

The Gospel of Matthew Bible Study
Week One
Matt: 1;1-2:23

Written as early as 50 AD.

(Mark wrote to Romans; Luke wrote to Greeks; John's Gospel is universal)

Matthew wrote for Jewish Audiences:

- Jesus was from David's line, (Jeremiah)
- Born in Bethlehem (Micah)
- Took flight to Egypt (Hosea)
- Gave sight to the blind (Isaiah)
- Made triumphant entry into Jerusalem (Zechariah)

What was going on when this Gospel was written

Matthew's Gospel is the bridge between the Old Testament and the New Testament

Can't jump from Malachi to Acts, for instance without being very confused

Matthew's gospel was the most widely read and most quoted in the early church

- Portrays Jesus as the embodiment and fulfillment of all that Israel hoped for
- Therefore, Jews are not abandoning their heritage but discovering its full meaning
- Matthew interprets the events of Jesus' life as pivotal events in salvation history
- Matthew sees Jesus as a model of the inner life of the community as it moves into its future (obedience to the will of the Father is still key, just as it was for the Israelites)

The genealogy shows Jesus' continuity with the past:

- inclusion of women in the genealogy was unusual:
 - Tamar the Canaanite who seduced her father in law Judah
 - Rahab who helped the Jewish spies escape
 - Ruth the Moabite who married Boaz
 - Bathsheba, wife of the Hittite whose beauty kindled lust and murder in David

Each of these women was a foreigner who breaks into Jewish history, showing that God has incorporated non-Jews into Jewish history all the time. So here come the Gentiles again!

1:21—entire Gospel in a single verse!

One way to organize Matthew, according to these themes:

1. Revelation of the King - Ch. 1-10
2. Rebellion against the King - Ch. 11-13
3. Retirement of the King - Ch. 14-20 (to be alone with His disciples)
4. Rejection of the King - Ch 21-27
5. Resurrection of the King - Ch. 28

For Week One:

- Birth of the King
- Homage to the King
- Hostility to the King
- Humility of the King