

Lessons for Little Saints
What the Bible is All About
Matthew

The book of Matthew is the first book in the Gospels section of the Bible and the first book of the New Testament. There are four Gospel books in the New Testament - Matthew through John. Matthew opens with the birth of Jesus and closes with the resurrection of Jesus after His death, and His commandment to Christians to give the Gospel to the world so that they might be saved.

WRITER: Matthew, who was one of the disciples

DATE OF WRITING: Matthew was written around 60 A.D.

MEANING: Matthew is the human author's name and it means "*gift of God*".

MEMORY VERSE: Matthew 2:2 - "*. . . Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.*"

KEY PEOPLE OF THE BOOK: Jesus and his twelve disciples - Simon Peter, James, John, Andrew, Phillip, Thomas, Matthew, James the less, Thaddeaus, Simon, Bartholomew and Judas

FACTS ABOUT MATTHEW: There are 28 chapters in the book of Matthew. This book tells the family tree of Jesus through the kingly line of men like King David, King Solomon and on through to Jesus' foster father, Joseph. The Gospels show Jesus in four different ways, all the same Person. Matthew shows Jesus as King through this kingly family tree and that He is the King of kings. The New Testament was the first Word from God after 400 years of silence with no new Word from God after the book of Malachi was completed. Mark was actually written before Matthew, but because of the theme of Matthew, it was placed first in the New Testament.

CONCLUSION: Anyone who is crowned king must first prove that he is from a kingly family, or ancestry. Since Matthew was trying to prove to the Jews that Jesus was the Messiah, their long awaited King, it was important for him to write about the family tree of Jesus, to prove He was from an earthly line of kings. As Christians, we are children of THE KING, Jesus! So, if you have accepted Jesus as your Saviour, YOU are a prince or princess, since your Heavenly Father is King Jesus.

MATTHEW AND YOU: As always, God has a job for each of us to do. At the end of the book of Matthew, Jesus tells His disciples to “Go” into all the world and preach the Gospel. . .tell others about the Good News that Jesus was born, crucified, raised from the dead and is our coming King. Our job today is still to tell others about Jesus and how He can save us from our sin and give us a home in Heaven.

TIPS FOR TEACHING: This is a good salvation lesson. Present the Gospel, just as Matthew does, and give opportunity for any who wishes to, to be saved. Begin learning the books of the New Testament. Review the purpose of the book of Matthew.