

MATTHEW

The Book of Matthew is the first book of the New Testament in the Bible. It is one of the four Gospel accounts, which focus on the life, teachings, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The book is traditionally attributed to the apostle Matthew, also known as Levi, who was one of Jesus' twelve disciples and a known tax collector. We find the account of his conversion in Matthew 9:9. The book was likely written during the era of the early church in A.D. 55-65.

The Gospel of Matthew is the most Jewish-centric of the Gospels and emphasizes Jesus' role as the long-awaited Messiah and King of Israel. It begins with a genealogy tracing Jesus' lineage back to King David and Abraham, connecting him to the promises made to the Jewish people in the Old Testament. The book then narrates the birth of Jesus, his baptism by John the Baptist, and his temptation in the wilderness.

The central portion of the book consists of Jesus' teachings, parables, and miracles, presenting his message of the Kingdom of God and the ethical standards expected of his followers. The Sermon on the Mount, found in chapters 5 to 7, is one of the most famous sections of the book and contains key teachings on topics such as love, forgiveness, and the nature of true righteousness.

Matthew also emphasizes Jesus' authority through his teachings and miracles, highlighting his power over sickness, nature, and even death. The book includes numerous healing accounts, exorcisms, and demonstrations of compassion towards the marginalized.

As the narrative progresses, the tension between Jesus and the religious authorities of the time, particularly the Pharisees and scribes, escalates. The book depicts clashes between Jesus and these leaders, revealing their opposition to his teachings and claims.

MATTHEW (CONT.)

The latter part of the book focuses on Jesus' journey to Jerusalem, his crucifixion, and his resurrection. These events culminate in the Great Commission, where Jesus instructs his disciples to spread his teachings to all nations and baptize believers in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

What We Can Learn

The Book of Matthew presents Jesus as the promised Messiah, the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies, and the King who brings about the Kingdom of God. It provides a comprehensive account of Jesus' life, teachings, and redemptive mission, highlighting his authority, compassion, and ultimate sacrifice for the salvation of humanity.

Memory Verse

“And he said to him, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.’” Matthew 22:37-40 (ESV)