

## The Life of Christ as Recorded by Matthew

**DRL Note:** *The material immediately below is from my friend and brother in Christ, Roger D. Campbell. You can see it in its original format at: <http://75ne.sl.pt> Regarding the material, he makes the following disclaimer: "I've prepared this material through the years. I am unable to name the source of all the helps, rdc."*

### A Brief Introduction to the Book of Matthew

by Roger D. Campbell

#### I. Contents of the Book:

1. The life of Jesus—part of what He did and taught. He did too much for all of it to be recorded-- And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen. (John 21:25).
2. It is probably the most often read book in the New Testament. Why? Because it is the first one in the New Testament. Many people begin reading the New Testament with the plan of reading it all the way through. Often such a plan is not carried out, and when they start afresh, they begin with the book of Matthew.

#### II. Writer: Matthew.

1. He is also called "Levi."
  - 1) And as he passed by, he saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the receipt of custom, and said unto him, **Follow me**. And he arose and followed him. (Mark 2:14).
  - 2) And after these things he went forth, and saw a publican, named Levi, sitting at the receipt of custom: and he said unto him, **Follow me**. (Luke 5:27).
2. He was a tax collector—And as Jesus passed forth from thence, he saw a man, named Matthew, sitting at the receipt of custom: and he saith unto him, **Follow me**. And he arose, and followed him. (Matthew 9:9).
3. He was an apostle...
  - 1) Philip, and Bartholomew; Thomas, and Matthew the publican; James the son of Alphaeus, and Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus; (Matthew 10:3).
  - 2) And Andrew, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus, and Simon the Canaanite, (Mark 3:18).
4. He forsook all in order to follow Jesus—And after these things he went forth, and saw a publican, named Levi, sitting at the receipt of custom: and he said unto him, **Follow me**. And he left all, rose up, and followed him. And Levi made him a great feast in his own house: and there was a great company of publicans and of others that sat down with them. (Luke 5:27-29).

**III. When Written:** Some time before A.D. 70, as it records Jesus' prediction of the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple (chapter 24), but does not record the fulfillment of such.

**IV. For Whom Written:** Mainly, the Jews.

1. It begins by showing that Jesus is the son of David and Abraham (1:1). This was of great significance to the Jews, because they knew the Messiah must be the offspring of seed of both Abraham (Genesis 22:18) and David (2 Samuel 7:12-14; Isaiah 9:6-7).

2. Matthew frequently quotes from the Old Testament, showing how prophecies about the Messiah were fulfilled in the life and work of Jesus.
3. Matthew emphasizes the mission of Jesus to the Jews...
  - 1) But he answered and said, **I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.** (Matthew 15:24).
  - 2) These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, **Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not: But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.** (Matthew 10:5-6).
4. Though emphasis is on the Jews and Jesus' mission to them, Gentiles are also noted throughout...
  - 1) And Salmon begat Booz of Rachab; and Booz begat Obed of Ruth; and Obed begat Jesse; (Matthew 1:5).
  - 2) Cf., Matthew 2:1-12.

#### V. Purpose.

1. To show that Jesus is the fulfillment of all Old Testament prophecies about the Messiah: Jesus of Nazareth is the Christ.
2. To show that Jesus is King—Tell ye the daughter of Sion, Behold, thy King cometh unto thee, meek, and sitting upon an ass, and a colt the foal of an ass (Matthew 21:5).
3. To show that Jesus is the Son of God...
  - 1) And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. (Matthew 16:16).
  - 2) And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name (John 20:30-31).
4. To show that some traditions of the Jews regarding Jesus are FALSE (e.g., Paying the guards of His tomb to lie—Matthew 28:11-15).

#### VI. General Outline.

1. Genealogy, Birth, and Early Childhood of Jesus (Matthew 1:1—2:23).
2. Events that took place just before Jesus began His public ministry (3:1—4:11).
3. The Preaching of John the Baptizer (3:1-12).
4. The Baptism of Jesus (3:13-17).
5. The Temptation of Jesus (4:1-11).
6. The Period of Jesus' Public Preaching (4:12—20:34).
  - 1) His Preaching in Galilee (4:12—18:35).
  - 2) His Preaching in Perea (19:1—20:16).
  - 3) On the Way to Jerusalem (20:17-34).
7. The Last Week of Jesus' Life and Events that Followed His Death (21:1—28:20).
  - 1) His Last Week, His Death and His Burial (21:1—27:66).
  - 2) His Resurrection and the Great Commission (28:1-20).

Note the following General Divisions of the Book of Matthew:

- 1) Chapters 1-4 are Written Chronologically.

- 2) Chapter 5-13 are Written by Topic.
- 3) Chapters 14-28 are Written Chronologically.

#### **VII. Frequently Used Words and Phrases.**

1. FULFILLED—at least 13 times (1:22; 2:15,17, 23; 4:14; 8:17; 12:17; 13:14, 35; 21:4; 26:54, 56; 27:9).
2. IT IS WRITTEN—at least 9 times (2:5; 4:4, 6, 7, 10; 11:10; 21:13; 26:24, 31).
3. HAVE YE NOT READ—at least 6 times (12:3, 5; 19:4; 21:16, 42; 22:31).
4. KINGDOM—about 55 times.
5. KINGDOM OF GOD—at least 5 times (6:33; 12:38; 19:24; 21:31, 43).
6. SON OF DAVID—at least 10 times (1:1; 9:27; 12:23; 15:22; 20:30-31; 21:9,15; 22:42,45).

#### **VIII. How Jesus Is Described.**

1. Jesus (1:1-2; 2:1).
2. The Christ (1:1, 16; 2:4; 16:16,20).
3. Emmanuel (1:23).
4. Son of David (cf., verses under VII above).
5. Son of Abraham (1:1).
6. King of the Jews (2:2).
7. Son of God (2:15; 3:17; 8:29; 14:33; 16:16; 27:54).
8. Governor/Ruler (2:6).
9. Lord (21:3; 26:22; 28:6).
10. Beloved Son (3:17; 7:5).
11. Son of Man (8:20; 9:6; 11:19; 16:13; 20:28; 24:27).
12. Prophet (21:11, 46).
13. King (21:5).
14. Head Corner Stone (21:42).

#### **IX. Fulfilled Prophecies Regarding Jesus.**

1. Descendant of David—1:1, 6—2 Samuel 7:12-14
2. Descendant of Abraham—1:1—Genesis 22:18
3. Descendant of Isaac—1:2—Genesis 26:4
4. Descendant of Jacob—1:2—Genesis 28:14
5. Descendant of Judah—1:2-3—Genesis 49:10
6. Born of a Virgin—1:18-25—Isaiah 7:14
7. Born in Bethlehem—2:1—Micah 5:2
8. Called Out of Egypt—2:14—Hosea 11:1
9. Rachel Weeping—2:16-18—Jeremiah 31:15
10. Preaching in Galilee—4:12-16—Isaiah 9:1-2
11. He took Our Infirmities and Bore Our Sicknesses—8:16-17—Isaiah 53:4-5
12. Servant of the Lord in Whose Name the Gentiles Shall Trust—12:17-21—Isaiah 42:1-4
13. Spoke in Parables—13:34-35—Psalms 78:2
14. Enter Zion Riding an Ass—21:4-6—Zechariah 9:9
15. Betrayed by a Friend—26:14-16—Psalms 41:9
16. Betrayed for 30 Pieces of Silver—27:3-10—Zechariah 11:12
17. Opened Not His Mouth when He Suffered—26:62-63—Isaiah 53:12
18. 30 Pieces of Silver Used to Buy Potter's Field—27:3-10—Zechariah 11:13-30
19. Condemned with Transgressors—27:38—Isaiah 53:12

20. Was with the Rich in His Death—27:57-60—Isaiah 53:9

21. Resurrection from the Dead—28:9—Psalms 16:10

**X. Recorded Miracles of Jesus.**

1. A total of 20 miracles recorded, three of which are found ONLY in Matthew.
2. Those Miracles Found ONLY in Matthew...
  - 1) Healing of Two Blind Men (9:27-31).
  - 2) Healing of a Dumb Man Possessed with a Demon (9:32-34).
  - 3) He Predicted that Peter Would Find a Coin in a Fish's Mouth (17:24-27).

DRL Note: Lockyer's Book, *All the Miracles of the Bible*, lists 48 miracles in the accounts of the life of Christ—Not all of which are in Matthew nor are all performed by Christ.

**XI. Recorded Parables of Jesus:** While it is difficult, in some cases, to decide what should be called a parable, there are about 15 total parables in this book, 10 of which are recorded only in Matthew. Those parables found only in Matthew include:

1. Tares (13:24-30).
2. Hidden Treasure (13:44).
3. Pearl of Great Price (13:45-46).
4. The Net (13:47-50).
5. The Unmerciful Servant (18:23-35).
6. Laborers in the Vineyard (20:1-16).
7. The Two Sons (21:28-32).
8. Marriage of the King's Son (22:2-14).
9. The Ten Virgins (25:1-13).
10. The Talents (25:14-30).

DRL Note: I have seen at least one listing of 20 parables from Matthew, but as Roger indicates, there is no widespread agreement on what should/should not be labeled a parable.

*This ends the material from Roger Campbell.*

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**XII. A Word about the "Synoptic Problem."**

1. If you read a commentary on Matthew, Mark, or Luke you will likely encounter lengthy discussions about the so-called "synoptic problem."
2. If there were no "problems" like these, I suppose the seminaries would go out of business—which would likely be a blessing.
3. I think a few quotes from Keith Mosher's lecture, pages 14-17 (mentioned at top of page one) will suffice to dismiss the matter from further consideration. Quoting Keith Mosher--
  - 1) "It has been seen by faithful readers of Matthew, Mark, and Luke that there are a number of similarities and differences.
  - 2) How to account for these has come to be known as the 'Synoptic Problem.'
  - 3) To McGarvey, trying to explain differences was the 'synoptic problem.'
  - 4) To later theorists, the problem is one concerning *sources* for all three accounts.
  - 5) McGarvey knew that two different statements of an event were contradictory only if both could not be true.

- 6) Scholars today, however, advocate source differences, editing, or material gathering as answers to the 'synoptic problem.' . . .
- 7) The 'Synoptic Problem' is no problem to those who accept what Holy Writ records concerning plenary, verbal inspiration; all theories of source transmission being a denial of the Bible doctrine (cf., 2 Timothy 3:16a; 1 Corinthians 2:13).
- 8) **XXX** The differences and coincidences of the accounts are easily defended when one considers the varying purposes of each author. [x's are mine, DRL].
- 9) The destructive critics are actually calling Matthew, Mark, and Luke liars for claiming to quote Christ when all the while they were citing oral sources or each other's accounts!"  
*End of quote from Keith Mosher.*
- 10) I have heard it illustrated like this. If four pedestrians happen to be present when an automobile runs a red light and crashes into a car with the right-of-way. Those four people might be questioned by the police. Each one may have observed *one thing* that none of the others saw. Putting the words of the four witnesses together will provide a fuller recounting of what actually happened. How blessed we are to have, for example, four accounts of the actions Peter took in the Garden when he chopped off an ear of the High Priest's servant, Malchus (Matthew 26:51-54; Mark 14:47; Luke 22:49-51; John 18:10-11).
- 11) If you would like to study this matter a little further, Apologetics Press has a 14-page article, "An Examination of Alleged Contradictions in the Gospels," written by F. Furman Kearley, at the following site: <http://preview.tinyurl.com/2bpl9he>

### XIII. Jesus Truly was The Christ, the Promised King!

1. Under point #IX above, Roger Campbell lists 21 prophecies fulfilled by Jesus. Those 21 are only a SMALL sampling.
2. As I was reading to prepare for this study, I came across an interesting illustration used in the case for showing the deity of Jesus. It involved fulfilled prophecy. Notice...

**Jesus could not have accidentally or deliberately fulfilled these prophecies. Obviously, events such as His birthplace and lineage, method of execution, soldiers casting lots for His garments, or being pierced in the side are events beyond Jesus' control. Peter Stoner and Robert Newman, in their book, *Science Speaks*, demonstrate the statistical improbability of any one man, accidentally or deliberately, from the day of these prophecies down to the present time, fulfilling just eight of the hundreds of prophecies Jesus fulfilled. They demonstrate that the chance of this happening is 1 in  $10^{17}$  power. Stoner gives an illustration that helps visualize the magnitude of such odds:**

**Suppose that we take  $10^{17}$  silver dollars and lay them on the face of Texas. They will cover all of the state two feet deep. Now mark one of these silver dollars and stir the whole mass thoroughly, all over the state. Blindfold a man and tell him that he can travel as far as he wishes, but he must pick up one silver dollar and say that this is the right one. What chance would he have of getting the right one? Just the same chance that the prophets would have had of writing these eight prophecies and having them all come true in any one man, from their day to the present time, providing they wrote using their own wisdom.**

**It is mathematically absurd to claim that Jesus accidentally or deliberately fulfilled Old Testament prophecy. Obviously, this evidence stands as a powerful demonstration of Jesus' messiahship.**

[D. Story, *Defending Your Faith*, pp., 79-80, emphasis mine, DRL].

**XIV. Questions.****True or False**

01. \_\_\_\_ One of the descriptions of Jesus is: GOVERNOR.
02. \_\_\_\_ There is no prophecy about Jesus being raised from the dead.
03. \_\_\_\_ Levi wrote the Book of Matthew.
04. \_\_\_\_ In effect, Matthew, Mark, and Luke are being called LIARS by many of the destructive critics.
05. \_\_\_\_ That the disciples came at night and stole away the body of Jesus is a false tradition of the Jews corrected in Matthew.

**Multiple Choice (Select the BEST Answer)**

06. \_\_\_\_ Of the six choices on this handout, the most used word/phrase in Matthew is: (a) It is written; (b) Kingdom; (c) Kingdom of God.
07. \_\_\_\_ Which of the apostles made a great feast after Jesus called him: (a) Matthew; (b) Simon Peter; (c) none did.
08. \_\_\_\_ Many “scholars” today advocate which of the following to answer the “synoptic problem”: (a) Source differences; (b) Editing; (c) Material gathering; (d) a, b, & c; (e) none of these.
09. \_\_\_\_ Matthew emphasizes the mission of Jesus to: (a) the Romans; (b) the Jews; (c) the Pharisees.
10. \_\_\_\_ Brother Campbell suggests that there are how many parables UNIQUE to Matthew: (a) 20; (b) 5; (c) 10.

**Fill in the Blanks**

11. Jesus predicted that \_\_\_\_\_ would find a coin in a \_\_\_\_\_.
12. It is mathematically \_\_\_\_\_ to claim that Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ or deliberately fulfilled \_\_\_\_\_ prophecy.
13. Chapter \_\_\_\_ of Matthew helps to set the latest date at which the Book could have been written.
14. That Jesus would speak in parables was prophesied in \_\_\_\_\_ 78:2 and fulfilled in Matthew chapter \_\_\_\_\_, and other places.
15. One of Matthew’s purposes was to show that Jesus is the \_\_\_\_\_ of all \_\_\_\_\_ prophecies about the \_\_\_\_\_.

*Each Question is worth 7 Points*

**My Score is: \_\_\_\_\_**

*Answers will be found on next week's handout*

**XV. Seek-A-Word Puzzle on Matthew (KJV).**

H	C	U	O	T	P	L	S	P	S	M	O
W	L	I	H	V	C	E	J	S	D	G	W
E	B	I	R	C	S	O	E	N	E	P	O
H	N	V	V	H	O	L	A	B	O	U	R
G	S	C	L	Y	B	M	D	S	V	P	K
N	M	B	L	P	M	I	P	J	T	R	L
I	O	V	A	O	S	E	U	A	P	I	I
G	V	U	C	C	T	D	S	N	S	E	F
E	E	S	I	R	A	H	P	S	J	S	L
B	A	P	T	I	Z	E	I	W	U	T	U
O	L	X	Z	T	R	A	P	E	D	S	F
E	X	C	E	E	D	C	W	R	G	M	M
B	R	E	P	E	N	T	A	L	E	N	T

ANSWER	BAPTIZE	BEGIN
BLESS	CALL	CLOTH
COAST	COMMAND	COMPASS
DEPART	DISCIPLE	EXCEED
FULFIL	HYPOCRITE	JUDA
JUDGE	LABOUR	MOVE
OPEN	PHARISEE	PRIEST
REPENT	SCRIBE	TALENT
THING	TOUCH	WORK



## APPENDIX A

**DRL Note:** Following is an **outstanding** outline of Matthew produced by Charles Jones in the book, *“The Revelation of the Mystery”: An Introductory Survey of the New Testament*, the 2003 Lubbock Lectures, edited by: Tommy J. Hicks, pp., 42-44. I would recommend writing in this outline into your Bible to aid you in learning the content of this great Book of Matthew.

## Matthew Outlined

by Charles Jones

### I. THE MESSIAH’S INTRODUCTION TO THE PUBLIC (1.1—4.25).

- 1) Jesus’ lineage and divinity revealed (1.1-25).
- 2) Herod’s reaction to Jesus’ birth (2.1-23).
- 3) Jesus baptized by John (3.1-17).
- 4) Jesus’ temptation (4.1-11).
- 5) Jesus moves to Capernaum (4.12-17).
- 6) Jesus calls four fishermen (4.18-22).
- 7) Jesus begins His ministry (4.23-25).

### II. THE MESSIAH’S MESSAGE TO HIS DISCIPLES (5.1—7.29).

- 1) The Beatitudes (5.1-12).
- 2) The disciples’ place in the world (5.13-16).
- 3) Christ and the Law of Moses (5.17-48).
- 4) Hypocrisies exposed by Jesus (6.1-18).
- 5) Discipleship and wealth (6.19-24).
- 6) Discipleship and anxiety (6.25-34).
- 7) Discipleship and character (7.1-20).
- 8) A lesson concerning obedience (7.21-29).

### III. THE MESSIAH’S POWER DEMONSTRATED (8.1—9.38).

- 1) Power over sickness (8.1-17).
- 2) Power to demand obedience (8.18-22).
- 3) Power over nature (8.23-27).
- 4) Power over the demonic world (8.28-34).
- 5) Power to forgive sins (9.1-8).
- 6) The call of Matthew (9.9-13).
- 7) John’s disciples and fasting (9.14-17).
- 8) Power over human afflictions (9.18-34).
- 9) Power tempered with compassion (.35-38).

### IV. THE MESSIAH CHOOSES TWELVE MEN (10.1-42).

- 1) Their names recorded (10.1-4).
- 2) Their commission to the Jews (10.5-15).
- 3) The twelve can expect hard times (10.16-25).
- 4) A disciple’s dedication tested (10.34-39).
- 5) Honor God’s messengers (10.40-42).

### V. THE MESSIAH FACES OPPOSITION (11.1—13.58)

- 1) John expresses doubt in Jesus’ claim (11.1-19).

- 2) Jesus rebukes three cities (11.20-24).
- 3) Jesus challenges the multitude (11.28-30).
- 4) Conflict over the Sabbath Day (12.1-13).
- 5) Pharisees plan to destroy Jesus (12.14-16).
- 6) Isaiah proclaims Jesus' meekness (12.17-21).
- 7) A divided house cannot stand (12.22-37).
- 8) An evil generation seeks a sign (12.38-45).
- 9) Jesus' mother requests an audience (12.46-50).
- 10) Jesus teaches in parables (13.1-51)
- 11) Nazareth rejects Jesus' divinity (13.52-58).

#### **VI. THE MESSIAH AVOIDS CONFLICT WITH HEROD (14.1—17.23).**

- 1) A matter of expediency (14.1-12).
- 2) Jesus departs to a desert place (14.13-21).
- 3) Jesus walks on water (14.22-33).
- 4) Jesus enters the land of Gennesaret (14.34—15.20).
- 5) Jesus enters the coasts of Tyre and Sidon (15.21-28).
- 6) Jesus is near the Sea of Galilee (15.29-38).
- 7) Jesus comes into the coasts of Magdala (15.39—16.12).
- 8) The challenge at Caesarea Philippi (16.13-28).
- 9) Jesus' transfiguration on the mountain (17.1-13).
- 10) Jesus returns to the multitude (17.14-21).
- 11) Jesus foretells His death (17.22-23).

#### **VII. THE MESSIAH RETURNS TO CAPERNAUM AND TEACHES HIS DISCIPLES (17.24—18.35).**

- 1) The payment of taxes (17.24-27).
- 2) How to avoid pride (18.1-9).
- 3) The importance of one soul (18.10-14).
- 4) Jesus teaches forgiveness (18.15-22).
- 5) The parable of the unmerciful servant (18.23-35).

#### **VIII. THE MESSIAH LEAVES GALILEE AND JOURNEYS TO JERUSALEM (19.1—26.75).**

- 1) A lesson concerning divorce (19.3-12).
- 2) Jesus blesses little children (19.13-15).
- 3) The rich young ruler (19.16-22).
- 4) Jesus makes an application (19.23-30).
- 5) Parable of the laborers (20.1-16).
- 6) Jesus goes toward Jerusalem (20.17-19)
- 7) The request of James and John (20.20-29).
- 8) Jesus heals two blind men (20.29-34).
- 9) Jesus enters Jerusalem (21.1-14).
- 10) Jesus cleanses the temple (21.2-16).
- 11) Jesus spends the night at Bethany (21.17-22).
- 12) Jesus' authority questioned (21.23-27).
- 13) Parable of two sons (21.28-32).
- 14) Parable of the householder (21.33-46).
- 15) Jesus condemns the scribes and Pharisees (23.1-39).
- 16) Destruction of Jerusalem foretold (24.1-51).

17) Jesus describes the Judgment Day (25.1-46).

18) Climax to Calvary (26.1-75).

**IX. THE MESSIAH IS CRUCIFIED (27.1-66).**

1) Before Pilate (27.1, 11-14).

2) Judas hangs himself (27.3-10).

3) Pilate sentences Jesus (27.15-33).

4) Crucifixion at Golgotha (27.32-56).

5) Burial by Joseph of Arimathea (27.57-61).

6) Jesus' tomb sealed and guarded (27.62-66).

**X. THE MESSIAH'S VICTORY (28.1-15).**

**XI. THE MESSIAH'S COMMISSION (28.16-20).**