

Matthew Notes

Introduction

The book of Matthew is appropriately located at the beginning of the New Testament. This is not because it was the first New Testament book, or even the earliest Gospel, to be written. Rather, more than any other of the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John), it emphasizes Jesus' relation to the Old Testament. Thus it serves as a bridge, connecting the two Testaments as promise and fulfillment. To show that Jesus fulfills the qualifications for the Messiah, Matthew uses more Old Testament quotations and allusions than any other New Testament book (almost 130)

What we know about Matthew:

“As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector’s booth. “Follow me,” he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him.” Matthew 9:9 (see also vs. 10-13)

“And as he passed by, he saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, “Follow me.” And he rose and followed him.” Mark 2:14

“After this, Jesus went out and saw a tax collector by the name of Levi sitting at his tax booth. “Follow me,” Jesus said to him, and Levi got up, left everything and followed him. Then Levi held a great banquet for Jesus at his house, and a large crowd of tax collectors and others were eating with them” Luke 5:27-29

What was a “tax collector”?

Also called a publican, they collected poll taxes, property taxes, road use taxes and sales taxes. They became special objects of class hatred for a number of reasons:

- They handled currency with blasphemous pagan inscriptions and iconography
- They cooperated with Roman overlords (tax collection would often go to the lowest bidder)
- They would collect not only the tax, their commission but whatever they could pocket illegally (bribes, etc.)

Basic Outline

1:1-4:1	Presentation of Jesus
4:12-7:29	Proclamation of Jesus
8:1-11:1	Power of Jesus
11:2-16:2	Progressive rejection of Jesus
16:13-20:28	Preparation of Jesus' disciples
20:29-27:66	Presentation and rejection of Jesus
28:1-20	Vindication and Validation of Jesus

**Note the literary structure which highlights five (5) extended teachings of Jesus in this book:

1. The sermon on the mount (5:3-7:27)
2. Instruction to the disciples (10:5-42)
3. Parables of the Kingdom (13:3-52)
4. Terms of Discipleship (18:3-35)
5. Olivet Discourse (24:4-25:46)

Main themes of the book

- “The **Kingdom of heaven** is at hand...” (4:17) - 32 references
- “for he was teaching them as one who had **authority**...” (7:29)
- “**This was to fulfill** what was spoken of by the prophet...” (8:17) - 9 references
- “Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, **teaching...preaching...healing...**” (9:35)
- “For truly I say to you, if you have **faith** like a grain of mustard seed...” (17:20)