

# MATTHEW

The Gospel of Matthew presents Jesus as Israel's Messiah. Jesus is shown to be the authoritative interpreter of God's plan for God's people through his fulfillment of prophecy, how he teaches Torah, and how the pattern of his life calls to mind the lives of people like Moses.

While Luke's Gospel details the founding and expansion of the church, Matthew is, above all, the gospel about the church and could even be read as a manual for proper conduct in the church. For instance, Matthew is the only gospel to actually use the term "church" and includes unique material about church discipline and conflict resolution.

Like Luke, Matthew also seems to use Mark as a source but expands on the basic narrative. Matthew also adds an infancy narrative and genealogy, like Luke. However, Matthew traces Jesus' lineage back to Abraham rather than Adam and also details the visit of the Magi.

Matthew has a number of unique literary structures, including its order, symmetry, and use of summary transitions—offering a smoother approach than Mark's abrupt narrative shifts. A peculiar quirk in the Gospel of Matthew is the tendency to double characters and episodes that appear as single events or characters in Luke and Mark. Matthew even has Jesus riding two donkeys into Jerusalem!

While all the gospels were written in conversation with different forms of first-century Judaism, Matthew is the one most influenced by the Pharisees/rabbinical Judaism. Matthew shows that Jesus—rather than the Pharisees—interpreted Torah rightly, fulfilled Torah, and may even be Torah personified.

Throughout Matthew, Jesus is teaching. Matthew reorganizes some material from Mark's Gospel, creating extended sermons, such as the Sermon on the Mount. This presentation shows Jesus in action as a teacher, fulfilling the passage from Matthew "as one having authority, and not as their scribes" (7:29).

