

Outline of Matthew

- A. **Matthew.** Part, at least, of the Gospel of Matthew was probably first written in the Syriac, Syro-Chaldaic, Aramaic, or popular Hebrew language. A second-century writer named Papias affirms this, and the Gospel reads as if it were written for Jews rather than Gentiles. Jerome asserts that he found an Aramaic copy of this Gospel in the library of Pamphilus at Cesarea and translated it into Greek and Latin. Scholars have in the past supposed that Matthew wrote his Gospel over again in Greek some years later, with a view to making his narrative more widely useful. It was most likely written in Palestine, and the whole texture of the book confirms that its primary purpose was to convince the Jews that Jesús was the Messiah.
- B. **Authorship.** Christian tradition says that the apostle Matthew wrote this book, and we have no reason to doubt it. His apparent use of Mark's Gospel as a source is no problem; though himself an eyewitness of Jesús, he would naturally have welcomed Mark's pioneer work of putting the story of Jesús' ministry into shape, and availed himself of it. As a tax collector, Matthew would have mastered the art of writing and would have given careful attention to details.
- C. **Contents.** As we have already said, Matthew wrote this account of Jesús' life to convince the Jews that Jesus was their Messiah. However, we also see a strong appeal to new Christians in the book, as Matthew stresses Jesús' exhortations to His followers.

I. The Birth and Early Years of Jesus (chs.1-2)	A. His Genealogy (1:1-17) B. His Birth (1:18-2:12) C. His Sojourn in Egypt (2:13-23)
II. The Beginnings of Jesús' Ministry (3:1-4:11)	A. His Forerunner (3:1-12) B. His Baptism (3:13-17) C. His Temptation (4:1-11)
III. Jesus' Ministry in Galilee (4:12-14:12)	A. The Beginning of the Galilean Campaign (4:12-25) B. The Sermon on the Mount (chs.5-7) C. A Collection of Miracles (chs.8-9) D. The Commissioning of the 12 Apostles (ch.10) E. Ministry throughout Galilee (chs.11-12) F. The Parables of the Kingdom (ch.13) G. Herod's Reaction to Jesus' Ministry (14:1-12)
IV. Jesus' Withdrawals from Galilee (14:13-17:20)	A. To the Eastern Shore of the Sea of Galilee (14:13-15:20) B. To Phoenicia (15:21-28) C. To the Decapolis (15:29-16:12) D. To Caesarea Philippi (16:13-17:20)
V. Jesus' Last Ministry in Galilee (17:22-18:35)	A. Prediction of Jesus' Death (17:22-23) B. Temple Tax (17:24-27) C. Discourse on Life in the Kingdom (ch.18)

VI. Jesus' Ministry in Judea and Perea (chs.19-20)	A. Teaching concerning Divorce (19:1-12) B. Teaching concerning Little Children (19:13-15) C. The Rich Young Man (19:16-30) D. The Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard (20:1-16) E. Prediction of Jesus' Death (20:17-19) F. A Mother's Request (20:20-28) G. Restoration of Sight at Jericho (20:29-34)
VII. Passion Week (chs.21-27)	A. The Entry of Jesús into Jerusalem as King (21:1-11) B. The Cleansing of the Temple (21:12-17) C. The Last Controversies with the Jewish Leaders (21:18-23:39) D. The Olivet Discourse (chs.24-25) E. The Anointing of Jesus' Feet (26:1-13) F. The Arrest, Trials and Death of Jesus (26:14-27:66)
VIII. The Resurrection (ch.28)	A. The Earthquake and the Angel's Announcement (28:1-7) B. Jesus's Encounter with the Women (28:8-10) C. The Guards' Report and the Jewish Elders' Bribe (28:11-15) D. The Great Commission (28:16-20)