



THE BIBLE

in a nutshell

Matthew

—by Dr Peter Hammond

“...And on this rock I will build My Church, and the gates of hades shall not prevail against it.”
Matthew 16:18

Mark, the Evangelist, aimed at reaching unbelievers, as Jesus did as the Son of Man.

Matthew and Luke, discipling new believers, focus on what Jesus said as the King and Saviour. John, as the professor, focuses on Who Jesus is as the Son of God.

The order of the books:

- Whereas Mark starts with the baptism of Jesus, Matthew starts with the birth of Jesus and His ancestry.
- While Luke gives the genealogy of Mary's ancestors, Matthew follows Joseph, the

The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul

The Lord Jesus clearly stated: *“Do not think that I came to destroy the law or the prophets. I did not come to destroy, but to fulfil.”* Matthew 5:17. It is even more serious to teach others to break the Law of God than to actually break it ourselves. Teachers will be judged with greater strictness.

Old Testament prophecy fulfilled

Matthew makes 65 references to Old Testament prophecies fulfilled by Christ. There are 29 direct Old Testament quotes and 121 references, or allusions, to Old Testament events and images.

Kingdom of Heaven

Matthew's Gospel refers to the Kingdom of Heaven 33 times. That is a term unique to Matthew's Gospel. The other Gospels speak of the Kingdom of God. Matthew, being a Levite, was cautious in using the Name of God and so generally chose rather the term Kingdom of Heaven.

The Church in Matthew

Matthew is the only Gospel that mentions the Church. In Matthew 16:13-19, we read: *“But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter answered and said, ‘You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.’ Jesus answered and said: “...on this rock I will build My Church, and the gates of hades shall not prevail against it...”* Our Lord makes clear that

The structure of Matthew

Matthew's Gospel is structured in five great discourses of the teachings of Christ and four accounts of deeds to illustrate those teachings. These parallel the five Books of the Law. Each section begins with: *“From that time...”* and ends with *“when Jesus had finished...”*

Who was Matthew?

Matthew (meaning gift of the Lord) was from the tribe of Levi (9:9), a tax collector (10:3) who left everything to follow Christ (Luke 5:27-28) and became one of the twelve apostles.

A manual for discipleship

The Gospel of Matthew is the fullest, most comprehensive, systematic, and orderly account of the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. Matthew is a Manual for Discipleship. Matthew was written in Greek about AD50.

Distinctive features of Matthew

Only in the Gospel of Matthew do we read about the visit of the Wise men from the East, the Magi (2:1), the flight into Egypt (2:13-14), the slaughter of the innocents by king Herod's soldiers in Bethlehem (2:16), and the return to Nazareth (2:19-23). Matthew alone records the coming of the pharisees and sadducees to John the Baptist (3:7), the full Sermon on the Mount (chapter 5 - 7) and the Words of Jesus: *“Come to Me, all you who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”* Matthew 11:28. Matthew alone records Peter walking on the sea (14:28-31).



there is only one true Church and He is the One who is building it. As the Church advances, the gates of hell itself will not be able to prevail.

If your brother sins against you

In Matthew 18, we receive teaching on local Church discipline. In Matthew 18:15-20, our Lord teaches on the importance of going to our brother and seeking to resolve any issues. If he refuses to listen, take two or three other brothers with you to try to convince him. Only if he refuses to hear them, should you bring it before the Church.

God resists the proud but He gives grace to the humble

“Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child, is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven. Whoever receives one little child like this in My Name receives Me.” Matthew 18:3-5

Beware of causing little ones to stumble

“Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea... woe to that man by whom the offense comes!” Matthew 18:6-7

Bring lost sheep back into the fold

We are warned to take heed that we do not despise any of the little ones, *“For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”*

Matthew 18:11. Seek the one who is straying. *“Even so it is not the will of your Father who is in Heaven that one of these little ones should perish.”* Matthew 18:14.

The observant accountant

Matthew, showing the orderly mind of an

accountant, includes the tribute money that the Lord needed to pay and how He obtained the coin from a fish (17:24-27), the 30 pieces of silver, which Judas received for betraying Christ (26:15), and the return of the 30 pieces of silver to the Temple (27:3-10). Matthew, alone, gives the story of the hidden treasure (13:44) the pearl »

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of great price (13:45), and the labourers in the vineyard (20:1-16). Matthew also notes how much they are paid.

Additional details of the Crucifixion

Matthew alone records the dream of Pilate's wife warning him not to betray this innocent

about this unforgiving servant, he declared: *"You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you? And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him. So My Heavenly Father*

have not found such great faith, not even in Israel! And I say to you that many will come from East and West, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the Kingdom of Heaven. But the sons of the Kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth!... And his servant was healed that same hour." Matthew 8:5-13

The persistence of the Canaanite woman rewarded

Jesus blessed a Canaanite woman: *"O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire. And her daughter was healed from that very hour."* Matthew 15:18.

The Chief Cornerstone rejected

Matthew records that Jesus is the Chief Cornerstone that the Jews have rejected, therefore the Kingdom will be taken away from the Jews and be given to the Gentiles. *"Jesus said to them, 'have you never read in the Scriptures: The Stone that the builders rejected has become the Chief Cornerstone. Therefore I say to you, the Kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it. And whoever falls on this Stone will be broken; but on whomever It falls, It will grind him to powder.'* Now when the chief priests and pharisees heard His parables, they perceived that He was speaking of them." Matthew 21:42-45

The faith of the centurion

Jesus declared of the Roman Centurion: *"I*

Cursed cities

During Jesus' earthly ministry, there were

"For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance, but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

-Matthew 25:14-30

250000 people living on the shores in Galilee in four major cities. Today only one of those towns remains. Jesus pronounced Woes on Chorazin, Bethsaida, and Capernaum. All of those towns have disappeared and only remain as archaeological sites. Only the town Jesus never cursed, Tiberias, is still there.

into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." Matthew 25:14-30

Sins of omission

The Day of Judgement is described by the Lord *"Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire."* More in terms of good things

Jesus Christ is the Messiah, the fulfilment of all Old Testament prophecies. He is our Prophet, Priest, and King. He was destined for the Altar of the Cross, the ultimate sacrifice.

Man (27:19), and the appearance of the resurrected saints at the time of the Crucifixion and Resurrection (27:53). Matthew also reports a placing of the Roman guard at the Tomb of Christ (27:64-66), and the bribing of the soldiers (28:12-13). Matthew records the earthquake that accompanied the death of Christ (27:51).

The weeds among the wheat

Matthew warns about the wheat and the weeds (13:24) and the unmerciful servant, who, although he was forgiven a great debt by the king, went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a very small sum and ignored his pleas for more time, and had him thrown into prison. When the king heard

also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses."

A light to the Gentiles

Matthew emphasises the importance of reaching the Gentiles for Christ: Wise men from the East travelled a great distance to come to worship the baby born in Bethlehem. They brought gold for the King of kings, frankincense for the High Priest above all high priests, and myrrh for the sacrifice that would end the need for any other sacrifices. In the genealogy of Christ, Matthew includes the Gentiles, Ruth and Rahab. Matthew tells us that Jesus ministered in *"Galilee of the Gentiles"* as prophesied.

The Lord describes the Day of Judgement in terms of productivity. Those who were fruitful and productive were given more talents, and the one who had hidden his talent in the ground was rebuked.

Religious leaders condemned

Matthew records the relentless denunciation of the Jewish religious leaders, the scribes and pharisees in Matthew 23: *"...Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted. But woe to you, scribes and pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut up the Kingdom of Heaven against men; for you neither go in yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in... you devour widows' houses... Therefore you will receive greater condemnation... twice as much a son of hell... Woe to you, blind guides... Fools and blind! ...Blind guides, who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel! ...full of extortion and self-indulgence... full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness... inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness... Serpents, brood of vipers! How can you escape the condemnation of hell?"* Matthew 23:2-33

that we failed to do than bad things, serious as those are.

Prophet, Priest, and King

Jesus Christ is the Messiah, the fulfilment of all Old Testament prophecies. He is our Prophet, Priest, and King.

Son of Abraham

Jesus Christ, as the Son of Abraham, was destined for the Altar of the Cross, the ultimate sacrifice. *"The Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world."*

Son of David

Jesus Christ is also the Son of David, the King, destined for the Throne and the crown. He is The Lion, *"King of kings and Lord of lords"*.

The Great Commission

"And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, 'All authority has been given to Me in Heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptising them in the Name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.'" Matthew 28:18-20. ■

The parable of the talents

Here the Lord describes the Day of Judgement in terms of productivity. Those who were fruitful and productive were given more talents, and the one who had hidden his talent in the ground was rebuked: *"you wicked and lazy servant... take the talent from him and give it to him who has ten talents... for to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance, but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the unprofitable servant*

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The two sons

Matthew alone gives the parable of the two sons. One son disobeyed his father and said: *"I will not!"* but afterwards he regretted it and went. Another son answered promptly: *"I go, Sir."*, but he did not go. The Lord Jesus asked: *"Which of the two did the will of his Father? Assuredly I say to you that tax collectors and harlots enter the Kingdom of God before you."* Matthew 21:28-31. It is not so much what we say, but what we do that counts. It is not only our words, but our deeds and actions that count. Another distinctive of Matthew is the parable of the Wedding Feast (21:1-14).

