

Bible reading

MATTHEW

Written: Hard to say but the general consensus is around A.D.60. Irenaeus, a church father in the latter part of the A.D.100's. said that Matthew ministered while Peter and Paul were in Rome (early A.D.60's).

Although Matthew isn't named in the Gospel, as early as A.D.100. tradition says it was Matthew, son of Alphaeus, a former tax collector. The name Matthew means "the gift of Yahweh". His Jewish name was Levi (Mk 2:14; Lk 5:27) which may have been changed to Matthew when he became a disciple.

Matthew probably was wealthy and that is illustrated by the big banquet that he hosted in his house.

Questions:

1. From the content of the Gospel, who were the immediate audiences?
2. What was the main purpose of Matthew in writing this Gospel?
3. What is the tone or the atmosphere of the book?
4. What are two key words?