

A (Very Brief) User's Guide to the Gospel of Matthew

- **Who?**
 - A 1st century 2nd generation Christian
 - Apparently did not have access to eyewitnesses
 - Likely not the tax collector-turned-disciple Matthew/Levi

- **When?**
 - Most likely in the 80s AD
 - Sense of growing tensions within the synagogue communities
 - Viewed as authoritative by the early 2nd century

- **Where?**
 - Apparently in a city
 - Prosperous community
 - Jewish community
 - Strong possibility that it was Antioch

- **Why?**
 - Relationship of church to Torah
 - Possibly to replace (or at least correct) Mark
 - Address issues of sanctification and discipleship
 - Reflect theologically on the nature of the church
 - Assure readers of continuing presence of Christ within the community

Sources

- Gospel of Mark

- Stories valued by Matthew's community (so-called *M* material)

- Theorized collection of saying of Jesus (called *Q*)

Like Mark, Matthew edits and arranges his material to support and highlight his theological emphases. This includes his willingness to edit or amend Mark's narrative to correct perceived inaccuracies or shortcomings.

Unique/Key Features

1. Five Sermons
2. Organizational Patterns
3. Doubling Motif
4. Prominence of Peter
5. The Church
6. Tension with Judaism
7. Concern with Torah
8. Fulfillment
9. Apocalyptic Dualism
10. God With Us

Major Themes

- God With Us
- We Do Torah Right
- People of Little Faith

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