

MATTHEW THE APOSTLE

AT-A-GLANCE

BOOK(S) WRITTEN:

Book of Matthew

TYPE OF BOOK(S):

Gospel (Matthew is the first of four gospels)

PROBABLE DATES OF WRITING:

50-60 AD



AUTHOR BACKGROUND:

Matthew's gospel was unique in how often he quoted Old Testament scripture to prove a point or show a prophecy fulfilled. Before his conversion, Mathew was a tax collector, which was considered an underhanded and dishonest occupation. Hence his following Jesus was remarkable, as was his gospel.

Matthew the apostle was born in Palestine. He became a tax collector in Capernaum, which is one of the dusty, working-class cities far north of Jerusalem bordering the Sea of Galilee. It was here he met Jesus in a story covered in Matthew 9. He followed Jesus through much of his ministry and into Jerusalem, where he stayed until after Pentecost.



UNUSUAL PLACES THIS AUTHOR WROTE:

Matthew is thought to have returned to his homeland of Palestine to share the gospel with his family and former community. The Orthodox Church documents him writing the gospel from the land of his birth.



UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH THIS AUTHOR WROTE:

As the author of Matthew, being surrounded by the Jewish people and traditions he knew so well inspired him to document his story with more than 90 references from the Old Testament. His gospel uses Old Testament proofs more than the other three put together.