

THE BOOK OF MATTHEW

# JESUS IS KING



In short the book is about Jesus. I think it is important to emphasize this because there is a lot of really interesting stuff in Matthew but in the end it is all about Jesus!

Unfortunately, some of the more interesting things about the book are highly debated. Like the author itself.

Mathew never claims to be the author in the book. The early church attributes the work of this book to Matthew. Origen, an early church leader, wrote, *"The first written was that according to the one-time tax collector but later apostle of Jesus Christ, Matthew, who published it for the believers from Judaism."*

Another area of interest is the Tetramorph of the Gospels. A Tetramorph is a symbolic arrangement of four differing elements, or the combination of four contrasting elements in one unit. The term is derived from the Greek tetra, meaning four, and morph, shape.

See ***Ezekiel 1:9-10***

The association of the four living creatures with the four gospels originated with Irenaeus in the 2nd century. The interpretation of each creature has varied through church history. The creatures of the tetramorph, just like the four gospels of the Evangelists, represent four facets of Christ.

Traditionally, Baptist's have held to the association that Matthew is presented as Jesus is Lion, Mark is presented as Jesus as the Ox, Luke is presented as Jesus as man, and John is presented as Jesus as the Eagle.

The book has three main themes.

1. Jesus is the Messiah from the line of David.
2. Jesus is the Mediator of the New Covenant (New Moses)
3. Jesus is Immanuel (God with us)

## **1. The Outline of Matthew**

Matthew begins with an introduction, have 5 main sections (Many believe these 5 main parts are meant to connect the reader to the 5 books of the Pentateuch), and then the books ends with a conclusion.

### **Introduction - Chapters 1-3**

Connects Jesus to the Old Testament. Matthew reveals that Jesus fulfills all of the Old Testament prophecies concerning the birth of Jesus.

### **Section 1 - Chapters 4-7**

Announces God's Kingdom. This section tells of God's plan for the world and how to live in God's Kingdom.

## **Section 2 - Chapters 8-10**

Jesus brings this Kingdom into peoples lives. Jesus sends His 12 disciples into the world to preach the Kingdom and Matthew recounts several miracles that are broken up by Jesus' call to follow Him.

## **Section 3 - Chapters 11-13**

Outlines the responses of the Jew to Jesus teaching. Jesus gives several parables about the Kingdom to explain the various responses.

## **Section 4 - Chapters 14-20**

This section explains the expectations for the Messiah and the Kingdom that were not like the Jewish people and Religious leaders were expecting. The Jews expected a conquering King, and Jesus came as a suffering servant. The dynamics of the Kingdom are reversed. You obtain honor by serving. Instead of seeking revenge you should forgive, and you gain wealth by giving it away!

## **Section 5 - Chapters 21-25**

Outlines the clashing Kingdom of Christ and the reign of the Pharisees. Jesus enters Jerusalem on the back of colt asserting his authority and he promptly cleansed the temple of compromise and hypocrisy. When the Pharisees could not trip Jesus they plotted to kill him.

## **Conclusion - Chapters 26-28**

In this section We see the final events leading to the crucifixion of Jesus, His resurrection and His final teaching on the Great Commission.

## 2. Who Was Matthew?

There isn't a lot written about Matthew. Virtually everything we really know about Matthew comes directly from the gospels. He's mentioned in Matthew, Mark, and Luke, and listed among the disciples in Acts. But that's it.

Including parallel passages, there are just seven mentions of him in the entire Bible. Only one (and its parallels) gives us any substantial details about him.

The account where Jesus meets Mathew is both amazing and mystifying.

See ***Matthew 9:9***

See ***Mark 2:14***

See ***Luke 5:27-28***

Matthew was Jewish but he was an outcast. He took massive amounts of money from the Jewish people so they hated him and He was hated by the Romans for being Jewish!

He was regarded as a sinner. Society saw him as a plague. So Jesus comes by his booth and all He says to him is "Follow Me" and Matthew gets up and follows him. He leaves everything!

The complete trust and transformation of Matthew when he comes into contact with Jesus is profound! It is inspiring!

Here is what I want to leave you with as we close out this introduction to Matthew. We are going to learn a lot of interesting and amazing truths. We are going to make some connections to the Old Testament and it should be a really great journey through the Gospel according to Matthew. But don't miss the who the book is all about.

It is about Jesus, and coming into contact with Him in this book should radically transform you and you put all of your trust in Him.



## GROWTH GROUP DISCUSSION

1. What is something you are excited about from the book of Matthew?
2. Why do you think Matthew is the human author of the book of Matthew?
3. Why do you think Matthew quotes from the Old Testament so many times?
4. What does Jesus calling an outcast tax collector to follow Him say about Jesus?
5. Why do you think Matthew left all and followed Jesus?
6. Do you trust Jesus enough to follow Him as well?