

Matthew Series

by Alexander F. Venter

A.1. Introduction to the Book of Matthew

Matthew 1 to 28 (audio #001)

MAIN THEME: “Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near” (verses 3:2; 4:17)

Purpose of ‘The Book of Matthew’

- ❖ **To teach God’s Word:** inspirational and life oriented, not a technical study
- ❖ **To focus on Christ the King:** to know Jesus and His Messianic Kingdom
- ❖ **Key of Matthew:** “Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near” (Matt 3:2; 4:17)

The ‘Author’ and the ‘Gospel’

Matthew (also Levi) the tax-collector and disciple of Jesus (Matt 9:9-13) wrote his ‘gospel’ of Jesus the Messiah (Gr. *evangel* is the “good news of the King”).

Date, Place and Source

Probably written in the late fifties in Antioch with a large Jewish population. The sources were eye witness accounts, oral tradition, ‘Q sayings’ and Mark’s gospel.

Recipients and Purpose

Aimed at Greek-speaking people, mainly Jews, but also for Gentiles - all living in a cosmopolitan city and in a world increasingly hostile to ‘The Way’ (Christianity).

To present ‘Jesus as King’, Matthew wanted to show that Jesus was the Jewish Messiah, but His Kingdom and salvation is for the whole world.

It is also a ‘teaching gospel’ with the purpose to instruct people about Jesus.

Structure, Theme and Characteristics

Matthew has 5 discourses, structuring his book around the 5 teachings of Jesus. There is a story section before each of the teachings, an introduction in Matt 1 to 2 and a climax in Matt 26 to 28. The central theme is Jesus the Messiah and the Kingdom of the Heavens:

- ❖ **It’s Jewishness:** there is a lot of Jewish terminology; many references to Old Testament fulfillment of prophecy; discussions around the Jewish laws and leaders etc.
- ❖ **The Church:** Matthew speaks a lot about the Church. His book was used as a ‘catechism’ in the Early Church (for evangelism, for new believers, and Church teachings)
- ❖ **Miracles, Missions and ‘The End-Times’:** Matthew emphasizes the power of God’s Kingdom, it’s mission to all nations and understanding the end of the world

For Reflection and Study

- ❖ Why is teaching and instruction so important (John 8:31-32 cf. Matt 11:28-29)?
- ❖ Do you really want to know Jesus? What are you prepared to do to know Him?
- ❖ If you had to write a ‘gospel’ of Jesus Christ, what and how would you write it?
- ❖ Why is Matt 3:2; 4:17 the key summary of Matthew’s gospel (i.e. experience)?

You Here	MATTHEW: Prologue, Discourse 1 to 5 & Climax	
➡	Chapter 1-2	A. PROLOGUE: Roots and Birth of Messiah
	Chapter 3-7	1. Life in the Kingdom of the Heaven
	Chapter 8-10	2. Authority and Advance of the Kingdom
	Chapter 11-13	3. Nature and Opposition of the Kingdom
	Chapter 14-18	4. Glory and Conflict of the Kingdom
	Chapter 19-25	5. Grace and Judgements of the Kingdom
	Chapter 26-28	B. CLIMAX: The Passion & Resurrection of Jesus



About Alexander Venter: Author of the ‘Matthew Series’

The ‘Matthew Series’ is the product of Alexander Venter’s teaching ministry since 1975 when he became a church planter and pastor. Alexander has been empowered over many years by many relationships to make available Kingdom Treasures in the form of relevant Christian resources, to equip people for life and ministry in God’s Kingdom. These teachings are based on the scriptures from **Matthew 13:44-52** – “*God’s Kingdom (His life and rule) is like a treasure found in a field. On finding the treasure the person goes away and sells all they have and purchases the field, in order to explore the treasure*”. A teacher who is trained in the Word of God brings out these treasures – both old and new realities of God and his Kingdom – to all who seek after God.