulfill its promises of salvation & to institute God's kingdom, that is why the term **"Kingdom of God"** Is repeated 46 times in this gospel

Note: The repetition of statements like "**thus it was written**" & "**that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying**"

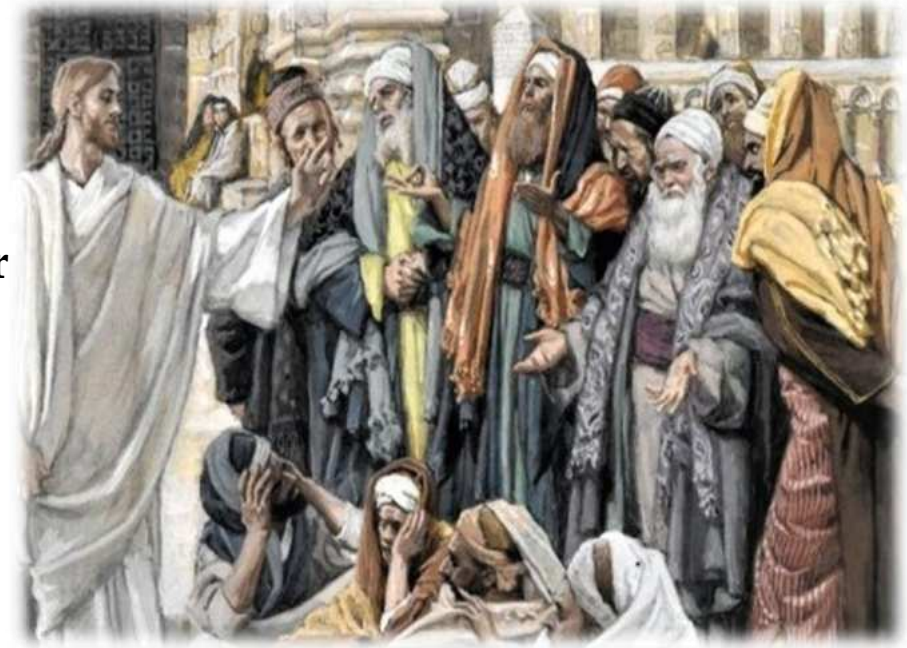
Indicating how St. Matthew sees history as tool to fulfill God's will & plan to save mankind.

I- The Gospel According To St. Mathew....

5- Characteristics of St Mathew's Gospel....:

3. Confrontational:

While leading the Jews to faith, he did not shy away from showing their faithlessness & shortcomings. Examples:



1. “Many will come from east & west & sit down with Abraham, Isaac & Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness.” Stressing the faith of the gentile centurion compared to that of the Israelites. (Matt 8:11-12)
2. “and do not think to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones.” (3: 9)
3. “The Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests & to the scribes & they will condemn Him to death” (20:18)
4. Jesus reproaching them for their misunderstanding of keeping the Sabbath (12: 1-13),
5. “The Kingdom of God will be taken from you & given to a nation bearing the fruits of it.” (21:43)
6. Jesus condemning their care only about the formalities of worship, not its spiritualities. (6:2, 5 & 16)
7. Jesus condemning them for pursuing some rites, which are actually against the commandments. (15:3-9),
8. The WOES against the Scribes & Pharisees Ch 23

I- The Gospel According To St. Mathew....



5- Characteristics of St Mathew's Gospel.....:

4. Ecclesiastical:

- A. The only evangelist who recorded Christ teachings about the church, using the word "Ecclesia."

Twice in two very strong statements:

1. Talking to St. Peter about founding His church
"On this rock I will build my church" (Ch.16:18.)
2. Talking about the authority of the church:
"And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church..... Assuredly I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, & whatever you loose on earth will loosed in heaven. (Ch.18:17, 18.).



5- Characteristics of St Mathew's Gospel.....:

4-Ecclesiastical.....:

B- Throughout St. Matthew portrays the church as the dwelling of God amongst His people:

- Ch1: The angel telling Josef about Jesus being named **Emanuel** (God (is) with (in), us)
- Ch18:20 gives a simple idea about the church:
"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, **I am there in the midst of them.**"
- Ch 10:40 Explains how the church is represented in the servants who witness to the truth:
"He who receives you receive Me." (Ch.10:40)
- Ch28:20 He concludes by the Lord's assurance to His disciples:
"**I am with you always**, even to the end of the age." (Ch.28:20).

I- The Gospel According To St. Mathew....

5- Characteristics of St Mathew's Gospel.....:

5. Presenting Christ (the Heavenly King):

The word (king) & its derivatives appeared 50+ times
Vs just 5 times in the GAJ. It is very clear that
GAM it the gospel of **Christ the King**.



- A. The only evangelist to record the visit of the Magi “Where is He who has been born **King of the Jews?** For we have seen His star in the East & have come to **worship Him.**” (Ch.1:2).
- B. The only evangelist to record the Herod's attempting kill **the legitimate heir of the kingdom.**
- C. Introduced John the Baptist preaching: “Repent, for **the kingdom of heaven** is at hand.” (Ch.3:2).
- D. In his version of the temptation on the mountain:
Against the chronological order, he put the (**worship temptation**) 3rd/ last; not 2nd as it should be to put emphasis on its importance. Christ is the True King defeated Satan-the prince of this world

I- The Gospel According To St. Mathew....

5- Characteristics of St Mathew's Gospel.....:

5. Christ in the Gospel is (the Heavenly King).....:

E. Re Christ's transfiguration: St. Matthew **stands alone** in adding explanations
"His face shone like the sun." & "in whom I am well pleased." (Ch.17:2, & 5).

F. Re Christ's resurrection: He stands alone in mentioning
The great earthquake,
The angel whose countenance was like lightning & his clothing as white as snow
That the guards shook for fear of him. (Ch.28:2-4).

G. St. Matthew concluded his gospel by a very peculiar statement about the Risen Christ saying to His disciples:
"All authority has been given to me in heaven & on earth, go therefore & make disciples of all the nations.
(28:18) Who is this one who has every authority in heaven & on earth?

He is Christ the King of kings & the Lord of lords.



I- The Gospel According To St. Mathew....

5- Characteristics of St Mathew's Gospel.....:

6. Didactic:

Both St Matthew & also St John are notably more didactic/Preachy than either St Mark or St Luke.

The Gospel according to St Matthew contains 1068 verses, of which 644 verse of teaching (60%) .

Some are long sermons/teachings such as:

1. Sermon on the mountain: Chapters 5, 6 and 7.
2. The Lord's instructions as He sent the 12: whole of Ch.10
3. Parables: Chs. 13 & 18 and the
4. The Woes: the entire of Ch. 23
5. His teaching about end of time: Chs. 24 & 25.

9 whole chapters = 1/3 of the gospel

