

MATTHEW

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INTRODUCTION

- A. One of the most frequent read narratives in the New Testament.
 - 1. In spite of this, the scope and grandeur of this divine document is probably overlooked by many.
 - 2. No writing in the N.T. dealing with a historical theme, is to be compared to Matthew.
 - B. Matthew's Gospel Falls Easily Into Four Sections.
 - 1. Birth and childhood of Jesus. (1:1 - 2:23).
 - 2. Work of John, the baptism of Jesus and temptations. (3:1 - 4:11).
 - 3. Jesus' ministry in Galilee, and final journey to Jerusalem. (4:12 - 20:34).
 - 4. Last days on earth, death and resurrection and Great Commission. (21:1 - 28:20).
 - C. It Is A Book Written By A Jew For Jews About A Jew!
 - 1. The design of Matthew is to demonstrate (primarily to the Jews, but ultimately to all men) that Jesus of Nazareth is the promised Messiah of the O. T. and the author of the Kingdom of God in which all people of the earth may be saved.
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MATTHEW AND THE O.T.

- A. Draws Upon The O.T. More Than Any Other Writer.
 - 1. Employs the word "fulfill" 13 times. Shows Christ the fulfillment of O.T. prophecy.
 - a. Birth of Jesus to the virgin 1:22.
 - b. Return from Egypt (2:15).
 - c. Herod's slaughter of the infants (2:17) etc.
 - 2. Appealing to the O.T. "It is written" 9 times.
 - 3. Directed attention to O.T. 7 times by expression "Have ye not read"
 - 4. It has been "said or spoken" in connection with O.T. 19 times.
 - 5. In all Matthew quotes, cites from or alludes to the O.T. about 100 times.
 - B. Genealogy Of Jesus.
 - 1. Opens with the genealogy of Jesus as legally (according to custom) of his adoptive father.
 - 2. Son of David - Messiah.
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KING & HIS KINGDOM

- 1. Shows that the new-born Jesus was legal descendant of King David.
 - 2. Wise men came asking "Where is he that is born King of the Jews (2:2).
 - 3. Triumphant entry was introduced by Zech. 9:9. (21:5).
 - 4. Jesus when asked by Pilate "Art thou King of the Jew?" answered "Thou sayest" meaning "it is as you say".
 - 5. The phrase "kingdom of heaven" occurs 33 times.
 - 6. Thus was both the "limited" and the "Great Commission."
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Place In Biblical Scheme

1. No book was written as an isolated unit.
 2. O. T. portrays mans fall and inability to justify himself.
 3. The Gospel accounts inform us that the Christ has come, effecting the possibility of justification by virtue of his vicarious death. (20;28).
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MATTHEW THE APOLOGIST

- A. Numerous prophecies of the Old Testament foretold the Jewish rejection of Jesus (Isa. 53:1).
 - B. The Gospel of Matthew, written sometime within the first four decades of the church's existence, was thus not only an effort to evangelize the Jews, but it was also a defense against Jewish arguments designed to undermine the validity of the Christian message.
 1. **THE VIRGIN BIRTH:**
 - a. Uses term begat in genealogy - until connection between Jesus and Joseph.
 - b. Mary was "found" to be with child of the Holy spirit".
 - c. Quotes Isaiah 7:14.
 - d. The child's name was to be "Immanuel" which is being interpreted God with us."
 2. **JESUS' MIRACLES:**
 - a. Matthew attributes 20 miracles to Jesus (3 peculiar to his narrative).
 - b. To the charge that he learned magical arts in Egypt, as later reflected in the Talmud is answered.
 - c. He was careful to note that it was as a "young child" (paidion, very young child or infant) that he was taken to Egypt, and it was as an infant that he returned (2:13, 20,21).
 3. **JESUS THE NAZARENE:**
 - a. Jews would argue that he could not be the Messiah because he came from Nazareth, and not Bethlehem - To which Matthew answers:
 - b. Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea (2:1).
 - c. Joseph on return from Egypt intended to settle in Judea, but being warned of God he returned to Nazareth (2:23).
 4. Another evidence of the apologetic thrust of Matthew's Gospel is the attention which he (and he alone) pays to the attempts both to prevent and to conceal the fact of Jesus' resurrection (27:62-66; 28:11-15).
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Matthew and World Evangelism

- A. The need to grasp a world wide view of the Kingdom of God.
 - B. For 1500 years Jews considered themselves “God’s Chosen”
 - C. It is really not surprising, therefore, that Matthew all through his document, conditions their thinking for that pinnacle point, the truly great, GREAT COMMISSION.
 - 1. In lineage record of chapter 1, four women are referred to. This unusual but also most likely all four were not Jews.
 - 2. First persons to worship the newly-come-to-earth Savior were Gentiles - wisemen from the East (2:1,2). ???
 - 3. When Jews trusted in their Hebrew ancestry came to John - he told them “God is able of these stones to raise up children to Abraham.” (3:9).
 - 4. Settled in Capernaum on Northern coast of the Sea of Galilee that Isaiah’s utterance might be fulfilled. “The people that set in darkness saw a great light” (4:15,16).
 - 5. Commended the centurion’s faith (8:10).
 - 6. Quotes Isaiah 42 “shall declare...to the Gentiles (12:17-21).
 - 7. Parable of Tares ...field is the world. (13:24,37,38).
 - 8. Parable of Wicked Husbandman. The son to another nation (21:33).
 - 9. Finally Matthew 28:18-20....GREAT BECAUSE:
 - a. Its Giver
 - b. Simplicity of message.
 - c. Its challenges...to lead all to the Lamb of God.
 - d. Its scope.
 - e. Its promises.
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