

Matthew 1:1

- **1ST - THROUGH THE BIBLE...**

- o Introduction...

- There are TWO ways to teach the Bible – VERSE by VERSE or TOPICAL...
- We teach through the Bible VERSE by VERSE – chapter by chapter – book by book...
- Not that there is anything wrong with TOPICAL teachings...
- But there are TWO main STRENGTHS to going through the bible VERSE by VERSE!

- o 1st – Context...

- When a church teaches a TOPICAL Bible study - picking out a few verses...
- The danger is you do not know the CONTEXT of those verses...
- It is easy to change the meaning of a single verse when taken out of CONTEXT...
- Most errors in Bible interpretation come from taking a verse out of CONTEXT...
- Satan quoted the Bible when he tempted him to leap from the Temple - **Luke 4:10-11**
- Note – never in Psalm 91 does it say to jump off of tall buildings – CONTEXT...
- Which is why Jesus countered – you shall NOT tempt the Lord – **Deuteronomy 6:16**
- One of the most important concepts in understanding the Bible is CONTEXT...
- Understanding a verse in the context of the other verses before and after...
- The context within the chapter - within the book - within the whole Bible...
- That is why we study the whole Bible - teachings chapter by chapter...
- We learn the Bible in CONTEXT – having an accurate understanding of the Word!

- o 2nd – Whole Counsel...

- Every part...
 - If a church only teaches TOPICALLY - or just certain books - we miss the whole counsel...
 - Pastors will tend to teach on certain topics they LIKE and overlook ones they DISLIKE...
 - When was the last time you heard a teaching from **Obadiah** [or even knew it was a book]!
 - But every part of the Bible is Gods inspired Word - all of it is necessary...
 - By teaching through the whole Bible - book by book - chapter by chapter...
 - We learn ALL of the Word - and we focus on the topics God deems important!
 - **Acts 20:27** – “For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God.”
- Old and New Testament...
 - The NT sits on the foundation and history of the OT – and is essential to unveiling its truths...
 - If there is any doubt on how important the OT is – the NT lets us know...
 - The New Testament included approximately 250 direct Old Testament quotations...
 - If we include indirect or partial quotations - the number jumps to more than 1000...
 - The quotes come from every book of the Old Testament – with the exception of Obadiah!
 - We study through the New Testament every Sunday morning – from **Matthew to Revelation**
 - And during the Midweek we study through the Old Testament – **Genesis to Malachi**
 - Because if we only hear the NT – we will miss out on about 75% of the Bible...
 - A good encouragement to get into both the Old and New testaments!
- Round two...
 - Having finished the book of **Revelation** – we will start again in the book of **Matthew**
 - This will the SECOND time we will be working our way through the NT!
 - Unlike a book – that we can finish and move on from....
 - The Bible is infinite in its depth – it is the WORD of God – **II Timothy 3:16**
 - Therefore we come back to it OVER and OVER to keep learning and growing...
 - So let us open our Bibles to the Book of Matthew – and BEGIN!

● **2ND – THE AUTHOR...**

o **1st – Name...**

- The author of the Book is a Disciple named Matthew [title of the Book]
- That was NOT always his name – he used to be called LEVI son of Alphaeus – **Mark 2:14**
- Perhaps because he was from the TRIBE of LEVI [not confirmed]
- His name was changed to MATTHEW [Ματθαῖος] – meaning the Gift of God
- We do NOT know who changed his name – but we assume Jesus...
- Because once LEVI met Jesus – he was NOT the same – He became the GIFT of God!
- Like Saul who had his name changed – from Saul [great] to Paul [little]
- A man with a tainted history - murderer - never really used by God...
- Who became one of the greatest men used by God in history!
- God does not want to leave us as we were before Christ...
- God wants to give us a new name – changes our character – **II Corinthians 5:17**

o **2nd – Tax collector...**

- Before MATTHEW met Jesus he worked as a TAX collector – **Luke 5:27**
- He lived in the city of Capernaum [כַּפְּרָנָה] – the village of Nahum...
- A little village on the northern end of the Sea of Galilee...
- It became the HUB of most of the ministry of Jesus!
- Rome conquered Jerusalem in the year 63 BC [General Pompey]
- They demanded heavy TAXES from all the nations they conquered...
- The common practice of the day was to hire LOCALS to collect the TAXES...
- Rome did not care if the TAX collector got EXTRA – making the job a lucrative position...
- But it made the TAX collector a hated man – worked for ROME – stole from his PEOPLE!
- I love that God choses to use people – that we love to hate...
- It means God does not care about who we WERE – instead He looks at who we WILL be!
- **Philippians 3:13** – “One thing I do - forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead.”

o **3rd – Apostle...**

- MATTHEW was one of the TWELVE disciples of Jesus...
- Listed FOUR times in NT – **Matthew 10:3 - Mark 3:18 - Luke 6:15 - Acts 1:13**
- **Mark 3:14** – “Then He appointed twelve [Apostles] - that they might be with Him and that He might send them out to preach...”
- The word APOSTLE – means to be sent out...
- Is a picture of an ambassador - a representative of God to the world...
- EVERYTHING we have SEEN Jesus do in our lives – we are called to go tell EVERYONE...
- You might think that you will NEVER be an APOSTLE – but we are all called to be sent out!
- **II Corinthians 5:20** – “We are ambassadors for Christ...”

o **4th – Humble...**

- As we read through his Gospel – he only mentions himself by name ONCE – **Matthew 9:9**
- And he references himself in the THIRD person - Jesus saw a man [not me]
- Because he understood the MESSAGE was not about Him...
- The purpose of the Gospel – is to tell others about Jesus!
- The average person uses around 16,000 words a day...
- About ONE about of every TEN of those words is – I – ME – MY!
- We like to talk about ourselves – a LOT – but it turns out we are NOT the answer...
- What we have a LOT of are opinions – maybe they are RIGHT – more often they are WRONG...
- Which is why we want to – in HUMILITY – talk a LOT more about Jesus!

o **5th – Obedient...**

- **Mark 2:14** – “[Jesus] said to [Matthew] - Follow Me. So he arose and followed Him.”
- When Jesus called MATTHEW – he did not hesitate – or give excuses...
- He IMMEDIATELY left everything behind – and went with the Lord!
- When Jesus stirs our heart – calls us to step out in faith – how do we respond...
- It is VERY easy to find reasons why we should NOT follow...
- We are BUSY – we are NOT qualified – we will start TOMORROW...
- There are ALWAYS going to be EXCUSES why we should NOT step out in faith...
- But to be used by God – only ONE thing is needed – get up and FOLLOW Jesus!
- **Luke 9:23** – “If anyone desires to come after Me - let him deny himself - and take up his cross daily - and follow Me.”
- o 6th – Example...
 - **Mark 2:15** – “[Jesus] was dining in Levis house – [and] many tax collectors and sinners also sat together with Jesus and His disciples... and they followed [Jesus].”
 - The moment God got a hold of Matthews life – he began to reach out to OTHERS...
 - He invited ALL of his TAX collector friends – other SINNERS – over for dinner...
 - He wanted them all to meet Jesus – so they could also be SAVED!
 - We all have friends and family who do NOT know Jesus...
 - They are SINNERS – who need to also have the HOPE that comes from the GOSPEL...
 - How do we give that HOPE to them – invite them to come and MEET Jesus...
 - Encourage them to come to church – a Bible study – a Fellowship night...
 - They may or may not come – but we can give them the INVITATION!
 - **Revelation 22:17** – “Let him who hears say - Come! And let him who thirsts come!”
- 3RD – THE AUDIENCE...
 - o 1st – The Jews...
 - The Book of Matthew is written to a Jewish audience – FOUR reasons:
 - FIRST - It contains more quotes from the OT than any other Gospel [over 60 quotes]
 - SECOND - The genealogy in Matthew starts with Abraham [father of the Jews] – **Matthew 1:2**
 - THIRD - the title for Jesus – SON of DAVID – is used ten times [more than every other Gospel]
 - FOURTH - Only Matthew calls the KINGDOM of God – the KINGDOM of heaven...
 - He was sensitive to his Jewish audience – who do not speak or write the name of God [G-D]
 - I do not have a whole lot of interests outside of Jesus...
 - But I am willing to walk about just about anything – so I can talk about Jesus...
 - I can chat about sports – politics – even the weather!
 - We need to know our audience – who are we talking to...
 - We want to be sensitive – so we can open a door to present the Gospel...
 - Be a bridge that reaches from Jesus out to a lost and sinful world!
 - **I Corinthians 9:22** – “I have become all things to all men - that I might by all means save some.”
 - o 2nd – Four Gospels...
 - Four stories...
 - If there is an ACCIDENT – police look for MULTIPLE witnesses...
 - The more PERSPECTIVES they can get – the better they will understand what happened!
 - Each of the Gospels has a distinct purpose – a unique PERSPECTIVE...
 - Each emphasizes a different aspects of the person and ministry of Jesus Christ:
 - **Matthew** – shows us Jesus as the King of the Jews [Messiah] - **Matthew 21:5**
 - **Mark** – presents Jesus as the servant of all...
 - **Luke** – presents Jesus as the perfect sinless man...

- **John** – presents Jesus as God almighty!

- One focus...

- When John saw the THRONE of God in Heaven – **Revelation 4:7**
- There were FOUR Cherubim who worship before God...
- These Cherubim have FOUR kinds of FACES – lion – cow – man – and bird...
- This is ONE of several other places in the Bible where we see this!
- The TWELVE tribes camped on FOUR sides of the Tabernacle – **Number 2:34**
- Each side had its own banner: Judah = Lion - Ephraim = ox - Reuben = man - Dan = eagle...
- The GOSPELS: Matthew = Lion [Jesus is King] = Mark - Ox [Jesus is the servant of all]
- Luke = Man [Jesus is the perfect sacrifice] - John = Eagle [Jesus is the King of Kings]
- What do all of these have in common – God is at the CENTER...
- The CHERUBIM circle around the LORD – Israel gathered around the LORD...
- The GOSPEL message – is all about Jesus – who is the LORD...
- The point – this life has ONE purpose – and that is to put God at the CENTER – **John 17:3**

- **4TH – THE TIMING...**

- o 1st – The Temple...

- Although we do NOT know when the book of Matthew was written...
- We can assume that book was written before the destruction of the Temple...
- Matthew refers to the Temple still standing – **Matthew 24:2**
- The Temple was destroyed in 70 AD – making Matthew one of the OLDEST books of the NT!

- o 2nd – The Church...

- Matthew is the ONLY Gospel to mention the CHURCH...
- CHURCH [ἐκκλησία] – a compound word meaning to be CALLED out [of the world]
- Meaning Matthew perhaps understood more than the other Gospel writers...
- God's intention to use those who He CALLED out – to bring His Gospel to the world!

- o 3rd – Synoptic Gospels...

- Matthew - Mark - and Luke are called the SYNOPTIC Gospels...
- The Gospel of John is different - 90 percent of the events in the Gospel are only in John...
- If Matthew was written before 70 AD – it is likely the FIRST Gospel...
- The early church Fathers [Augustine] put it FIRST in the NT for a reason...
- They held to Matthew being the source of the other SYNOPTICS!

- **5TH – THE OUTLINE...**

- o 1st – Timeline...

- Where the books of Mark and Luke tend to focus more timing...
- The Gospel of Matthew is not laid out in a chronological timeline...
- Though it BEGINS with the birth of Jesus – and ENDS with His resurrection...
- The events in between are organized by THEME!

- o 2nd – Four sections...

- Sayings...
 - The phrase AFTER these sayings – is used THREE times in the book:
 - After completing the Sermon on the Mount - **Matthew 7:28**
 - After completing His ministry in the Galilee – **Matthew 19:1**
 - After completing His ministry in Judea - **Matthew 26:1**
- Outline...
 - FIRST - The Presentation of the King – **Matthew 1-7**

- SECOND – The Ministry of the King – **Matthew 8-18**
- THIRD – The Rejection of the King - **Matthew 19-25**
- FOURTH – The Resurrection of the King – **Matthew 26-28**
- **6TH – THE BOOK – MATTHEW 1:1**
 - 1st – The Genesis...
 - Two natures...
 - The book of the generation of Jesus Christ!
 - GENERATION [γένεσις] – where we get the word GENESIS [beginning]
 - It is the same word used in VERSE 18 – the BIRTH [γένεσις] of Jesus...
 - These TWO genesis – give us BOTH natures within Jesus!
 - Fully Man – **Matthew 1:1-17**
 - Jesus came to earth as a man – **John 1:14**
 - He did what no one else could– He lived a PERFECT and SINLESS life...
 - Then the only perfect man – died to pay our DEBT – **Romans 6:23**
 - In that moment Jesus condemned sin – defeated DEATH – **I Corinthians 15:55**
 - Then came one of the great mysteries of the ages – God gave us His righteousness!
 - **II Corinthians 5:21** – “God made Christ who never sinned - to be the offering for our sin - so that we could be made right with God through Christ.”
 - In Jesus – we have lived a perfect life – we are SINLESS...
 - So God looks down on us – He does not see our sinful mistakes...
 - He instead sees the perfect life of His Son Jesus – He sees us as flawless!
 - Fully God – **Matthew 1:18-25**
 - The Bible makes it VERY clear – Jesus is God...
 - **Romans 9:5** – Jesus is the eternally blessed GOD
 - **Isaiah 9:6** – Jesus is the Son that was given – the mighty GOD
 - **John 20:28** – Jesus is our Lord and GOD
 - **I John 5:20** – Jesus is the True GOD
 - The doctrine of the DEITY of Jesus - is the RED line that cannot be crossed...
 - It is what makes a religion that claims to believe in Christ a cult...
 - There is great diversity within the Body of Christ – **I Corinthians 12:27**
 - And we can agree to disagree and a VAST collection of non-essentials...
 - But we CANNOT disagree on the Trinity - Deity of Jesus Christ – it is THE essential!
 - 2nd – The Genealogy...
 - History...
 - When the Temple was destroyed in 70 AD [Titus Vespasian]
 - The Jews were scattered across the world – and they LOST track of their GENEALOGIES...
 - No Jew in the world today can tell you what TRIBE they are from!
 - We might wonder why is it important that we know the GENEALOGY of Jesus...
 - God gave several promises as to where the MESSIAH would come from...
 - The MESSIAH had to come from a WOMAN – **Genesis 3:15**
 - The MESSIAH had to come from the line of Abraham – **Genesis 22:18**
 - The MESSIAH had to come from the line of David – **II Samuel 7:11**
 - Incomplete...
 - The list of NAMES in the book of Matthew are NOT complete...
 - His point is NOT to give us EVERY name between Abraham and Jesus...
 - He is drawing a LINE – to show us the HERITAGE of Jesus!
 - 3rd – The Name...
 - Did you ever wonder why we call Jesus – Christ – like it is His last name...

- Jesus is His NAME – [יְהוֹשֻׁעַ] – Yahweh Shua – God is Salvation...
- Christ is His TITLE – [Χριστός] or [מָשִׁיחַ] – meaning the anointed one!
- He was ANOINTED – called – to come and DIE to save us from our SINS!
- It is the COMMAND of God that EVERY person BELIEVE in Jesus...
- Because there is NO other way to be SAVED – NO other way to get to HEAVEN!
- **Acts 4:12** – “Nor is there salvation in any other - for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”