

**Subject: Know Your Bible – Part 12**

**Scripture: Matthew 1:1-25**

After Malachi there was a period of 400 years until more Scripture was written. These are often referred to as “silent years” because God gave no new revelation. Some Old Testament prophecies had already been fulfilled, but many more awaited fulfillment.

The 27 books from Matthew through Revelation came to be known as the New Testament or Covenant.

All New Testament books were written during 45-95 AD.

These NT books were written separately and collected gradually. Their divine inspiration and apostolic authority gave them a place in the canon of Scripture.

Eventually these books were placed in a standard order (more logical than chronological).

**Four Major Sections of the New Testament**

<i><b>Gospels</b></i>	Four <u>selective biographies</u> of Christ’s life and ministry (the gospels contain about 46% of the New Testament)
<i><b>Acts</b></i>	The <u>beginning and expansion</u> of the early church.
<i><b>Epistles</b></i>	21 books about <u>Christian doctrine and living</u>
<i><b>Revelation</b></i>	<u>God’s plan</u> for the future

**Why Four Gospels?**

Each Gospel describes Christ’s life and ministry from a different viewpoint. Eyewitnesses in a court of law establish and confirm the facts of a case. If four people on different corners of a busy intersection witness the same car wreck they would describe the accident from their unique position and perspective.

Matthew, Mark, and Luke are called synoptic gospels because they describe Christ’s life and ministry in a similar way (“synoptic” from Greek “to see together”).

John offers a unique perspective on the life and ministry of Christ.

**God is Revealed in the Gospels**

- Christ’s birth reveals God’s mercy as He humbled Himself to become a man.
- Christ’s teaching reveals God’s wisdom as He showed us what to believe and how to live.
- Christ’s miracles reveal God’s power over nature, diseases, disabilities, demons, and even death.

- Christ's calling of the apostles reveals God's plan to use people to continue His work.
- Christ's death reveals God's justice and grace. Christ died as the perfect sacrifice for sin so that sinners could be redeemed.
- Christ's resurrection reveals God's sovereignty over life and death.

### Unique Features of Matthew

- Matthew is a natural bridge from the Old Testament to the New. For this reason it was placed first in the New Testament canon.
- Matthew presents Christ as the promised Messiah and King. God's plan of redemption is still on track after 400 years of silence (since Malachi).
- Matthew quotes many Old Testament scriptures to show that Christ fulfilled God's promises.
- Matthew includes some events not found in other Gospels. These are some details found only in Matthew: the explanation of Mary's pregnancy to Joseph by an angel in a dream (1:18-25), the journey of the wise men to Palestine (2:1-12), the flight into Egypt to avoid Herod's decree (2:13-15), the killing of infants at Bethlehem (2:16-18), the suicide of Judas by hanging (27:3-10), the dream of Pilate's wife about Christ's innocence (27:19), the resurrection of bodies at the time of Christ's death and resurrection (27:51-53), and the bribery of the Roman guards to spread the lie that Christ's body was stolen by the disciples (28:12-15).
- Matthew alone mentions the church (16:18; 18:17).
- Matthew records five special sermons of Jesus. These are treated in detail: Sermon on the Mount (5:1-7:29), the commissioning of the twelve apostles (10:1-42), the parables about the kingdom (13:1-52), the necessity of humility and forgiveness (18:1-35), and the Olivet Discourse about His second coming (24:3-25:46). The actual words of Jesus account for 60% of the entire gospel.
- Matthew's signature phrase is the kingdom of heaven. This phrase occurs 32 times in the gospel and nowhere else in all of Scripture.

### Writer and Date

- The book was written by Matthew the tax collector (Mt. 9:9). He was the son of Alphaeus (Mk. 2:14) and also known by his surname Levi (Mk. 2:14; Lk. 5:27). As one employed by the Roman government, he was disliked by his Jewish countrymen. When Jesus called him as a disciple (Mt. 9:9-13), his quick response probably meant that he had already been stirred by Jesus' public preaching. The last appearance of his name in the Bible is Acts 1:13. Matthew would have been considered an unlikely candidate for the apostolic band, much less a biographer of Christ's life. But God's ways are not man's ways.
- Matthew was probably written between 58-68 AD

## **Theme and Purpose**

- Matthew presents Jesus as the King of the Jews in fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies, and he demonstrates that Jesus is the long-awaited Messiah (Christ, “the anointed One”). Matthew had both an evangelistic and an educational purpose in writing this gospel. He presents the claims, credentials, authority, and teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ. This gospel has been used as a teaching manual since the early years of the church.

# Know Your Bible – Part 12

## Introduction to the Gospels and Matthew

After Malachi there was a period of \_\_\_\_\_ until more Scripture was written. These are often referred to as “silent years” because God gave no new revelation.

The \_\_\_\_\_ from Matthew through Revelation came to be known as the New Testament or Covenant.

All New Testament books were written during \_\_\_\_\_

These NT books were written separately and \_\_\_\_\_  
Their divine inspiration and apostolic authority gave them a place in the canon of Scripture.

Eventually these books were placed in \_\_\_\_\_

### Four Major Sections of the New Testament

*Gospels* Four \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ’s life and ministry  
(the gospels contain about 46% of the New Testament)

*Acts* The \_\_\_\_\_ of the early church

*Epistles* 21 books about \_\_\_\_\_

*Revelation* \_\_\_\_\_ for the future

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Each Gospel describes Christ’s life and ministry \_\_\_\_\_

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John offers a \_\_\_\_\_ on the life and ministry of Christ

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- Christ’s birth reveals \_\_\_\_\_ as He humbled Himself to become a man.
- Christ’s teaching reveals \_\_\_\_\_ as He showed us what to believe and how to live.
- Christ’s miracles reveal \_\_\_\_\_ over nature, diseases, disabilities, demons, and even death.
- Christ’s calling of the apostles reveals \_\_\_\_\_ to use people to continue His work.

- Christ's death reveals \_\_\_\_\_  
He died as the perfect sacrifice for sin so that sinners could be redeemed.
- Christ's resurrection reveals \_\_\_\_\_ over life and death.

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