

An Introduction to Matthew's Gospel

Sermon 1 in the Matthew Series

Matthew 1:1-25

I. Presuppositions

1. The Word of God is inspired, the canon is complete, and Matthew is part of that Canon

2 LBCF – ch 1 – para 2 – after naming the canonical books - “All of which are given by inspiration of God, to be the rule of faith and life.” **2 Timothy 3:16**
2. The Book of Matthew was written by Matthew (Levi) – one of the 12 disciples –and his authorship has basically gone unquestioned back to the earliest history of the church. **Matthew 9:9-13**
3. The words attributed to our Lord, are in fact the words spoken by our Lord -- not necessarily by exact dictation – but given to us by inspiration. **John 21:25**

II. Date of Writing

There is no way to know. Many have called for a date of 75-80 AD.

There is good reason to date the book before 66 AD.

See 22:7 and 23:34-24:2

There are good reasons to believe few or possibly no Christians were in Jerusalem when it was surrounded by the army of Rome.

1. Eusebius records that to be true.
2. Jesus had warned them to flee when they saw the approaching army, so their understanding of Scripture saved them.
3. The Zealots began a fierce campaign of persecution before Titus surrounded the city – and in God's providence, this persecution caused them to flee and be in Pella, and other places. We do know the Christian population often fled from areas – including Rome – because of persecution. See Acts 8 – after the death of Stephen.

III. A Brief Outline of the Book

A. The Person of Jesus the Messiah -- 1:1-4:16

B. The Proclamation of Jesus the Messiah -- 4:17-25:46

1. The Gospel of the Kingdom (4:17-7:29)
2. The King Takes Authority (8:1-10:42)
3. Growing Organized Opposition to the Kingdom (11:1-13:58)
4. Preaching but Moving Toward His Ultimate Mission (14:1-20:34)
5. His Final Week of Public Ministry (21:1-25:46)

C. The Suffering, Death and Resurrection of the Messiah -- 26:1-28:20

IV. The Genealogy 1:1-17

A. The Four Historic Landmarks

Abraham – the father of the faithful.

David – the Great King.

The Exile

The Return from Exile

The purpose of the genealogy and all history – Jesus Christ the Lord

B. Impeded in the Genealogy: Redemption

1. **Tamar** -- daughter-in-law to Judah
2. **Rahab** the harlot – but also the one used by God to help gain the victory at Jericho.
3. **Ruth** – A direct and close ancestor of David.
4. **Bathsheba** – The mother of Solomon.

V. The Virgin Birth: An Example of Matthew's use of OT Prophecy

Matthew 1:23 – quoting from Isaiah 7:14.

The Hebrew word is *alma*, which means “young woman or virgin”.

It is used for an unmarried woman of marriageable age.

The Greek word used to translate *alma* in the LXX is *parthenos*.

Which usually means virgin or young girl.

This is the word that Matthew chose to use in **1:23** – by which he certainly means “virgin” as we can see from **1:18-25**

Prophecy is always more clearly and better understood after fulfillment.

Conclusion: Matthew 1:21