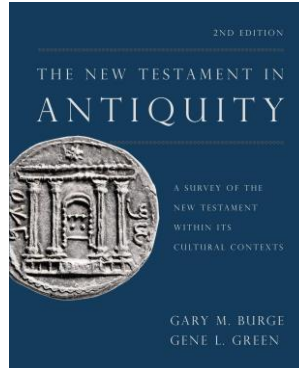


Chapter 8-The Gospel According to Matthew



Key Terms kingdom of heaven, Son of David, blessed, apostle

Key Locations and People Papias, Antioch (Syrian), Herod, Moses

Key Points

- Early church tradition suggests that Matthew was elevated above the other gospel accounts.
- Matthew's audience largely consisted of Jews.
- This gospel lends prominence to five teaching sections of Jesus that recall Moses's encounter with God on Mount Sinai.
- Matthew, perhaps more than any other gospel writer, asserts that Jesus's life and teaching are a fulfillment of OT prophecy.
- Jesus proclaims a kingdom that runs contrary to Jewish expectations.

Noteworthy Background(s) Picture of a cove along the Sea of Galilee, picture of large temple stones, pictures of tombs

Chapter Summary

The first gospel should be attributed to the apostle Matthew and dated somewhere around the first Jewish revolt. According to Papias, Matthew's gospel possesses a "Hebraic style." Like Luke's gospel, Matthew includes a genealogy and a birth narrative. Unlike Luke, Matthew begins his gospel with a genealogy of Jesus, explicitly placing him in the lineage of the Messiah. Recapitulating the life of Moses, Jesus narrowly escapes death shortly after birth and will eventually redeem God's people from bondage. After identifying himself with John's baptism, Jesus is seen teaching on a mountain. Matthew uniquely divides Jesus's teachings into five sections. Though scholars debate the precise structure of Matthew's gospel, one thing is clear—Jesus's teaching recalls Moses's encounter with God on Mount Sinai and the giving of the law to Israel. Jesus's message largely entails the fulfillment of God's law and the advent of the kingdom. A series of parables in chapter 13 demonstrates the nature of the kingdom. Though the kingdom has small beginnings, it will one day become all-encompassing. The explosion of miracles and exorcisms indicates the presence of the long-awaited kingdom of God.

Jesus heads south to Jerusalem and "cleanses" or, better, judges the temple. The temple was to be a place of worship and a beacon of light to the gentiles. Instead it had become a

business and security blanket that God would surely not dispose of. At the temple, Jesus also attacks the Jewish leaders for their role in leading Israel astray. A punishment, Jesus claims, is the physical demise of the temple. A time will come when false prophets will arise and persecute the righteous.

Various facets of Jesus's Passion are explicitly identified as a fulfillment of OT prophecy—Jesus's betrayal and Judas's suicide. But death did not have the last word: there is another earthquake, and Jesus is raised from the dead.

Chapter 8 – The Gospel According to Matthew

The students will be able to:

1. Identify the probable location of Matthew's gospel.
2. Describe the Jewish features of Matthew's gospel.
3. Discuss the symmetry of Matthew's gospel regarding narrative and discourse.
4. Identify the five major sections of Jesus's teaching.
5. Identify the beginning of Matthew's genealogy.
6. Discuss the relation of Jesus's teaching to the Torah and Jewish teaching.
7. Discuss the arguments concerning Matthean authorship.
8. Identify the probable date of Matthew.