

## BIBLE READING FOR 2023

<u>WEEK #5</u>	<u>MATTHEW 1-28</u>	<u>01-29-23</u>
Monday - Matthew 1-7	Thursday - Matthew 19-24	
Tuesday - Matthew 8-12	Friday - Matthew 25-28	
Wednesday - Matthew 13-18		

**Matthew**, or The Gospel According to Matthew, is the name given to the first book of the New Testament and the first of the four books we know as the gospels. The titles of these first four books were not part of the inspired writings but were added by the end of the second century, indicating content and authorship. The word gospel means good news and is a most appropriate way to refer to the message of salvation made possible by the coming of the Christ. When we talk about the gospel as a belief system there is of course only one, Romans 1:16. However, when we are making reference to the four accounts we have of the life of Christ as recorded by Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, these are the Gospels. They are not intended to be in depth biographies of Christ. One scholar wrote that the material recorded in them covers only about forty days in His life. Even though limited in scope, they contain the information God determined important to reveal to man through his inspired writers. In them we have the facts needed of the life and mission of His Son to produce faith in honest hearts, John 20:30-31.

Matthew, Mark and Luke have a special relationship because they contain many of the same stories and subject matter and therefore are called the Synoptic Gospels. The word synoptic means to see together. The similar nature of these books is the basis used by liberal scholars to claim that later authors copied from an earlier author. They refuse to accept the more practical explanation that since God was using each man to write about the same individual, Jesus of Nazareth, they would obviously deal with many of the same events and circumstances. Instead of indicating some kind of weakness, the unity of these books gives us assurance of their accuracy and authenticity.

**The author** of the first gospel is thought by most conservative scholars to be Matthew the apostle, also known as Levi. Even though the book is unsigned and anonymous it has been attributed to Matthew by numerous writers from the second century on. With no better alternative and no good reason to reject him, Matthew appears to be the most likely candidate to have authored the first book of the New Testament.

**The purpose** of the book was to convince the Jews that Jesus of Nazareth was the Christ. Matthew, a Jew, wrote from a Jewish perspective primarily to convince a Jewish audience, although he appeals to Gentiles as well. He emphasizes how Jesus fulfilled Old Testament prophecy and how He was the King of the kingdom for which the Jews had been waiting.

**The date** that scholars will assign to the writing of this book will typically range from A.D. 40 to A.D. 70. Probably most would put it somewhere between A.D. 60 and A.D. 70.

**An Outline** for the book:

- 1.) The birth of Jesus 1-2
- 2.) John the Baptist 3
- 3.) Christ's Galilean Ministry 4-18
- 4.) The Judean Ministry 19-25
- 5.) The arrest, trial, death, burial and resurrection of Christ 26-28

**Questions** for Matthew chapters 1-28:

- 1.) What did Matthew tell us Immanuel meant in chapter one?
- 2.) How long had Christ been fasting in the wilderness when Satan came to Him and tempted Him to command the stones to become bread in chapter four?
- 3.) In chapter ten what did Christ give to the apostles?
- 4.) How many times did Christ say we should forgive our brother when he sins against us in chapter eighteen?
- 5.) In 22:36-38 what did Christ say was the greatest commandment of the Old Law?

**Answers** to questions for Week #4 – Exodus chapters 21-40

- 1.) He would be put to death.
- 2.) The Feast of Unleavened Bread (including the Passover), the Feast of Harvests (Pentecost), and the Feast of the Ingathering (the Feast of Tabernacles).
- 3.) The mercy seat.
- 4.) He said he threw gold into the fire and “out came this calf.”
- 5.) The skin of his face shone.