

Introducing Matthew's Gospel

I. an overview of Matthew's gospel

historical situation: Antioch 80-90 CE?

community both Jews and Gentiles

identity crisis for Jewish Christians and need to define beliefs

II. the gospel's structure

five major discourse segments, alternating with narrative:

1:1-2:23 introduction to Jesus; genealogy and infancy

3:1-4:25 start of Jesus' ministry

5:1-7:29 discourse, Sermon on the Mount

8:1-9:38 narrative, miracles

10:1-11:1 discourse, missionary instructions

11:2-12:50 narrative, John the Baptist, controversies

13:1-52 discourse, parables of the kingdom

13:53-17:27 narrative, Nazareth rejection to Transfiguration

18:1-35 discourse, guidance to the Church

19:1-22:46 narrative, ministry in Jerusalem

23:1-25:46 discourse, warnings of end times and judgment

26:1-28:20 narrative, Jesus' passion and resurrection

Christological and formulaic outline

1:1-4:16 The Presentation of Jesus Messiah

4:17-16:20 The Ministry of Jesus Messiah

16:21-28:20 The Journey to Jerusalem and Suffering, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus Messiah

III. use of Old Testament and Jewish tradition

parallels with Moses

Jewish customs

style and language

quotations and scripture fulfillment

IV. themes in Matthew

Matt 5-7 and the Law

Jesus teaches God's law and righteousness by both preaching and example

true righteousness, discipleship, and hypocrisy

the Church and its authority and mission

eschatology and judgment

V. representative material unique to Matthew in the lectionary

flight to Egypt and Herod's killing of the children Mt 2

Jesus' fulfilling the law Mt 5

founding the church Mt 16

discipline within the church Mt 18

parables of end times and judgment Mt 25 (Ten Bridesmaids, sheep and goats)