

Interesting Facts About Matthew

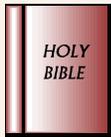
MEANING: "Gift of the Lord."

AUTHOR: Matthew, the son of Alphaeus (Mark 2:14)

TIME WRITTEN: Possibly between 58-68 A.D.

POSITION IN THE BIBLE:

- 40th Book in the Bible
- 1st Book in the New Testament
- 1st of 4 books of Biography (Matthew - John)
- 26 Books to follow it.



CHAPTERS: 4

VERSES: 55

WORDS: 1,782

OBSERVATIONS ABOUT MATTHEW:

- Matthew is the gospel record:
 - Written by a Jew - Matthew.
 - Written to Jews - his countrymen.
 - Written about a Jew - the long-awaited Messiah.
- Matthew uses quotes from the Old Testament to establish that Jesus Christ is indeed the Messiah.
 - More than 130 times Matthew uses quotations and allusions to the Old Testament to show that Jesus fulfills the qualifications for the Messiah.
 - Matthew often uses the phrase, "that which was spoken through the prophets ight be fulfilled." That phrase does not appear once in Mark, Luke, or John.
 - The phrase, "Son of David," referring to the Davidic line, occurs 9 times in Matthew, but only 6 times collectively in Mark, Luke, and John.
- Matthew shows his Jewish readers that Jesus Christ is the culmination of promises delivered over a thousand period.
- Matthew shows that God's redemptive plan is well even after 400 years of prophetic silence.

MATTHEW

- Messiah means "the Anointed One."
- Matthew gives a large reception in his house so his associates could meet Jesus. Matthew 9:10
- The last appearance of his name in the Bible is in Acts 1:13.
- The phrase, "kingdom of heaven" appears 55 times in Matthew.
- Matthew shows his Jewish readers that Jesus Christ is the culmination of promises delivered over a thousand period.
- Matthew was a tax collector in Capernaum when Jesus called him to follow Him.
- As a publican (tax collector), Matthew was no doubt disliked by his countrymen.
- The turning point in the Book of Matthew comes in chapter 12 when the Pharisees formally reject Jesus as the Messiah, saying that His power comes from Satan and not from God. Christ's ministry changes immediately with:
 - His increased use of parables.
 - Increased attention to his disciples.
 - His repeated statements that His death is now near.
- The Book of Matthew is placed first in the canon of the New Testament books by the early church because of its natural bridge between the Old and New Testaments.

