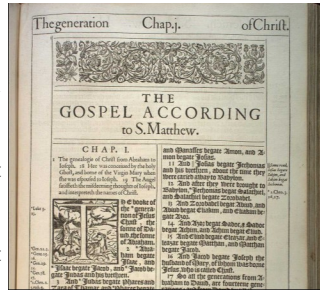


## Matthew: For Jews or Gentiles?

It is commonly stated that Matthew wrote his book to an audience with a Jewish background. This certainly seems to be the case. Matthew quotes extensively from the Old Testament (nearly 70 times!), focuses on fulfilled prophecy, highlights Jesus as the Messiah, and focuses heavily on the “Kingdom.” All of these things would be **very** important to a Jewish person. But Matthew’s gospel clearly points to gentile inclusion. It is Matthew that records the visit of the Magi, who were gentiles (Mt. 2:1-12); the flight to Egypt (Mt. 2:13-15); the faith of a gentile centurion (8:10); the faith of a Canaanite woman (15:21-28); and the great commission which was, “Go into **all the world...**” (28:18-20). Clearly, while Matthew may have written to a predominately “Jewish” audience, he wanted all to understand that the Messiah’s kingdom was open to all people who would believe and obey!



## Questions

Try to find the answers to these questions as you read through Matthew 1-14 this week. If you have children, go over these questions with them and have them try to answer the questions also!

- 1) What is the name of the angel that appeared to Joseph in a dream?  
a) Gabriel b) Michael c) Matthew d) No name given
- 2) Where did Joseph take Mary and Jesus to escape from Herod? \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) How many days did Jesus fast in the wilderness? \_\_\_\_\_ (*Bonus Question! Can you name the two individuals in the Old Testament that did this also?*)
- 4) Match the following attitudes with their blessing from Matthew 5:1-12  

|                                    |                                 |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Poor in spirit                     | Shall see God                   |
| Merciful                           | Inherit the earth               |
| Meek                               | Be called sons of God           |
| Persecuted for righteousness' sake | Theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven |
| Mourn                              | Theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven |
| Peacemakers                        | Be comforted                    |
| Pure in heart                      | Be satisfied                    |
| Hunger for righteousness           | Receive mercy                   |
- 5) List the 12 Disciples: \_\_\_\_\_
- 6) Who did Herod the Tetrarch think Jesus was? \_\_\_\_\_

◆—————◆

**The Master Teacher:** Matthew includes many of the miracles of Jesus, but his primary emphasis is on Jesus’ words and teachings. He includes the Sermon on the Mount (5-7), lengthy parable passages (13), and the Olivet Discourse (24-25) among several other shorter sermons. Why is this important? Because it reminds us that it is not just what Jesus did that we need to know, but what He said. Many people love hearing about His miracles, and they love to think about His sacrificial love, but they don’t want to obey His teachings. But if we want to be blessed by what the Lord did, we must know and obey what the Master taught! *“If you love me, keep my commandments!” (Jn. 14:15)*

# “That You May Grow Thereby...”

A weekly Bible reading plan



## Matthew 1-14

### The Messiah has Come! Part 1

### Overview

Over the last few weeks, our reading plan has taken us through the first book of the Bible. Now, we turn to the first book of the New Testament! The first gospel record is ascribed to be the account of Matthew, also known as Levi, who was a tax-collector until he became one of Jesus’ disciples. As with all of the gospels, Matthew tells the story of Jesus, but does not give us a simple biography. He writes to show who Jesus is, what He did, what He taught, and what that means for us. Matthew highlights Jesus as the Messiah and the fulfillment of God’s promises. At least 12 times Matthew links Jesus’ actions with Old Testament prophecies. Focusing on Jesus as the Messiah and the “son of David” naturally leads him to also focus on the Kingdom of God. To this end, Matthew is unique in that his work is the only gospel to mention the Church specifically (Mt. 16:18). Matthew also depicts Jesus as the master Teacher, and focuses on many of Jesus’ sermons and parables. For example, it is Matthew that records the great Sermon on the Mount for us in chapters 5-7. How blessed we are to be able to read this inspired account which bolsters our faith in Jesus, and allows us to sit at the Master’s feet to hear Him teach us even now!

### Suggested Reading Schedule

Monday: Mt. 1-4  
Tuesday: Mt. 5-7  
Wednesday: Mt. 8-9  
Thursday: Mt. 10-12  
Friday: Mt. 13-14

### Outline of Matthew

A good way of outlining Matthew is to recognize 7 distinct sections; an introduction and conclusion, filled in with five sections, each of which is concluded with the phrase “When Jesus ended/finished...” Thus, we can put together the following generic outline:

- 1) Presentation of the King (1-4:11)
- 2) The King’s Proclamation (4:12-7:29)
- 3) The Power of the King (8:1-11:1)
- 4) Progressive Rejection of the King (11:2-16:12)
- 5) Preparation of the King’s Disciples (16:13-20:28)
- 6) Presentation of the King (20:29-27:26)
- 7) Proof of the King (28:1-20)

*\*Adapted from Nelson’s Illustrated Bible Dictionary*

