

# NEW THRU 30 HISTORY

## History: Matthew

**Author:** Matthew, a former tax collector turned disciple of Jesus (Matthew 10:3). Also called Levi in Mark 2:14 and Luke 5:27.

**When was the book of Matthew written, where was it composed and who was it written to?:** Most likely written in Antioch, between 60-70 AD. The multiple Jewish elements in the Gospel indicate that the audience is primarily Jewish, but the book also offers a vision of salvation that reaches beyond the Jews to all peoples.

**Purpose of the book:** To demonstrate that Jesus is the promised Messiah (“Christ”) of the Old Testament who does not abolish but fulfills the law and brings salvation to all people, both Jew and Gentile.

**How does the book of Matthew fit into the Jewish culture of the New Testament?:** More than any other gospel, Matthew strives to demonstrate that Jesus stands in line with Scripture. There are 53 quotes and 76 references to the Old Testament. Fifteen times, Matthew says that Jesus fulfilled the Old Testament, often using the phrase, “in order that what was spoken through the prophet might be fulfilled, saying...”. Matthew’s goal is to argue that while Jesus did bring changes to the Law, these changes did not betray but fulfill it.

**Interesting notes about the book of Matthew:** The book is not a chronological account of Jesus’ life. It is arranged around five blocks of Jesus’ teaching on discipleship (5-7), missions (10), the Kingdom of Heaven (13), life with others (18), and the last days (23-25).

- Matthew is the only gospel to use the word “Church.”
- Mark, not Matthew, was the first gospel written. Matthew is placed first because it is seen as the link between the Old and New Testaments due to the amount of scriptural quotations.

### **Main Takeaways from the book of Matthew:**

- While salvation comes through Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross, a true disciple of Jesus will obey his teaching (7:21-27).
- Although the Kingdom of Heaven will only fully come at the end of time, Jesus began it here through his ministry and we can live in it now by putting his teachings into practice.
- Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross provides forgiveness for sins (26:28).