



1. Who is the writer and/or speaker ?
2. When was it written and/or said ?
3. To whom was it written and/or spoken ?
4. What are the major natural divisions ?
5. What is the repeated key word ?
6. What simple sentence sums it all up ?
7. What is an application to my life today ?

Survey of the Book of Matthew

1. **The writer :** The marks of the hand of a Galilean (Mt9v1&9) obviously educated in accounting as a tax collector for king Herod (Mt9v9 & 10v3) are found throughout this book. He writes more about kingdoms than any other Gospel. Matthew was also known by the name Levi, son of Alphaeus (Mk2v14). It is possible that he is the brother of James and Thomas, also called sons of Alphaeus (Mk3v18, Lk6v15 & Ac1v13). It is probable that he was from the tribe of Levi, which explains his many quotations of biblical prophecy (59x), but working for the Roman invaders earned him the despised title of “publican” (Mt9v11). His name in Hebrew means “gift of the I AM” while in Greek it means “disciple”. He and John are the only two apostles who had the honor of writing under inspiration the story of the life of Christ. Matthew left all to follow Christ (Lk5v28). He left the kingdom of Herod (Lk23v6-7) for that of God.
2. **The date :** This book was written after the Ascension (cf. Mt28v19 & Ac1v8). It was penned before the destruction of Jerusalem in 70AD. One indication are the references “to this day” as if life continued normally in Jerusalem (Mt27v8 & 28v15). Another indication are the coins that were no longer in use after 70AD (18v24 & 28). Another indication is the Temple tax without any mention of it being a past custom (Mt17v24). There is no reference to other Gospels as in Luke (Lk1v1), so it is probably the very first. See notes on Mark for why he wrote later. This gives us a date from 30-60 AD.
3. **The readers :** The first readers must have been Israelites because of the references to the Messiah (Mt1v1, 16, 18, 2v4). The quotations of sacred Hebrew Scriptures (59x) and the choice of events concerning Israel (Mt2v6, 15, 18, 4v14-16, 9v27-38, 9v5-8, 17v24-27, etc.) is unique to this Gospel. The teachings that are only in this Gospel (Mt5v13-42, 6v1-34, 11v20-30, 12v33-45, 13v24-30, etc.) also show who is being addressed. Some even think Matthew wrote in Hebrew and we only have a Greek translation, but the style of the Greek does not give the impression of being a translation. It is much too natural to be a translation.
4. **The divisions : five steps -**
 - The King is introduced, ch1-7
 - The King fights evil, ch8-9
 - The King sends His servants, ch10-20
 - The King offers Himself to Israel, ch21-25
 - The King is crucified and rises again, ch26-28
5. **The key word :** Kingdom or King (74x) well over double that of the other Gospels.
6. **The message :** “This is Jesus the King...” Mt27v37
7. **The application :** “Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness...” Mt6v33

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