

Outline of
Matthew



Introduction

Authorship

In contrast to, say, Paul's letters, attributions of authorship in the Gospels are generally based on church tradition rather than evidence in the biblical text itself. Although these traditions surface in various parts of the second-century empire, there appears to be unanimity regarding the authorship of the four Gospels, suggesting the traditions are early. Rarely were works the size of the Gospels published anonymously, so the first generation would have probably remembered and transmitted accurately traditions about their authorship.

Some question the specific tradition about Matthew, in part because the earliest tradition also claims that the original Gospel of Matthew was written in Hebrew, which is not true of our First Gospel. Some suggest that Matthew authored an earlier Hebrew work, perhaps especially involving Jesus' sayings; translated into Greek, this material was used by other Gospel writers but especially developed in our Gospel of Matthew. Most scholars also believe that our current Gospel of Matthew uses Mark. Although this observation might count against direct authorship by Matthew, one could argue against it being decisive by itself. Xenophon, for example, depends on an earlier written source even while reporting events of which he was an eyewitness, presumably because that source had become standard. Whatever one's conclusions, it seems best to speak of "Matthew" for lack of any better designation. There was also likely a reason for the church's tradition. Some scholars note that tax collectors (Mt 9:9) would be among the Galileans most apt to be able to take notes.

Date

The date of Matthew is debated (from before 70 to around 90). Even fairly conservative scholars differ in their views of Matthew's date and authorship. Most scholars, however, do not date Mark before 64, and do believe that our current Gospel of Matthew depends on Mark at a time when the latter was circulating widely. Because Matthew shows more concern for the emerging power of the Pharisaic rabbinic movement than Mark, and these rabbis began to achieve some political power in Syria-Palestine mainly after 70, some argue that Matthew wrote in the seventies. Scholars lack unanimity; suggestions range earlier and later.

Where Matthew was Written

The most likely proposed locale is in the area of Syria-Palestine. Some do so because that is where the rabbis may have exercised their greatest influence in the seventies and eighties of the first century. Whether or not that is the case, much of Matthew's language fits that of Jewish sages from the eastern Mediterranean, suggesting such a milieu. But again certainty is not possible.

Setting and Purpose

Matthew addresses the needs of his Jewish-Christian hearers, whom many scholars believe were in conflict with a Pharisaic religious establishment (cf. Mt 3:7 with Lk 3:7; Mt 5:20; 23:2-39). Members of the early rabbinic movement, mainly successors of the earlier Pharisees, never achieved the power that later rabbis claimed, but they began to consolidate as much juridical and theological influence as possible, especially in Syria-Palestine, in the years and decades following A.D. 70.

Matthew presents the traumatic destruction of the temple (on many views this event had occurred recently; see the previous discussion on date) as judgment on the earlier Judean establishment (though it was mainly Sadducean) in chapters 23–24. He wants to encourage his community to evangelize Gentiles as well as their own people (cf. 1:5; 2:1-12; 3:9; 8:5-13; 15:21-28; 24:14; 28:19). Many scholars believe that Matthew’s collection of Jesus’ teachings (especially chaps. 5–7, 10, 13, 18, 23–25) is to be used to make other disciples for Jesus, just as other Jewish disciples passed on their rabbis’ teachings to their own disciples (28:19).

Source: Keener, Craig S. (2014). *The IVP Bible Background Commentary: New Testament*, Second Edition. InterVarsity Press.

Chapter
1

- Mt 1:1-17** The genealogy of Christ from Abraham to Joseph.
- Mt 1:18** He is miraculously conceived of the Holy Ghost by the Virgin Mary, when she was espoused to Joseph.
- Mt 1:19-25** The angel satisfies the doubts of Joseph, and declares the names and office of Christ: Jesus is born.



Chapter
2

- Mt 2:1-2** The wise men from the east inquire after Christ;
- Mt 2:3-8** at which Herod is alarmed.
- Mt 2:9-12** They are directed by a star to Bethlehem, worship him, and offer their presents.
- Mt 2:13-15** Joseph flees into Egypt with Jesus and his mother.
- Mt 2:16-19** Herod slays the children;
- Mt 2:20-22** himself dies.
- Mt 2:23** Christ is brought back again into Galilee to Nazareth.

Chapter
3

- Mt 3:1-6** John preaches: his office, life, and baptism.
- Mt 3:7-12** He reprehends the Pharisees,
- Mt 3:13-17** and baptizes Christ in Jordan.

Chapter
4

- Mt 4:1-11** Christ, fasting forty days, is tempted of the devil and ministered unto by angels.
- Mt 4:12-16** He dwells in Capernaum;
- Mt 4:17** begins to preach;
- Mt 4:18-20** calls Peter and Andrew,
- Mt 4:21-22** James and John;
- Mt 4:23-25** teaches and heals all the diseased.

Chapter
5

- Mt 5:1-2** Christ's sermon on the mount.
- Mt 5:3-12** Who are blessed;
- Mt 5:13** the salt of the earth;
- Mt 5:14-16** the light of the world.
- Mt 5:17-20** He came to fulfil the law.
- Mt 5:21-26** What it is to kill;
- Mt 5:27-32** to commit adultery;
- Mt 5:33-37** to swear.
- Mt 5:38-42** He exhorts to suffer wrong,
- Mt 5:43-47** to love our enemies;
- Mt 5:48** and to labour after perfection.



Chapter
6

- Mt 6:1-32** Christ continues his sermon on the mount, exhorting not to be careful for worldly things,
- Mt 6:33-34** but to seek God's kingdom.

Chapter
7

- Mt 7:1-27** Christ, continuing his sermon on the mount, reproves rash judgment, etc.
- Mt 7:28-29** Christ ends his sermon, and the people are astonished.

Chapter
8

- Mt 8:1-4** Christ cleanses the leper;
- Mt 8:5-13** heals the centurion's servant,
- Mt 8:14-15** Peter's mother in law,
- Mt 8:16-17** and many other diseased;
- Mt 8:18-22** shows how he is to be followed;
- Mt 8:23-27** stills the tempest on the sea;
- Mt 8:28-30** drives the devils out of two men possessed;
- Mt 8:31-34** and suffers them to go into the swine.

Chapter
9

- Mt 9:1-8** Christ cures one sick of the palsy;
- Mt 9:9** calls Matthew from the receipt of custom;
- Mt 9:10-13** eats with publicans and sinners;
- Mt 9:14-19** defends his disciples for not fasting;
- Mt 9:20-22** cures the bloody issue;
- Mt 9:23-26** raises from death Jairus' daughter;
- Mt 9:27-31** gives sight to two blind men;
- Mt 9:32-35** heals a dumb man possessed of a devil;
- Mt 9:36-38** and has compassion on the multitude.

Chapter
10

Mt 10:1-4 Christ sends out his twelve apostles, enabling them with power to do miracles;
Mt 10:5-15 giving them their charge, teaches them;
Mt 10:16-39 comforts them against persecutions;
Mt 10:40-42 and promises a blessing to those that receive them.

Chapter
11

Mt 11:1-6 John sends his disciples to Christ.
Mt 11:7-15 Christ's testimony concerning John.
Mt 11:16-19 The perverse judgment of the people.
Mt 11:20-24 Christ upbraids Chorazin, Bethsaida, and Capernaum;
Mt 11:25-27 and praising his Father's wisdom in revealing the Gospel to the simple,
Mt 11:28-30 he calls to him all such as feel the burden of their sins.

Chapter
12

Mt 12:1-2 Christ reproves the blindness of the Pharisees concerning the breach of the sabbath,
Mt 12:3-8 by scripture,
Mt 12:9-12 by reason,
Mt 12:13-21 and by a miracle.
Mt 12:22-23 He heals a man possessed that was blind and dumb;
Mt 12:24-35 and confuting the absurd charge of casting out devils by Beelzebub, he shows that blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall never be forgiven.
Mt 12:36-37 Account shall be made of idle words.
Mt 12:38-45 He rebukes the unfaithful, who seek after a sign,
Mt 12:46-50 and shows who is his brother, sister, and mother.

Chapter
13

Mt 13:1-17 The parable of the sower and the seed;
Mt 13:18-23 the exposition of it.
Mt 13:24-30 The parable of the tares;
Mt 13:31-32 of the mustard seed;
Mt 13:33-35 of the leaven;
Mt 13:36-43 exposition of the parable of the tares.
Mt 13:44 The parable of the hidden treasure;
Mt 13:45-46 of the pearl;
Mt 13:47-52 of the drag net cast into the sea.
Mt 13:53-58 Christ is contemned of his own countrymen.



Chapter
14

- Mt 14:1-2** Herod's opinion of Christ.
- Mt 14:3-12** Wherefore John Baptist was beheaded.
- Mt 14:13-14** Jesus departs into a desert place,
- Mt 14:15-21** where he feeds five thousand men with five loaves and two fishes.
- Mt 14:22-33** He walks on the sea to his disciples;
- Mt 14:34-36** and landing at Gennesaret, heals the sick by the touch of the hem of his garment.

Chapter
15

- Mt 15:1-9** Christ reproves the Scribes and Pharisees for transgressing God's commandments through their own traditions;
- Mt 15:10-20** teaches how that which goes into the mouth does not defile a man.
- Mt 15:21-28** He heals the daughter of the woman of Canaan,
- Mt 15:29-31** and other great multitudes;
- Mt 15:32-39** and with seven loaves and a few little fishes feeds four thousand men, beside women and children.

Chapter
16

- Mt 16:1-4** The Pharisees require a sign.
- Mt 16:5-12** Jesus warns his disciples of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees.
- Mt 16:13-15** The people's opinion of Christ,
- Mt 16:16-20** and Peter's confession of him.
- Mt 16:21-22** Jesus foretells his death;
- Mt 16:23** reproves Peter for dissuading him from it;
- Mt 16:24-28** and admonishes those that will follow him, to bear the cross.

Chapter
17

- Mt 17:1-13** The transfiguration of Christ.
- Mt 17:14-21** He heals the lunatic,
- Mt 17:22-23** foretells his own passion,
- Mt 17:24-27** and pays tribute.



Chapter
18

- Mt 18:1-6** Christ warns his disciples to be humble and harmless,
- Mt 18:7-9** to avoid offences,
- Mt 18:10-14** and not to despise the little ones;
- Mt 18:15-20** teaches how we are to deal with our brethren when they offend us,
- Mt 18:21-22** and how oft to forgive them;
- Mt 18:23-31** which he sets forth by a parable of the king that took account of his servants,
- Mt 18:32-35** and punished him who shewed no mercy to his fellow.

Chapter
19

- Mt 19:1-2** Christ heals the sick;
- Mt 19:3-9** answers the Pharisees concerning divorcement;
- Mt 19:10-12** shows when marriage is necessary;
- Mt 19:13-15** receives little children;
- Mt 19:16-19** instructs the young man how to attain eternal life;
- Mt 19:20-22** and how to be perfect;
- Mt 19:23-26** tells his disciples how hard it is for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God;
- Mt 19:27-30** and promises reward to those that forsake any thing to follow him.

Chapter
20

- Mt 20:1-16** Christ, by the similitude of the labourers in the vineyard, shows that God is debtor unto no man;
- Mt 20:17-19** foretells his passion;
- Mt 20:20-28** by answering the mother of Zebedee's children, teaches his disciples to be lowly;
- Mt 20:29-34** and gives two blind men their sight.

Chapter
21

- Mt 21:1-11** Christ rides into Jerusalem upon an ass;
- Mt 21:12-16** drives the buyers and sellers out of the temple;
- Mt 21:17-22** curses the fig-tree;
- Mt 21:23-27** puts to silence the priests and elders,
- Mt 21:28-32** and rebukes them by the similitude of the two sons,
- Mt 21:33-46** and the husbandmen who slew such as were sent to them.



Chapter
22

- Mt 22:1-8** The parable of the marriage of the king's son.
- Mt 22:9-11** The vocation of the Gentiles.
- Mt 22:12-14** The punishment of him that wanted the wedding garment.
- Mt 22:15-22** Tribute ought to be paid to Caesar.
- Mt 22:23-33** Christ confutes the Sadducees for the resurrection;
- Mt 22:34-40** answers the lawyer, which is the first and great commandment;
- Mt 22:41-46** and puzzles the Pharisees by a question about the Messias.

Chapter
23

- Mt 23:1-4** Christ admonishes the people to follow the good doctrine, not the evil examples, of the Scribes and Pharisees.
- Mt 23:5-12** His disciples must beware of their ambition.
- Mt 23:13-33** He denounces eight woes against their hypocrisy and blindness,
- Mt 23:34-39** and prophesies of the destruction of Jerusalem.

Chapter
24

Mt 24:1-2 Christ foretells the destruction of the temple;
Mt 24:3-28 what and how great calamities shall be before it;
Mt 24:29-35 the signs of his coming to judgment.
Mt 24:36-41 And because that day and hour are unknown,
Mt 24:42-51 we ought to watch like good servants, expecting every moment our Master's coming.

Chapter
25

Mt 25:1-13 The parable of the ten virgins,
Mt 25:14-30 and of the talents.
Mt 25:31-46 Also the description of the last judgment.

Chapter
26

Mt 26:1-2 Christ foretells his own death.
Mt 26:3-5 The rulers conspire against him.
Mt 26:6-13 The woman anoints his feet.
Mt 26:14-16 Judas bargains to betray him.
Mt 26:17-25 Christ eats the passover;
Mt 26:26-29 institutes his holy supper;
Mt 26:30-35 foretells the desertion of his disciples, and Peter's denial;
Mt 26:36-46 prays in the garden;
Mt 26:47-56 and being betrayed by a kiss,
Mt 26:57-68 is carried to Caiaphas,
Mt 26:69-75 and denied of Peter.

Chapter
27

Mt 27:1-2 Christ is delivered bound to Pilate.
Mt 27:3-18 Judas hangs himself.
Mt 27:19 Pilate, admonished of his wife,
Mt 27:20-26 and being urged by the multitude, washes his hands, and looses Barabbas.
Mt 27:27-32 Christ is mocked and crowned with thorns;
Mt 27:33-38 crucified;
Mt 27:39-49 reviled;
Mt 27:50-61 dies, and is buried;
Mt 27:62-66 his sepulchre is sealed and watched.

Chapter
28

Mt 28:1-8 Christ's resurrection is declared by an angel to the women.
Mt 28:9-10 He himself appears unto them.
Mt 28:11-15 The chief priests give the soldiers money to say that he was stolen out of his sepulchre.
Mt 28:16-17 Christ appears to his disciples,
Mt 28:18-20 and sends them to baptize and teach all nations.

