

Introduction to the Gospel According to Saint Matthew

1. Who does tradition identify as the author of the first Gospel? (page 3)
2. How does modern scholarship view this tradition? (page 3)
3. When does it appear that the Gospel was written? What two major factors support that the Gospel was written in the middle of the 1st century? (page 3-4)
4. What group was the Gospel written for and what geographic area? What language was it written in? (page 4)
5. What is the central theme of Matthew's Gospel? (page 4)
6. How does the Kingdom relate to King David? How is the Kingdom ethical, ecclesial, and eschatological? (page 4-5)

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO SAINT MATTHEW

Read 1:1-2 Matthew's Gospel was written to a Jewish audience, why would references to Abraham and David be important? (Note 1:2-17)

What is the difference between Luke's genealogy and Matthew's genealogy?

Read 1:3-6 Who are the four women in the genealogy and what is the significance in their inclusion? (Note 1:3-6)

Read 1:17 Why does Matthew stress the division of the genealogy into 3 units of 14? What about the relationship of the number of generations and the wilderness journey of Israel? (note 1:17)

Read 1:18-19 What is betrothal? (Note 1:18)

Read 1:20-21 How do Joseph and the Old Testament patriarch Joseph share similar experiences? (Note 1:20)

Read 1:22-25 What is the Church's teaching on the Virgin Birth? (Note 1:25)

Read 2:1 What is the significance of the small city of Bethlehem? (Note 2:1)

Who is Herod the Great? What is the significance of the prophecy of Balaam?

Read 2:10-11 What is the symbolism of gold, frankincense, and myrrh? (Note 2:11)

Read 2:13-15 What is the meaning of the quotation from Hosea 11:1 "Out of Egypt have I called my son"? (Note 2:15)

Read 2:16 What kind of a person was Herod? (Note 2:16)

How does the life of Jesus mirror that of Moses?

Read 3:1 Who is John the Baptist? (Note 3:1)

Read 3:2 What is meant by the Kingdom of Heaven? (Note 3:2)

Read 3:4-11 What is the difference between John's baptism and sacramental baptism? (Note 3:11)

Read 4:1-11 How does the temptation of Jesus contrast with the temptation of ancient Israel? (Note 4:1-11)

Read 4:12-16 Why did Jesus choose Galilee as a place to restore the lost sheep of the house of Israel? (Note 4:12) (Note 4:15-16)