

# Introduction to NT Books

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## Introduction

The Lord Jesus Christ came in the fulness of times (Gal. 4:4). He denounced Judaism and set up Christianity around His new institution, the Baptist assembly (Mt. 16:18; 28:19-20). The words He gave the Apostles were the canonical words of the NT (Heb. 1:1).

### I. Matthew

#### A. The Authorship of Matthew

##### 1. External Evidence

- a. The superscription “according to Matthew” is affixed on very early MSS (c. 125); why the nagging tradition for a little known apostle?
- b. Papias: “Matthew composed the *Logia* in the Hebrew tongue and everyone interpreted them as he was able.” Perhaps Matthew wrote in both Aramaic and Greek (inspired originals).
- c. Irenaeus: “Now Matthew published also a book of the Gospel among the Hebrews in their own dialect, while Peter and Paul were preaching the gospel in Rome and founding the church.”

##### 2. Internal Evidence

- a. The author does not identify himself but tradition identifies the author as Matthew.
- b. He displays the mind and characteristics of a publican in his Gospel.
  - 1) He is only Gospel writer to record the payment of the Temple tax (Mt. 17:24-27).
  - 2) He uses three *hapax legomena* for tribute money.

#### B. The Date of Matthew

1. The Matthean Gospel was first cited in Ignatius (c. AD 115).
2. He has no explicit reference to the fall of Jerusalem/Temple in AD 70 (cf. Mt. 22:7).
3. It may have been written in the early 50's.

#### C. The Origin and Destination of Matthew

1. Probably originated in Judah.
2. It was written to Jewish Christians in the Judean territory.

D. The Purpose: To evangelize and to instruct both Jews and Gentiles in the truth that Christ was the Messiah of the royal lineage established in the OT.

#### E. The Characteristics of the Gospel of Matthew

1. Jewish Motifs: “Kingdom of Heaven” 33x (only in Matthew); “Kingdom of God” 5 x; “Son of David” 9x.
2. Numerical fondness: 3-fold division of genealogy; 3 temptations.

#### F. The Structure

1. Sermon on the Mount (5:1-7:29).
2. Mission discourse (9:35-10:42).
3. Parables of the mysteries of the Kingdom (13:1 ff.).
4. Misc. Discourses (18:1-5)
5. Olivet Discourse (23:1-25:46).