

Gospel of Matthew

Introduction: HG Bishop Youssef

His Grace Bishop Youssef ~ فسوي ابن الالة فاي ن تاطع · MATTHEW - Intro & Ch 1 ~ Bible Study

Introduction to the Gospel of St. Matthew

00:00-20:00

- The Gospel of St Matthew has always occupied a position of high esteem in the faith and life of the Early Church
- Most of the Early Church Fathers frequently quoted the Gospel of St Matthew
- Gospel of St Matthew was the most read gospel during the first two centuries of Christianity
- Author: St. Matthew
 - All the Church Fathers agree that the author is St Matthew, himself
 - Matthew means "Gift of the Lord"
 - Also called Levi
 - He was a tax-collector before being called to be one of the disciples of Christ
 - One of the Lord's earliest disciples
 - Because he followed the Lord Jesus Christ so closely, his account is considered a first-hand eyewitness account (contrast with St Luke who depended on others to write his gospel)
- Timing:
 - Irenaeus said it was written while St Peter and St Paul were preaching in Rome
 - Eusebius, the Church Historian, said it was written after St Matthew left Palestine and started to preach outside Palestine
 - Clement of Alexandria said that the first two gospels written were the Gospel of St Matthew and the Gospel of St Luke
- Two Versions
 - Hebrew/Aramaic Version (39-42 AD)
 - All of the Church Fathers reference this, but this work is lost
 - Possibly lost when Jerusalem was destroyed; or destroyed by the Judaizers
 - Greek Version (60-67 AD)

- The version that we are using now
 - There is no consensus among scholars as to whether the Greek version is a translation of the Hebrew/Aramaic version, or if it is a different gospel
 - Regardless, the Gospel was written by St Matthew
- Audience: Jews who believed in Christ and became Christian
 - Gives details of Jewish Religious Observances
 - Uses Jewish style of argument
 - Starts with a Genealogy to show that Jesus is Son of Abraham and Son of David
 - Prophetic Formula
 - St Matthew Mentions many evidences that Christ rose from the dead
- Purpose
 - St Matthew wants to prove to them that Jesus of Nazareth is the Messianic King of the Old Testament whom they are waiting for
 - He refers many times to prophecies from the Old Testament to prove that Jesus is the Messiah and in Him the prophecies are fulfilled
 - To make clear that the New Testament is a continuation of the Old Testament
 - Christ came to fulfill the Law not to destroy it
 - To show that Christ was sent to the Jews (Matthew 15:24 - "I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel")
- Theme: Jesus is the King of the Jews
- Sections
 - Matthew 1-4:11 - The Advent of the Messiah
 - Christ is the Son of David
 - Christ was born of a Virgin at Bethlehem
 - His way was prepared by John the Baptist
 - His Baptism
 - The Temptation on the Mountain
 - Matthew 4:12-16:12 - The Public Proclamation of the Messiah's Kingdom
 - He chose His first disciples and started His ministry in Galilee
 - Sermon on the Mount
 - Many miracles performed by Christ
 - Matthew 16:13-Matthew 23 - Distinct and Public Claim of the Messiahship
 - Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?
 - Account of the Transfiguration
 - Entering Jerusalem as the Son of David
 - Assuming Messianic Authority in the Temple
 - Matthew 24-27 - Sacrifice of the Messiah, the High Priest, on the Cross
 - Prepared His Disciples for His Sacrificial Death
 - The Crucifixion
 - Matthew 28 - Victory of the Messiah, the Savior and the King
 - The Resurrection
- Numerology
 - In Scripture in general, numbers usually have more significance than just a quantity
 - e.g. 7 is a symbol of perfection
 - Gematria
 - Each letter has a corresponding number
 - So a name or a word has a number

- D = 4
- V = 6
- DVD = 14 (in Hebrew, there aren't any vowels so the name David is DVD)
- St Matthew uses numerology a lot
 - 14 = King David's Number
 - St Matthew wants to establish the link between Christ and King David
 - Three sets of 14 in the Genealogy in Ch 1
 - Total 42
 - 42 is 6x7
 - 6 is the number of man (since man was made on the 6th day)
 - 7 is the number of God (perfect number)
 - So 42 is the conflict between man and God
 - Man rebelled against God
 - But God sent His Son to reconcile man with God
 - 7 is a perfect number
 - 7 Beautitudes (Matthew 5)
 - 7 Repetitions in the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6)
 - 7 Parables (Matthew 13)
 - 7 Woes (Matthew 23)

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