


Matthew: An Introduction



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587 B.C. – The Fall of Jerusalem to the Babylonians

- Israel is taken into captivity

70 years later, the Persian Empire begins

- King Artaxerxes gives Nehemiah permission to rebuild the temple

An Important History

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An Important History

Haggai, Zechariah, and Ezra

Malachi – What does it mean to be the people of God?

Warns of God’s coming – 2:17-3:1

Writes of the coming of Elijah – 4:1-5

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The Greeks – Alexander the Great

Jewish people are embracing the Greek culture

Greek is now the common language

The Hebrew Scriptures are translated into Greek  
– Septuagint

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The Greeks – Alexander the Great

An era of peace and prosperity

The priestly class is once again finding power and  
position in society

Judaism is being lost and God seems to be  
forgotten

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The Maccabees

167 B.C. – Judas Maccabees, a priest, begins a revolt  
against the Greeks

165 B.C. – Surprisingly, it works! Jerusalem is retaken  
as a Jewish state.

Israel begins to think about God again and wonders if  
this is the coming of the Messiah

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## The Romans

63 B.C. – The Romans begin their rule over Israel

Judea becomes a Roman province under the rule of Herod the Great

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## The Gospel of Matthew

Circa 63-80 A.D.

After the death of Jesus

Matthew is the disciple of Jesus – a tax collector

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## The Gospel of Matthew

The most Jewish of all four gospels

Written to a Jewish audience

Has the most references and allusions to the Old Testament

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## The Purpose of Matthew

To clearly show the Jewish nation, that after 400 years, God is alive!

The Messiah has come

The prophecy of Malachi has been fulfilled

Jesus is the Messiah – Matt 1:23

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## The Purpose of Matthew

To transition  
from  
Judaism to  
Christianity

**From the law to  
relationship**

There is a  
new identity  
in Christ.

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## The Purpose of Matthew

- Christ's coming has changed the world!
  - Matt 28:18-20
- Just as Malachi asked the question, "What does it mean to be the people of God?" so now Matthew asks the question, "What does it mean to be the people of God?"

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The Purpose of Matthew

God has radically broken into this world

He is with us today, never to leave us

In Christ, we are the true people of God

What does that now look like in everyday life and living?

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