

# Survey of Matthew

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## Introduction

1. Matt. 1:1. It was the unanimous tradition of the early church fathers that the gospel of Matthew was written by the apostle Matthew.
2. Matthew was originally named Levi. He was the son of Alphaeus and a tax collector (Mk.2:14; Lu.5:27-28). The name Matthew means “gift of God”. Matthew was an apostle and the brother of James (Mt.9:9-13; 10:2-3).
3. The precise dating for the book of Matthew is not easy to come by. The expressions “to this day” (27:8) and “until this day (28:15) indicated a significant period of time had lapsed between Christ’s resurrection and the writing of the book of Matthew. The Olivet Discourse (chp.24-25) which anticipates the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD requires a date prior to this event possibly 55-58 AD.
4. An interesting question to consider is why Matthew was placed by the early church fathers as the first book in the New Testament canon. He provided the perfect link or bridge between the Old and New Testaments (1:1). Matthew’s first verse connects us both with the covenant made under Abraham and under King David (Gen.12:3; 2Sam.7:8-13).
5. Matthew uses more Old Testament quotations and allusions than any other New Testament gospel writer (almost 130). In presenting to us Jesus Christ as the Messianic king he brings to us the phrase “kingdom of heaven” which appears 32 times in Matthew but not once more in the entire New Testament. The theme of Christ’s kingship can be seen through him having a king’s name (1:23), a king’s birth (2:2), a king’s position (2:6), a king’s announcement (3:3), a king’s coronation (3:17), a king’s respect (4:10), a king’s proclamation (5:2; 7:29), a king’s love (20:28), a king’s glory (25:31, 34), a king’s sacrifice (27:35, 37), and a king’s victory (28:6). Other references to Christ’s kingship in the gospel of Matthew to consider are 2:2; 4:15-17; 21:5,9; 22:44-45; 26:64; 27:11, 27-37.

## Outline

The Presentation of the King (1:1-4:11)

The Proclamation of the Kingdom (4:12-16:20)

The Passion of the Kingdom (16:21-27:66)

The Power of the Kingdom (28:1-20)

## Main Points and Application

1. Matthew starts with a genealogy. Let’s take a little time to consider why this is important. The sonship emphasis is on the sons of the covenant God made with Abraham and David (Gen.12:3 & 2Sam.7:8-13).

2. The presentation of the King (1:1-4:11). The purpose of this section is to show that the Old Testament Messiah is Jesus the newborn King. Consider the orderliness of God's plan (1:17). Suppose a man lives over 80 years should he have different goals for each 20 year time frame? Do you?
3. Jesus fulfills the prophecies for a king (1:22-23; 2:5-6, 15, 17, 18, 23; 3:3, 16-17). Have we received Christ as king of our lives? In what ways should we acknowledge and honor the kingdom of Christ?
4. The proclamation of the kingdom (4:12-16:20). How would you understand the first message of Jesus (4:17)? How does the Sermon on the Mount (Mt.5-7) relate to the kingdom theme of Mathew? Do we see a kingdom of grace with a heart yet firmly established on law? How has Matthew 7:12 been popularly described? Have we followed it with our children, mates, and friends?
5. In chapters 8 and 9 Jesus continues his proclamation accompanied by miracles and healings. Chapters 10-12 records the sending out of the Disciples. Their message is 10:7. The kingdom requirements for disciples are found in 10:32-39. What must we do to fulfill these requirements?
6. Because of the Pharisees' (formal leadership of the Jews) rejection of Christ in Matthew 12 (cf. Jn.1:11-12), Jesus' proclamation shifts to teaching by parables and giving more attention to his disciples and to his imminent death (13-16).
7. The Passion of the kingdom (16:15-27:66). Christ's heart beats for the interests and will of God the Father (16:15-28). How is it with us? As Christ prepares to face the judgment for our sin, he proclaims our need to be ready for God's judgment (24-25).
8. The Power of the kingdom (28:1-20). In this section we see Christ is raised from the dead as the powerful and authoritative King of kings (28:1-15) who makes provision for an everlasting ongoing kingdom (28:16-20). What is our part in Christ's kingdom?