

MATTHEW

Matthew was once a hated tax collector, but then he met the Son of God. And when Jesus said, “Follow me” (9:9), Matthew did—changing his life forever.

Matthew became one of Jesus’s twelve closest disciples and friends. Traveling with Jesus and the other disciples, Matthew saw many of His miracles with his own eyes. His writings gave an eyewitness account of Jesus’s life and teachings.

Matthew himself wrote the book of Matthew, and it is the first book of the New Testament. It had been four hundred years since God spoke through the prophet Malachi of the Old Testament. Matthew broke that silence to tell the story of how God’s greatest promise had come true—how Jesus, the Son of God, really did come to save His people.

Who?

Matthew, one of the twelve disciples of Jesus, wrote this book. His name means “gift of God,” and he is also called *Levi* in some instances.

When?

The book of Matthew was written sometime between the mid-50s to early 60s AD. This would have been only about twenty years or so after Jesus died and then rose to life again.

Why?

The book of Matthew was written to tell the Jewish people about Jesus—from His birth and ministry all the way to His death and resurrection.

The Big Picture

Matthew quotes some sixty prophecies of the Old Testament and shows how Jesus fits each of them exactly, proving that Jesus really is the promised Messiah and Savior.

Stories from Matthew

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| » The Parable of the Talents | <i>Matthew 25:14-30</i> |
| » The Death of Jesus | <i>Matthew 27:45-56</i> |
| » The Great Commission | <i>Matthew 28:16-20</i> |



The Genealogy of Jesus Christ

1 An account of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham:

From Abraham to David

- ² Abraham fathered Isaac,
Isaac fathered Jacob,
Jacob fathered Judah
and his brothers,
- ³ Judah fathered Perez and Zerah
by Tamar,
Perez fathered Hezron,
Hezron fathered Aram,
- ⁴ Aram fathered Amminadab,
Amminadab fathered Nahshon,
Nahshon fathered Salmon,
- ⁵ Salmon fathered Boaz by Rahab,
Boaz fathered Obed by Ruth,
Obed fathered Jesse,
- ⁶ and Jesse fathered King David.

From David to the Babylonian Exile

- David fathered Solomon
by Uriah's wife,
- ⁷ Solomon fathered Rehoboam,
Rehoboam fathered Abijah,
Abijah fathered Asa,
 - ⁸ Asa fathered Jehoshaphat,
Jehoshaphat fathered Joram,
Joram fathered Uzziah,
 - ⁹ Uzziah fathered Jotham,
Jotham fathered Ahaz,
Ahaz fathered Hezekiah,
 - ¹⁰ Hezekiah fathered Manasseh,
Manasseh fathered Amon,
Amon fathered Josiah,
 - ¹¹ and Josiah fathered Jeconiah
and his brothers
at the time of the exile
to Babylon.

From the Exile to the Messiah

- ¹² After the exile to Babylon
Jeconiah fathered Shealtiel,
Shealtiel fathered Zerubbabel,
- ¹³ Zerubbabel fathered Abiud,
Abiud fathered Eliakim,
Eliakim fathered Azor,
- ¹⁴ Azor fathered Zadok,
Zadok fathered Achim,
Achim fathered Eliud,
- ¹⁵ Eliud fathered Eleazar,
Eleazar fathered Matthan,
Matthan fathered Jacob,
- ¹⁶ and Jacob fathered Joseph the husband
of Mary,
who gave birth to Jesus who is called
the Messiah.

¹⁷ So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations; and from David until the exile to Babylon, fourteen generations; and from the exile to Babylon until the Messiah, fourteen generations.



From Abraham to Jesus

Matthew 1:1-17; Luke 3:23-38

Jesus came to Earth as a baby in Bethlehem. Jesus had earthly parents, Mary and Joseph, but His true Father is God. Through Jesus, God kept His promises to Abraham and David. Jesus saves us from our sins and adopts us into His family.

The Nativity of the Messiah

¹⁸ The birth of Jesus Christ came about this way: After his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, it was discovered before they came together that she was pregnant from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ So her husband, Joseph, being a righteous man, and not wanting to disgrace her publicly, decided to divorce her secretly.

²⁰ But after he had considered these things, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because what has been conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.



Matthew 1:21

"She will give birth to a son, and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

²² Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³ **See, the virgin will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they will name him Immanuel,** which is translated "God is with us."



SEEING THE BIG PICTURE

From Abraham to Jesus

Matthew 1:1-17; Luke 3:23-38 Jesus is the Son of God, which means that He is fully God. But Jesus's mother, Mary, was human. That means Jesus was also fully man. Jesus was *both* fully God and fully human, making Him different from any other man.

Like all people, Jesus's family had a history—a family tree. It began in the garden with Adam and Eve. Then came Seth, Enos, and Enoch, who walked with God. Noah was part of Jesus's family, along with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Years later, Salmon was born into Jesus's family tree. He married Rahab, who saved the spies at Jericho. Then came Boaz, who married Ruth. Next came Obed and Jesse, the father of King David. After David came more fathers and more sons, all the way down to a man named Joseph. And it was this Joseph who became the husband of Mary, the mother of Jesus.

²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did as the Lord's angel had commanded him. He married her ²⁵ but did not have sexual relations with her until she gave birth to a son. And he named him Jesus.

Wise Men Visit the King

2 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of King Herod, wise men from the east arrived in Jerusalem, ² saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the

BIG WORDS

Frankincense

Ingredient used in making the perfume for the most holy place in the tabernacle. It comes from trees in the balsam family. Was one of the gifts presented to the child Jesus by the wise men. **Matthew 2:11.**

BIG PICTURE Q&A

Jesus is Always Available

Q: What makes Jesus different?

A: Jesus is fully God and fully man.

Jews? For we saw his star at its rising and have come to worship him."

³ When King Herod heard this, he was deeply disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴ So he assembled all the chief priests and scribes of the people and asked them where the Messiah would be born.

⁵ "In Bethlehem of Judea," they told him, "because this is what was written by the prophet:

⁶ **And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,**

are by no means least

among the rulers of Judah:

Because out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel."

⁷ Then Herod secretly summoned the wise men and asked them the exact time the star appeared. ⁸ He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. When you find him, report back to me so that I too can go and worship him."

⁹ After hearing the king, they went on their way. And there it was — the star they had seen at its rising. It led them until it came and stopped above the place where the child was.

¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ Entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and falling to their knees, they worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

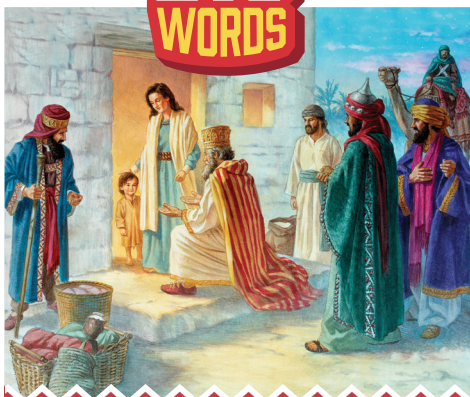
¹² And being warned in a dream not to go back

JESUS CONNECTION

The Wise Men Visited Jesus

The wise men came to worship Jesus as King. Jesus is the King who will rule forever, as God promised to King David in 2 Samuel 7. Jesus is the true King who is worthy of all my worship.

BIG WORDS



Magi (MAY jigh)

Wise men, priests, and astrologers. Their study of the stars led them to Palestine to find and worship Jesus, the newborn King. They may have been from Babylon, Persia, or the Arabian Desert. The Bible does not say how many magi worshiped Jesus, although they brought Him three gifts—gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Jesus may have been about two years old when the magi found Him. Matthew 2:1-21.

to Herod, they returned to their own country by another route.

The Flight into Egypt

¹³ After they were gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, “Get up! Take the child and his mother; flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you. For Herod is about to search for the child to kill him.” ¹⁴ So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night, and escaped to Egypt. ¹⁵ He stayed there until Herod’s death, so that what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet might be fulfilled: **Out of Egypt I called my Son.**

BIG PICTURE Q&A

Wise Men Visit Jesus

Q: Why did the wise men visit Jesus?

A: The wise men came to worship Jesus as King.

The Massacre of the Innocents

¹⁶ Then Herod, when he realized that he had been outwitted by the wise men, flew into a rage. He gave orders to massacre all the boys in and around Bethlehem who were two years old and under, in keeping with the time he had learned from the wise men. ¹⁷ Then what was spoken through Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled:

¹⁸ **A voice was heard in Ramah,
weeping, and great mourning,
Rachel weeping for her children;
and she refused to be consoled,
because they are no more.**

The Return to Nazareth

¹⁹ After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, ²⁰ saying, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, because those who intended to kill the child are dead.” ²¹ So he got up, took the child and his mother, and entered the land of Israel. ²² But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being warned in a dream, he withdrew to the region of Galilee. ²³ Then he went and settled

SEEING THE BIG PICTURE

The Wise Men Visited Jesus

Matthew 2:1-21 At the birth of Jesus, a star appeared, and wise men followed it to Jerusalem. They wanted to worship the new King of the Jews. When King Herod heard this, he was furious! He was the only king!

Long ago, the prophet Micah had said the new King would be born in Bethlehem, so Herod sent the wise men there. Secretly he hoped to find the new King himself—and kill Him!

The wise men did find Jesus, and they worshiped Him. But God warned them not to go back to Herod. When Herod discovered the wise men had left without telling him where the new King was, he ordered every boy in Bethlehem who was two years old and younger be killed! Herod didn’t know that Jesus had already escaped. God had said that His Messiah would rule forever—and Herod was not going to mess up God’s plan!



JESUS CONNECTION

Jesus Was Baptized

Jesus never sinned, but He obeyed God and was baptized like sinners are baptized. Baptism reminds us of Jesus' death and resurrection. It reminds us that when we trust in Jesus, we turn from sin and start a new life—a life lived for Jesus.

in a town called Nazareth to fulfill what was spoken through the prophets, that he would be called a Nazarene.

The Herald of the Messiah

3 In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea ² and saying, "Repent, because the kingdom of heaven has come near!" ³ For he is the one spoken of through the prophet Isaiah, who said:

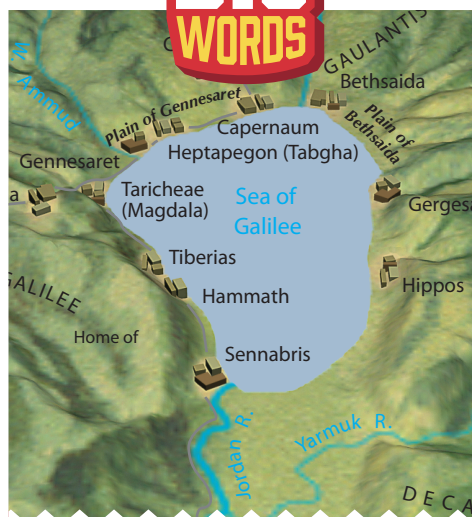
**A voice of one crying out
in the wilderness:
Prepare the way for the Lord;
make his paths straight!**

⁴ Now John had a camel-hair garment with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ Then people from Jerusalem, all Judea, and all the vicinity of the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶ and they were baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins.

⁷ When he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸ Therefore produce fruit consistent with repentance. ⁹ And don't presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you that God is able to raise up children for Abraham from these stones. ¹⁰ The ax is already at the root of the trees. Therefore, every tree that doesn't produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹ "I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I. I am not worthy to remove his sandals. He himself will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² His winnowing shovel is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn. But the chaff he will burn with fire that never goes out."

BIG WORDS



Galilee (GAL ih lee)

Northern part of Palestine, west of the Sea of Galilee. In Jesus's time, Herod Antipas was the governor. Jesus spent much of His earthly ministry in Galilee and worked many miracles in the area. Matthew 3:13; 4:23; Luke 2:39-40.

The Baptism of Jesus

¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴ But John tried to stop him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and yet you come to me?"

¹⁵ Jesus answered him, "Allow it for now, because this is the way for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then John allowed him to be baptized.

¹⁶ When Jesus was baptized, he went up immediately from the water. The heavens suddenly opened for him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming down on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased."

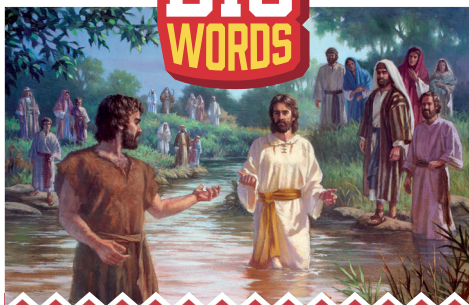
BIG PICTURE Q&A

Jesus Was Baptized

Q: Why was Jesus baptized?

A: Jesus was baptized to show the people that He was willing to obey God.

BIG WORDS



Baptize

To lower someone in the water and bring him back up. The person who is baptized is following Jesus's example by showing others that he has confessed Jesus as Savior and Lord. Matthew 3:13-17.

The Temptation of Jesus

4 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ² After he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³ Then the tempter approached him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."

SEEING THE BIG PICTURE

Jesus Was Baptized

Matthew 3:1-6, 13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-22; John 1:19-34 John the Baptist was telling everyone who would listen to get ready because the Lord was coming. As people confessed their sins, John baptized them in the Jordan River. But when Jesus came to John to be baptized, he didn't understand. Jesus didn't have any sins that needed to be washed away! But Jesus knew that this was what God wanted Him to do. Being baptized would show all the people that He was willing to obey God. So John baptized Jesus.

As soon as Jesus came up out of the water, God spoke from heaven, saying, "This is my beloved Son. with whom I am well-pleased." Jesus's obedience pleased God—just as His people's obedience pleases God too.

⁴ He answered, "**It is written: Man must not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.**"

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city, had him stand on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down. For it is written:

He will give his angels orders concerning you, and they will support you with their hands so that you will not strike your foot against a stone."

⁷ Jesus told him, "**It is also written: Do not test the Lord your God.**"

⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. ⁹ And he said to him, "I will give you all these things if you will fall down and worship me."

VERSE TO REMEMBER

Matthew 4:10

Then Jesus told him, "Go away, Satan! For it is written: Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him."

¹⁰ Then Jesus told him, "**Go away, Satan! For it is written: Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.**"

¹¹ Then the devil left him, and angels came and began to serve him.

Ministry in Galilee

¹² When he heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee. ¹³ He left Nazareth and went to live in Capernaum by the sea, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali. ¹⁴ This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah:

¹⁵ **Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, along the road by the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles.**

¹⁶ **The people who live in darkness have seen a great light, and for those living in the land of the shadow of death, a light has dawned.**

¹⁷ From then on Jesus began to preach, "**Repent, because the kingdom of heaven has come near.**"





JESUS CONNECTION

Jesus Was Tempted

Matthew 4:1-11; Mark 1:12-13; Luke 4:1-13
Jesus was tempted, but He trusted God and never sinned. Jesus is perfect and righteous. A perfect sacrifice was required to take away sin. Jesus was that perfect sacrifice. He died on the cross to free us from sin and to give us the power to say no to temptation.

The First Disciples

¹⁸ As he was walking along the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter), and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the sea — for they were fishermen. ¹⁹ “Follow me,” he told them, **“and I will make you fish for people.”** ²⁰ Immediately they left their nets and followed him.

²¹ Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They were in a boat with Zebedee their father, preparing their nets, and he called them. ²² Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

Teaching, Preaching, and Healing

²³ Now Jesus began to go all over Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people. ²⁴ Then the news about him spread throughout Syria. So they brought to him all those who were afflicted, those suffering from various diseases and intense pains, the demon-possessed, the epileptics, and the paralytics. And he healed them. ²⁵ Large crowds followed him from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and beyond the Jordan.

BIG PICTURE Q&A

Jesus Was Tempted

Q: How did Jesus deal with temptation?

A: Jesus used the words of God to beat temptation and the devil.

SEEING THE BIG PICTURE

Jesus Was Tempted

Matthew 4:1-11; Mark 1:12-13; Luke 4:1-13

After Jesus was baptized, He was led by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. For forty days and forty nights, Jesus ate nothing. The Devil knew Jesus was hungry, so he came to Jesus and tempted Him to turn stones into bread. But Jesus refused the devil, using God's Word to defeat him.

Next, the devil told Jesus to throw Himself off the top of the temple, because surely the angels would save Him. Again Jesus refused him, using the Word of God. The devil tempted Jesus a third time by offering Him all the riches and powers of the world, if only Jesus would worship him. Yet again, Jesus answered with the Word of God.

Three times the devil tempted Jesus, and three times Jesus defeated him by using the Word of God!

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

5 When he saw the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ² Then he began to teach them, saying:

The Beatitudes

- ³ **“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for the kingdom of heaven is theirs.**
- ⁴ **Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.**
- ⁵ **Blessed are the humble, for they will inherit the earth.**
- ⁶ **Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.**
- ⁷ **Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.**
- ⁸ **Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.**
- ⁹ **Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.**
- ¹⁰ **Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for the kingdom of heaven is theirs.**

¹¹ “You are blessed when they insult you and persecute you and falsely say every kind of evil

against you because of me.¹² Be glad and rejoice, because your reward is great in heaven. For that is how they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

VERSE

TO REMEMBER

Matthew 5:16

"In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."

Believers Are Salt and Light

¹³ "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt should lose its taste, how can it be made salty? It's no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet.

¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A city situated on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ No one lights a lamp and puts it under a basket, but rather on a lampstand, and it gives light for all who are in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

Christ Fulfills the Law

¹⁷ "Don't think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸ For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or one stroke of a letter will pass away from the law until all things are accomplished. ¹⁹ Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commands and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven. But whoever does and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ For I tell you, unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven.

Murder Begins in the Heart

²¹ "You have heard that it was said to our ancestors, **Do not murder**, and whoever murders will be subject to judgment. ²² But I tell you, everyone who is angry with his brother or sister will be subject to judgment. Whoever insults his brother or sister, will be subject to the court. Whoever says, 'You fool!' will be subject to hellfire. ²³ So if you are offering your

gift on the altar, and there you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled with your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. ²⁵ Reach a settlement quickly with your adversary while you're on the way with him to the court, or your adversary will hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the officer, and you will be thrown into prison. ²⁶ Truly I tell you, you will never get out of there until you have paid the last penny.

Adultery Begins in the Heart

²⁷ "You have heard that it was said, **Do not commit adultery**. ²⁸ But I tell you, everyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. ²⁹ If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of the parts of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. ³⁰ And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of the parts of your body than for your whole body to go into hell.

Divorce Practices Censured

³¹ "It was also said, **Whoever divorces his wife must give her a written notice of divorce**. ³² But I tell you, everyone who divorces his wife, except in a case of sexual immorality, causes her to commit adultery. And whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

Tell the Truth

³³ "Again, you have heard that it was said to our ancestors, **You must not break your oath, but you must keep your oaths to the Lord**. ³⁴ But I tell you, don't take an oath at all: either by heaven, because it is God's throne; ³⁵ or by the earth, because it is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, because it is the city of the great King. ³⁶ Do not swear by your head, because you cannot make a single hair white or black. ³⁷ But let your 'yes' mean 'yes,' and your 'no' mean 'no.' Anything more than this is from the evil one.

Go the Second Mile

³⁸ "You have heard that it was said, **An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth**. ³⁹ But I tell you, don't resist an evildoer. On the contrary, if anyone slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also. ⁴⁰ As for the one who wants to sue you and take away your shirt, let him have your coat as well. ⁴¹ And if anyone forces