

Introduction & Matthew 1:1

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What is a gospel?

“The result is not exactly a history, biography, theology, confession, catechism, tract, homage, or letter — though in some respects all of these. It is a “gospel,” a presentation of the “good news” of Jesus the Messiah.” The Expositor’s Bible Commentary, Longman & Garland

There are 4 Gospels

“These books stand side by side because at one and the same time they record the facts **about** Jesus, recall the teaching **of** Jesus, and bear witness **to** Jesus. This is their nature and their genius...” How to Read the Bible for All It’s Worth, Fee & Stuart

The Gospel of Matthew

Who wrote Matthew?

When was Matthew written?

Who was the intended audience?

What was the Geo-political Background?

“The historical setting for the New Testament and early Christianity may be described as a series of concentric circles. The Roman world provided the out circle — the governmental, legal, and economic context. The Greek world provided the cultural, educational, and philosophical context. The Jewish world was the matrix of early Christianity, providing the immediate religious context.” Backgrounds of Early Christianity, Ferguson

“These historical statements are true regardless of the truth claims of Christianity. Yet the truth claims of Christianity are bound up with the ‘person and work’ of Jesus, who he was and what he did. What would make Christianity unique in an absolute sense, with no possible historical rival, would be for Jesus to be what is claimed for Him — the one and only Son of God, God who has come in the flesh; and to have done what is affirmed for him — to have brought a salvation and relationship with god that no one else that the Son of God could have brought. There we pass from history to faith.” Backgrounds of Early Christianity, Ferguson

What is the purpose of Matthew?

“The Lord had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you. “I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.” Genesis 12:1–3