

1. AUTHOR

Q. What do you know about *Matthew*?

A. It is set within the failed kingdom of Judea which, by the 1st century AD, is under Roman rule. It was written by a collaborating tax collector and apostle known as 'Levi' (Mark 2:14).

Matthew was written probably between 63 AD and 70 AD¹. A lot of the material is common to *Mark* and *Luke*.

2. ONE KEY THEME –

'THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN'

Matthew 13:31 He put another parable before them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven is like ..." ESV

Five key sub-themes:

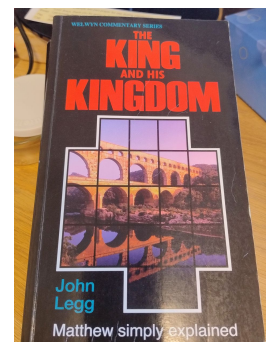
1. Outline biography of the King
2. Identity of the King
3. Training of the King's disciples
4. The nature of the kingdom of heaven
5. The Gentiles and the kingdom

3. A KEY VERSE?

Matthew 6:33 But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you." ESV

4. KEY GROUPS OF PEOPLE

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Jesus the King2. John the baptist3. Disciples (12 + others)4. Jews | <ol style="list-style-type: none">5. Gentiles6. Hypocrites7. The righteous |
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¹ See W. Hendriksen, NTC on Matthew, Banner of Truth, 1974. Date assumes Marcan priority.

5. TEXTUAL STRUCTURE OF MATTHEW

Matthew is structured around Jesus' five **great discourses, or sermons**. See table.

	TYPE OF MATERIAL	FIVE DISCOURSES	CHAPTERS	THE KING AND HIS KINGDOM	CONTENT
	Narrative		1–4	The King's origins and identity	Genealogy, birth, Magi, flight to Egypt and return, baptism by John, temptation.
I	Sermon	Sermon on the mount	5–7	The King's subjects	Righteousness (key verse: 5:20), hypocrisy, Beatitudes, the ten commandments, the Lord's Prayer, discipleship, worry.
	Narrative		8–9	The King's authority	Healings, exorcisms, and miracles.
II	Sermon	Sending out the Twelve ²	10	The work of the kingdom	Kingdom preaching to only Jews (10:5). The Twelve learn to rely on the Father and Spirit.
	Narrative		11-12	Kingdom opposition	The current, ungodly, generation.
III	Sermon	Kingdom parables	13	The nature of the kingdom	Agrarian ³ parables about what <i>the kingdom of heaven is like</i> (e.g. 13:31ff <i>a mustard seed</i> etc.).
	Narrative		14-17	A Jewish and Gentile kingdom and church	Feeding of the 5,000, travel from Galilee to Judea via Gentile territory, feeding of the 4,000, Peter's confession 'rock' (16:18), the transfiguration.
IV	Sermon	Humility	18	Kingdom and church life	The church, humility, forgiveness, and reconciliation.
	Narrative		19–23	Kingdom problems	Journey to Jerusalem. Marriage, wealth, the Jewish leaders' hypocrisy (7 woes).
V	Sermon	Apocalyptic discourse	24–25	Kingdom judgement	Destruction of Jerusalem, end times, second coming, and final judgment.
	Narrative		26–28	The kingdom established	Last Supper, trial, crucifixion, resurrection, and the Great Commission.

² The sending of the 72 is not in Matthew. See Luke 10.

³ Farming or agricultural.

6. GREAT EVENTS

See the 'Content' column in the table above.

7. ONE SHAPE – ALTERNATING NARRATIVE AND SERMON

Stripy as in the table.

8. MATTHEW IN PRACTICE

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Matthew 6:33 But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you." ESV

Q1. How does the following conversation fit in with the main theme (6:33) of Matthew's gospel?

Just after a rich man has sadly decided not to enter the kingdom of heaven ...

Matthew 19:27-30 Then Peter said in reply, "See, we have left everything and followed you. What then will we have?"

²⁸ *Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, in the new world [lit. regeneration], when the Son of Man will sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. ²⁹ And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold and will inherit eternal life. ³⁰ But many who are first will be last, and the last first. ESV*

Q2. What examples of things might we be tempted to seek instead of God's kingdom?

Q3. How will we behave and feel if we do not believe Jesus in Matthew 6:33 (above)?

Read Matthew 6:25-34 below:

Matthew 6:25-34 "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷ And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? [lit. cubit to his height] ²⁸ And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, ²⁹ yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. ³⁰ But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? ³¹ Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' ³² For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. ³³ But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. ESV

³⁴ *Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has*

enough trouble of its own. NIV

Q4. How will we behave and feel if we do believe Jesus?

9. JESUS IN MATTHEW?

Q. Where is Jesus in Matthew?

A. Everywhere, as usual, but what is perhaps surprising about these verses?

1:6	27:51
27:46	28:20

10. AND NOWADAYS?

Probably, most of us are Gentiles. How does a Gentile theme flow through all of Matthew?

1:1-6	15:21-39
2:1-2	21:12-13
8:5-13	21:43
11:20-24	27:54
12:15-18	28:16-20

11. HOMEWORK: READ MATTHEW

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