



A STUDY IN
The Gospel of Mathew
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With my whole heart have I sought thee; O let me not wander from thy commandments. Thy word have I hid in my heart, that I might not sin against thee. Ps. 119:10,11

Matthew

(The Gospel of the Messiah)

The Gospel of Matthew, though it is listed first in the order of the four Gospels, should not be understood to indicate that it was written first; for it is believed by most scholars, that the Gospel of Mark is in fact the earliest written Gospel. Matthews Gospel is traditionally ascribed to Matthew Levi, a tax collector (pubican) whom Jesus called to be one of the twelve (*Matt. 9:9-13, 10:3*). After the listing of the Apostles in the book of Acts, he disappears from the history of the church. Nowhere in Mathew's Gospel he explicitly called it's author, but the some of earliest writers of the church (*Eusebius, Papias Irenaeus etc.*), when speaking of authorship of Matthew's Gospel are quoted saying that Mathew had composed in Aramaic the oracles of the Lord, from which Greek translations were made. Matthew's Gospel is admirably suited to a church that was still closely related to Judaism, though becoming increasingly independent of it. As it highlights Jewish Messianism, it at the same time, almost with the same breath, a message for "**ALL THE WORLD**". It preserves the essence of the Abrahamic Covenant regarding the benefits to Abraham and his descendance as a "separate people", while shouting "In thee shall **ALL THE FAMILIES OF THE EARTH** be blessed! (*Gen. 12:3*)

The theme of Matthew's Gospel is announced in it's opening word's: "The book of the generations of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham" (*Matt. 1:1*). ****note:** Where the phase "this is the generation of", is given in scripture, marks a stage in the development of the "*Messianic Promise of God*". One of these genealogic stages is to be particularly highlighted, as it marks the end of the Messianic line (*Jesus' earthly family line*) with David (*Ruth 4:18*). Matthew picks up the genealogy at this point and illustrates it *fulfillment in the person of Jesus. The structure of Matthew is built around a double outline (biographical & topical interpretations of the life Christ)* made clear by recurring phrases (i.e. "*from that time*" & "*when He had finished*") in the Gospel. Outline 1: **Biographical** (*Jesus' genealogy stemming from Abraham, the initial recipient of God's promises, and from David, divinely chosen founder of Judah's royal house*), communicates the rise of Jesus' preaching career, which brought Him into public prominence. (*Matt. 4:17*), and the beginning of His decline in popularity and points toward the culmination of His career at the cross (*Matt. 16:21*). Outline 2: **Topical**. The things that Jesus did (Messianic) in acts power/authority over natural & spiritual creation, and His superior ability to communicate/teach the Kingdom of God and His righteousness as none-else before (*Matt. 7:29*).

With the introductory narrative, and the concluding story of the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ, there are seven divisions in all, which have their "Biblical" conclusions. The reader (*perspective believer*) is confronted with the consequences of Jesus' Messianic claims (*are they true or false*)? The sharp contrast between the actions of the priests on the report of the guard at the tomb, and the reaction of the disciples at the revelation of the risen Lord, compel the reader to choose for him-/herself which attitude he will take. He will align himself with the attitude of the Jewish leaders who repudiated the claims and deeds of Jesus, and not under any circumstance would they acknowledge Him--Messiah, or like the "The Twelve" (*the 12th being the Apostle Paul*) at the revelation of the risen Lord, become a devoted "disciple".

Outline

1. **The Prophecies of the Messiah Realized:** The Advent Ch.s 1:1-4:11
2. **The Principles of the Messiah Announced:** The Inaugural Address Ch.s 4:12-7:29
The Challenge to Enter 7:13-14
3. **The Power of the Messiah Revealed:** The Miracles Ch.s 8:1-11:1
The Challenge to Follow 10:34-39
4. **The Program of the Messiah Explained:** The Parables: Ch.s 11:2-13:53
Challenge to Acceptance
Challenge to Understanding
5. **The Purpose of Messiah Declared:** The Crisis of the Cross Ch.s 13:54-19:2
Challenge to Testify 16:13-15
6. **The Problems of the Messiah Presented:** Conflicts with Opponents Ch.s 19:3-26:2
Challenge to Repentance 23:37-29
7. **The Passion of the Messiah Accomplished:** The Death & Resurrection Ch.s 26:3-28:10
8. **Conclusion:** Rumor & Reality Ch. 28:11-20
Challenge to Action 28:16-20