

- Introduction

- Who is Matthew?

- Matthew was one of the 12 disciples (e.g. Matthew 10:3, Mark 3:18, Luke 6:15, Acts 1:13)
    - His birth name was not Matthew, but Levi the son of Alphaeus
    - The only thing we know for sure about Matthew was that he was a tax collector (Matthew 9:9, Mark 2:14, Luke 5:27)
    - As a tax collector, he was considered a traitor to the Jewish nation and perhaps he considered himself a traitor as well – he likely didn't value his Jewishness, his Jewish heritage, instead he partnered with the powerful Romans to collect taxes from his countrymen
    - But then, one day, Matthew met Jesus and Jesus said, 'follow Me'. And, as Luke records, Levi left everything and followed Him. He even likely changed his name to Matthew, which, in Hebrew, means gift of YHWH. His encounter with Jesus had changed everything about him, he had been given a new life by the gift of God.
    - And Matthew the tax collector saw that Jesus was the true Israel, Matthew had betrayed Israel but a new and better Israel had dawned in Jesus and Matthew wanted to share that new Israel with the world

- Who wrote Matthew?

- Simple answer: Matthew
    - Complicated answer: not Matthew (Eusibius, quoting Papias: *Matthew collected the sayings of Jesus in the Hebrew language and each one interpreted them as best he could*)
    - Matthew as a tax collector likely knew how to write (a skill that most of the disciples probably didn't have), so he may have kept a running list of sayings of Jesus
    - This record in Hebrew may actually stand behind each of the synoptic gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke) – but Matthew isn't merely a translation from Hebrew
    - Just as Mark and Luke probably drew on Matthew's list of sayings, another unnamed Scribe likely took and formatted Matthew's record to give us the gospel of Matthew

- The Matthean witness

- But this doesn't mean that this isn't Matthew's gospel – just as Luke recorded Paul's gospel and Mark recorded Peter's gospel, this unnamed scribe recorded Matthew's gospel – he organized the information in a way that would faithfully reflect the apostle Matthew's purpose in teaching
      - So, as Mark records Peter's gospel, we see that following Jesus in suffering is at the center of the gospel – the common Petrine theme of I and II Peter
      - And as Luke records Paul's gospel, we see that Jesus came to the Jews but is good news for all of the world – the common Pauline theme of his letters
      - And as the scribe record's Matthew's gospel, we see that Jesus is the true Israel – the tax collector who had abandoned Israel

## Overview Points:

- The story - the birth of a new Israel
  - First half
    - Chapters 1-7 introduces Jesus as the better Abraham, Moses and David
    - Chapters 8-12 show that Israel rejects her king and deliverer
  - Center
    - Chapter 13 has Jesus explain Israel's rejection and the birth of a new Israel
  - Second half
    - Chapters 14-25 show a new Israel being born in the midst of Israel's rejection
    - Chapters 26-28 show that a new sacrifice has to be made to generate the new Israel and establish her king
  - The first seven chapters set up Jesus as the heir of Abraham and David, but most poignantly, and without explicit mention, also the successor of Moses. So when Jesus comes down from the mountain we are left at a precipice wondering what this better Moses and better Joshua (remember Jesus' name is Joshua, the successor of Moses who led God's people into God's land) will do. Will He conquer His people's enemies and lead them into the promised land? As the crowds come to know Jesus, they think He is going to - and this is more true than perhaps any of them realize, but in a very different way than they expect. If a better Moses is going to lead His people into freedom in their land, first He must deliver His people by presiding over a better Passover sacrifice.
- The structure – who is this king?
  - Chapters 1-4 introduces Jesus as the king and deliverer of Israel
  - But the question must come up, who is this king and deliverer? What is He like? What will He do?
  - Structure: 5 discourses separated by action passages: answer the question, who is Jesus?
  - Jesus declares who He is in His speech and the demonstrates who He is through His actions
- The summons – a discipleship manual
  - Matthew 13:51-52 - *Have you understood all these things?" They said to him, "Yes." And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.*
  - A scribe of Israel was tasked with preserving and teaching the traditions of Israel, and a scribe who had taught the traditions of Israel now wants to train other scribes to teach the traditions of a new Israel – to teach other teachers how to train up disciples
  - The 5 discourses are paired the other direction – a story about Jesus is followed by teaching from Jesus that shows disciples how to follow Him

Matthew	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13			
Individual Stories	Connecting Jesus to Abraham, Moses and David				The Sermon on the Mount			Miracles of healing (in 3 sets)		Jesus sends out the 12		The rejection of John and Jesus by the Jews	Parables of the Kingdom			
Grand Story - A new king has come to make a new Israel	Introduction - a king and deliverer has come!				Israel has rejected her king and deliverer									Jesus explains his rejection		
Grand Structure - Five discourses: "Who is this king?"	Introduction - a king and deliverer has come!				Jesus is the Better Lawgiver (He stands on the mountain and gives the law)			Reactions to Jesus: Who is this man?		Jesus is the Better Prophet (He sends out the 12 with a message)		Reactions to Jesus' message		Jesus is the Better Judge (He declares who will accept and reject Him and why)		
Discipleship Manual - how should disciples react to Jesus	Beginnings				Teachings 1 - basic teaching for disciples			Discipleship		Teachings 2 - how should disciples display the kingdom		Accepting or Rejecting Jesus		Teachings 3 - how should disciples understand the kingdom		
Matthew	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
Individual Stories	Controversies with Pharisees, Revelation to Disciples				The Church: Children of the Kingdom			Jesus goes up to Jerusalem and teaches (Sacrifices of the Kingdom (19/20), Authority Displayed (21/22))			Judgment and the End of the World		Trial, Crucifixion, Burial, Resurrection			
Grand Story - A new king has come to make a new Israel	A new Israel is being formed													A new Israel is constituted in a new sacrifice		
Grand Structure - Five discourses: "Who is this king?"	Two types of people (The parables lived out)				Jesus is the Better Treasure (He calls us to accept Him like children and give up all else)			Sacrificing all else for the treasure of Jesus		Jesus is the Better King (He declares and demonstrates His authority over Jerusalem)		The return of the King		The king and deliverer has conquered! (Jesus is the better deliverer)		
Discipleship Manual - how should disciples react to Jesus	Foreshadowing the Future				Teachings 4 - how should disciples act as part of the kingdom			Judgment - By Jesus, of Jesus and the Final Judgment			Teachings 5 - how should disciples prepare for judgment		The End - and the Beginning			

- Who is Jesus in Matthew?
  - He is the son of Abraham, so He is the promise fulfilled.
    - Thus, He is something very old (to fulfill what was written...)
    - But He is also something radically new (new patch on an old cloth...) because the promise was finally being realized in this world
    - Matthew 13:52 - *Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.*
  - He is the son of David, so He is the king of Israel
    - Thus He claims authority over Israel and over the world (all over Matthew we see Jesus declaring and demonstrating His authority...)
    - But He also displays infinite compassion, using His authority to save His subjects, not to destroy them
    - Matthew 28:18 – *And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.*
    - Matthew 9:36 - *When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.*
  - He is the successor to Moses, the prophet of Israel
    - So, He is the lawgiver who authoritatively describes God's demands on Israel
    - But He is also the better deliverer, the priest who would preside over a better Passover sacrifice
    - Matthew 5:21 - *"You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment. But I say to you...*
    - Matthew 26:2 - *You know that after two days the Passover is coming, and the Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified.*
  - In sum, He is everything that Israel should be
    - He is the promised Son come:
      - to restore a right relationship with God,
      - to act as a priest meditating blessing to the world,
      - to declare the law of God
      - to rule over the world as God's regent
    - So everything that God promised in Israel has come true in Jesus Christ, He has fulfilled the pattern and the promise of Israel
      - And now He is welcoming all who would bow the knee into His kingdom