



# Matthew

Teaching Preview

## Introduction

### Authorship

The external evidence is unanimous that the author was Matthew, one of the twelve apostles. Thus Irenaeus says, “Matthew also issued a written Gospel among the Hebrews in their own dialect, while Peter and Paul were preaching at Rome, and laying the foundations of the Church” (Adv. Haer. 3.1.1). According to Eusebius, Origen held that Matthew was the first of the Gospels to be written and that it was written in Hebrew (Eccl. Hist. 6.25.4).

### Audience, Date, and Provenance

It is generally held that this Gospel shows evidence of dependence on Mark (the passages common to the two Gospels are such that it is highly improbable that Mark used Matthew). Since Mark is thought to have been written not before about A.D. 65, this means that Matthew would be dated at the earliest in the 70s.

Although we do not have clarity as to where it was written, we are clear as to the primary audience being the Jewish believers that were now part of the local churches scattered throughout the greater Mediterranean.

### Purpose

The purpose of the Gospel of Matthew is threefold:

1. Prove that Jesus was the prophesied Messiah of Israel.
2. Demonstrate that both the message and the works of Jesus as the prophesied Messiah of Israel were evaluated and rejected by Israel.
3. Provide Hebrew believers with the necessary understanding of how Messiah Jesus was preparing his disciples and his followers for the new plan (Church) that would come into being after the death, burial, and resurrection.

These three purposes are reflected in the outline below.

# Outline

Purpose	Date	Passage	Topic
1	<i>Messiah's Introduction</i>		
	01/04/2026	Matthew 1:1-2:23	Messiah's Arrival
	01/11/2026	Matthew 3:1-17	Messiah's Messenger
	01/18/2026	Matthew 4:1-11	Messiah's Temptation
	<i>Messiah's Message</i>		
	02/15/2026	Matthew 4:12-25	Messiah's Ministry Culture
	02/22/2026	Matthew 5-7 (1)	Kingdom Living (1)
	03/01/2026	Matthew 5-7 (2)	Kingdom Living (2)
	<i>Messiah's Work</i>		
	03/15/2026	Matthew 8:1-22	Authority: Healing
	03/22/2026	Matthew 8:23-9:34	Authority: Miracles
03/29/2026	Matthew 9:35-10:42	Authority: Ministry	
2	<i>Messiah's Rejection</i>		
	04/12/2026	Matthew 11-12	Rejecting Messiah
	04/19/2026	Matthew 13	Warning of Judgment
3	<i>Messiah's New Plan</i>		
	04/26/2026	Matthew 14:1-16:12	Miracles And Teaching
	05/03/2026	Matthew 16:13-17:13	Relating To Messiah
	05/10/2026	Matthew 17:14-18:35	Lifestyles Of The New Plan (1)
	05/17/2026	Matthew 19:1-20:28	Lifestyles Of The New Plan (2)
	05/24/2026	Matthew 20:29-21:22	Final Presentation Of Messiah
	05/31/2026	Matthew 21:23-23:39	Final Rejection Of Messiah
	06/07/2026	Matthew 24:1-25:46	Prophecies And The New Plan
	06/14/2026	Matthew 26:1-28:15	The Fulcrum Of Human History
	06/21/2026	Matthew 28:16-20	Commission To The New Plan
06/28/2026	Various	Embracing The Commission	

# Doctrine

## Messianic Prophecy

Due to the purpose of the writing of the gospel of Matthew, there are numerous sections that address the prophetic significance of the arrival of Jesus as Messiah. Being that Matthew writes this account to address the various concerns of the Jewish believers in the Church, he certainly must address the core questions concerning the prophesied Messiah and how Jesus could indeed be Messiah even though many of the specific prophecies concerning Messiah were not fulfilled by Him during His time on earth.

Specifically regarding prophecy, Matthew addresses the evidence supporting the identity of Jesus as the Messiah; the genealogical argument for Davidic descendancy, the role of John the Baptist as the fulfilled "one crying in the wilderness" who would proclaim His coming, his rejection by his people, and his timely arrival in Jerusalem as foretold by Daniel.

## Transition From Old To New Covenant

An important note that Matthew addresses from a doctrinal perspective is the transition from the Old to the New Covenant from the perspective of the Hebrew believer. Matthew wants to inform the Hebrew believer of the significant answers to their most serious questions concerning their new role in the new thing of the Messiah, which is the church. This would have a unique impact on Hebrew believers because of their unique relationship to the Old Covenant as those who literally "born and raised" in it.

In the Gospel of Matthew, the author seeks to take the Hebrew believers on a journey from understanding the way in which the Messiah's initial offer to restore Israel to the things that had been prophesied to understanding the new thing that was going to be established upon the death, burial, and resurrection of Messiah Jesus.

## Hermeneutics

One of the other challenges with the Gospel of Matthew is proper biblical interpretation as we move through an account that takes the reader on a journey from the Old to New Covenant. The issue of hermeneutics and how we interpret these passages becomes very challenging if we are unclear of who the target audience is and what the specific application is of that part of the passage for the target audience.

With this in mind, we will seek to provide not only specific interpretations for each passage, but we will also try to make clear some of the challenges in terms of how we interpret each of these passages within the flow of the letter. Our aim will be to help the church family understand how we are to properly interpret everything that's said within the Gospel of Matthew.