



## Description sheet of the gospel of Matthew

### Author

The gospel according to Matthew is named after the one who wrote it. Church fathers like Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyon, Papias, Bishop of Asia Minor and Jerome who translated the Bible into Latin testified that Matthew was the author. Matthew was one of the disciples of Jesus also known as Levi (Matt. 9: 9; 10: 3, Mark 2:14). One of the evidences that Matthew is the author is that he mastered the economic and financial language we found in Matthew (22:19). A second evidence is his mastery of the Aramaic and Greek language that was important during the Roman period for a tax collector working under the Roman dominion.

### Date

Regarding the date, two views must be stressed: The Orthodox view and the Liberal view. According to the orthodox perspective, this book was written between the years 60 and 80. Based on the internal evidence, it is likely that this text was written before the year 70, if we stick to the fact that the text teaches about Jesus' speech on the Mount of Olives (chapter 24), in which he prophesied on the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem, which was fulfilled in the year 70.

### Central message and target audience

In his Gospel, Matthew presented Jesus as the main King to whom the prophecies of the Old Testament converged. Thus, Jesus is the messianic son of David who was to come to reign over his throne. In reading the beginning of the genealogy (Matt.1: 1), Matthew presents Jesus first as the son of David and then as Abraham's son. Matthew begins his text like that because he wanted to emphasize the royal dimension of Jesus who will have to reign on the throne of David forever (Psalm 89: 4-5; 28-29; 36-37. Isaiah 11: 1; Jer. 23: 5-6.).

Matthew wrote this gospel because his audience was Jewish. Obviously, these people knew well that, in the midst of their difficulties, God had promised to send a King to deliver them.

### The subdivision of the book

1- **From chapter 1 to chapter 4**, we have the genealogy of the King emphasizing his origin, his birth, and his entry into public ministry.

2- **From chapter 5 to chapter 7**, we have the first King's Speech on the Kingdom of God. This speech emphasizes mostly the spiritual dimension of the Kingdom.

3- **From chapter 8 to Chapter 9**, there is a series of miracles authenticating the message of Jesus;

4- **From chapter 10 to Chapter 12**, we have the second discourse of Jesus concerning the sending of the 12 disciples on mission as well as the mission of Jesus.

5- **From chapter 13 to chapter 17**, we have Jesus' third discourse on the parables, accounts of miracles and of Jesus's opponents.

6- **From chapter 18 to chapter 23**, we have the fourth discourse of Jesus on the attitude of believers, Jesus' response to certain suggestions made by different categories of people in the crowd and the account of some miracles.

7- **From chapter 24 to chapter 28**, we have the fifth speech of Jesus on the Mount of Olives concerning some upcoming events, the account of the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus, and the mission entrusted to the disciples.