

10-2018

A Biographical Study of Matthew

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Recommended Citation

Willmington, Harold, "A Biographical Study of Matthew" (2018). *New Testament Biographies*. 17.
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Matthew

CHRONOLOGICAL SUMMARY

- I. Matthew, the apostle
 - A. His call by Christ—“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).
 - B. His consecration to Christ—“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 5:28-29).
- II. Matthew, the author—He was the author of the Gospel that bears his name.

THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

Matthew emphasizes the kingship of Christ.

- I. The preparation of the King (Matt. 1—4)
 - A. His genealogy (Matt. 1:1-17)
 - B. His birth announcement (Matt. 1:18-25)
 - C. His worship by the wise men (Matt. 2:1-12)
 - D. His trip to Egypt (Matt. 2:13-20)
 - E. His early years in Nazareth (Matt. 2:21-23)
 - F. His forerunner (Matt. 3:13-17)
 - G. His baptism (Matt. 3:13-17)
 - H. His temptation (Matt. 4:1-11)
 - I. His first disciples (Matt. 4:18-22)
 - J. His early Galilean ministry (Matt. 4:23-25)
- II. The principles of the King (Matt. 5—7)—Jesus laid out his moral and spiritual standards during the Sermon on the Mount.
- III. The power of the King—His mighty power was shown through his miracles.
 - A. General healing accounts (Matt. 4:23-25; 8:16-17; 9:35; 12:15; 14:14, 34-36; 15:29-31)
 - B. Healing of a leper (Matt. 8:1-4)
 - C. Healing of the centurion’s servant (Matt. 8:5-13)
 - D. Healing of Peter’s mother-in-law (Matt. 8:14-15)
 - E. Stilling of the winds and waves (Matt. 8:23-27)
 - F. Casting demons from two Gadarene men (Matt. 8:28-34)
 - G. Healing a paralytic (Matt. 9:1-8)
 - H. Healing a woman with an issue of blood (Matt. 9:20-22)
 - I. Raising Jairus’s daughter (Matt. 9:18-19, 23-26)
 - J. Healing two blind men (Matt. 9:27-31)
 - K. Healing a Galilean demoniac (Matt. 9:32-33)
 - L. Healing a man with a paralyzed hand (Matt. 12:1-13)
 - M. Feeding the five thousand (Matt. 14:15-21)
 - N. Walking on water (Matt. 14:22-23)
 - O. Healing a Syro-phoenician girl of a demon (Matt. 15:21-28)

- P. Feeding four thousand (Matt. 15:32-39)
- Q. Providing tax money from a fish (Matt. 17:24-27)
- R. Healing two blind men (Matt. 20:29-34)
- IV. The program of the King (Matt. 13)—The kingdom of heaven’s plan and program are described and overviewed by Jesus in Matthew 13.
- V. The preachers of the King
 - A. John the Baptist
 - 1. His ministry (Matt. 3:1-12; 11:1-15)
 - 2. His martyrdom (Matt. 14:1-12)
 - B. The 12 apostles (Matt. 10:1-42)—“And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease” (Matt. 10:1).
- VI. The proclamations of the King—In addition to those topics mentioned during his Sermon on the Mount, Jesus touched upon various subjects.
 - A. True greatness (Matt. 18:1-5; 20:20-28)
 - B. God’s love for children (Matt. 18:6-11; 19:13-15)
 - C. God’s love for the lost (Matt. 18:11-14)
 - D. Church discipline (Matt. 18:15-20)
 - E. Forgiveness (Matt. 18:21-35)
 - F. Divorce (Matt. 19:1-12)
 - G. Danger of riches (Matt. 19:16-26)
 - H. Rewards (Matt. 19:27-30)
 - I. Discipleship (Matt. 8:18-22; 16:24-26)
 - J. Vain traditions (Matt. 15:1-20)
 - K. The unpardonable sin (Matt. 12:24-37)
 - L. His family (Matt. 12:46-50; 13:53-56)
 - M. Hypocrisy (Matt. 16:5-12)
 - N. His authority (Matt. 12:1-8; 21:23-27)
 - O. The giving of the tribute (Matt. 22:15-22)
 - P. The resurrection (Matt. 22:23-33)
 - Q. The greatest commandment (Matt. 22:34-40)
 - R. The Messiah (Matt. 22:41-46)
- VII. The parables of the King
 - A. The two builders (Matt. 7:24-27)
 - B. The sower and the soils (Matt. 13:1-9, 18-23)
 - C. The wheat and the tares (Matt. 13:24-30, 36-43)
 - D. The mustard seed (Matt. 13:31-32)
 - E. The leaven (Matt. 13:33)
 - F. The hidden treasure (Matt. 13:44)
 - G. The pearl of great price (Matt. 13:45-46)
 - H. The dragnet (Matt. 13:47-51)
 - I. The householder (Matt. 13:52)

- J. The morning, noon, and evening laborers (Matt. 20:1-16)
 - K. The two sons (Matt. 21:28-32)
 - L. The angry vineyard owner (Matt. 21:33-41)
 - M. The marriage feast (Matt. 22:1-14)
 - N. The fig tree (Matt. 24:32-35)
 - O. The faithful and faithless servants (Matt. 24:42-51)
 - P. The ten virgins (Matt. 25:1-13)
 - Q. The three servants and their talents (Matt. 25:14-30)
 - R. The sheep and the goats (Matt. 25:31-46)
- VIII. The person of the King (Matt. 16:33-23)—“When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is? They replied, Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets. But what about you?” he asked. Who do you say I am? Simon Peter answered, You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” (Matt. 16:13-16).
- IX. The preeminence of the King (Matt. 17:1-13)—“And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart, and was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light” (Matt. 17:1-2).
- X. The plea of the King—“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light” (Matt. 11:28-30).
- XI. The performance of the King—“Behold my servant, whom I have chosen; my beloved, in whom my soul is well pleased: I will put my spirit upon him, and he shall shew judgment to the Gentiles. He shall not strive, nor cry; neither shall any man hear his voice in the streets. A bruised reed shall he not break, and smoking flax shall he not quench, till he send forth judgment unto victory. And in his name shall the Gentiles trust” (Matt. 12:18-21).
- XII. The pity of the King—“But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd. Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest” (Matt. 9:36-38).
- XIII. The provoking of the King—The righteous indignation of Christ was aroused on several occasions.
- A. He rebuked his generation (Matt. 11:16-19; 12:38-45; 16:1-4; 17:17)
 - B. He rebuked the unbelieving Galilean cities (Matt. 11:20-24)
 - C. He rebuked the Pharisees (Matt. 15:1-9; 21:42-45; 23:1-36).
- XIV. The predictions of the King (Matt. 23—24)—“And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and his disciples came to him for to shew him the buildings of the temple. And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down. And as he sat upon the

mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world? And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you" (Matt. 24:1-4).

- XV. The presentation of the King (Matt. 21:1-11)—“And when they drew nigh unto Jerusalem, and were come to Bethphage, unto the mount of Olives, then sent Jesus two disciples, Saying unto them, Go into the village over against you, and straightway ye shall find an ass tied, and a colt with her: loose them, and bring them unto me. . . . And the disciples went, and did as Jesus commanded them, And brought the ass, and the colt, and put on them their clothes, and they set him thereon. And a very great multitude spread their garments in the way; others cut down branches from the trees, and strawed them in the way. And the multitudes that went before, and that followed, cried, saying, Hosanna to the son of David: Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest” (Matt. 21:1-2, 6-9).
- XVI. The purging by the King (Matt. 21:12-16)—“And Jesus went into the temple of God, and cast out all them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves” (Matt. 21:12).
- XVII. The pain of the King—“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! Behold, your house is left unto you desolate. For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord” (Matt. 23:37-39).
- XVIII. The Passover of the King (Matt. 26:17-30)
- XIX. The prayers of the King (Matt. 26:30-46)—“Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder. . . . And he went a little farther, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt” (Matt. 26:36, 39).
- XX. The persecution of the King—Throughout his earthly ministry, Christ experienced persecution and hostility from sinful men.
- A. He was accused of being a demon-possessed blasphemer (Matt. 9:3, 34; 12:24; 26:65).
 - B. He was plotted against (Matt. 12:14).
 - C. He was denied by a friend (Matt. 26:69-75).
 - D. He was betrayed by a follower (Matt. 26:47-50).
 - E. He was illegally tried.
 - 1. Before Caiaphas and the Jewish leaders (Matt. 26:57, 59-68)
 - 2. Before Pilate (Matt. 27:11-26)
 - 3. Before the Roman soldiers (Matt. 27:27-31)
 - F. He was spat upon (Matt. 26:67).
 - G. He was slapped (Matt. 26:67).
 - H. He was ridiculed (Matt. 26:68; 27:28-30).

- I. He was severely beaten (Matt. 27:26).
- XXI. The passion of the King
 - A. The foretelling of his passion—Christ often predicted his death on the cross.
 - 1. First occasion (Matt. 16:21-23)—“From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day. (Matt. 16:21).
 - 2. Second occasion (Matt. 17:22-23)
 - 3. Third occasion (Matt. 20:17-19)
 - 4. Fourth occasion (Matt. 26:6-13)—“For in that she hath poured this ointment on my body, she did it for my burial” (Matt. 26:12).
 - 5. Fifth occasion (Matt. 26:28)—“For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins” (Matt. 26:28).
 - B. The facts of his passion (Matt. 27:31-50)—“And when they were come unto a place called Golgotha, that is to say, a place of a skull, They gave him vinegar to drink mingled with gall: and when he had tasted thereof, he would not drink. And they crucified him, and parted his garments, casting lots: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, They parted my garments among them, and upon my vesture did they cast lots” (Matt. 27:33-35).
- XXII. The proof of the King (Matt. 28:1-20)—“In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre. And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it. His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow” (Matt. 28:1-3).
 - A. As confirmed by his foes (Matt. 28:4, 11-15)
 - B. As confirmed by his friends
 - 1. The women (Matt. 28:5-10)
 - 2. The eleven (Matt. 28:16-20)

STATISTICS

Father: Alphaeus (Mark 2:14)

Brother: James the less (one of the 12 apostles) may have been his brother.

First mention: Matthew 9:9

Final mention: Acts 1:13

Meaning of his name: Matthew means “gift of God”; Levi means “joiner”

Frequency of his name: Referred to eight times

Biblical books mentioning him: Four books (Matthew, Mark, Luke, Acts)

Occupation: Tax collector before becoming an apostle (Matt. 9:9; 10:3)

Place of birth: Possibly Capernaum, a Galilean city (Matt. 9:1, 9)

Place of death: Tradition says he died as a martyr.

Important fact about his life: He authored the Gospel of Matthew.