

# Dr. Dave Mathewson, New Testament Literature, Session 7, Introduction to Matthew Resources from NotebookLM

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Briefing Document, 4) Study Guide, and 5) FAQs

## **1. Abstract of Mathewson, NT Literature, Session 7, Introduction to Matthew, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL**

Dr. Mathewson's lecture introduces the Gospel of Matthew, emphasizing its connection to the Old Testament. He argues that Matthew presents Jesus as the fulfillment of Israel's story, the Messiah for both Jews and Gentiles, and a new Moses. The lecture highlights Matthew's unique structure of five discourses, with particular attention to the Sermon on the Mount, which is not a program for societal transformation but rather instructions for those who have accepted Christ. Mathewson further suggests the Gospel of Matthew showcases how Jesus' teachings are the true goal the law was pointing to and ultimately, how Jesus' is the climax of the Old Testament. He also touches on the inclusion of Gentiles, exemplified by the Magi's visit, which signifies the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy and the universal scope of salvation through Jesus.

## **2. 31 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of Dr. Mathewson, NT Literature, Session 7 – Double click icon to play in Windows media player or go to the Biblicalelearning.org [BeL] Site and click the audio podcast link there (Old Testament → Major Prophets → Daniel).**



**Mathewson\_NTLit\_S  
ession07.mp3**

### 3. Briefing Document: Mathewson, NT Literature, Session 7, Introduction to Matthew

Okay, here is a briefing document summarizing the main themes and ideas from the provided excerpts of Dr. Mathewson's lecture on the Introduction to Matthew.

#### Briefing Document: Introduction to the Gospel of Matthew

**Source:** Excerpts from "Mathewson\_NTLit\_EN\_Lecture07.pdf" - Lecture 7, Introduction to Matthew, by Dr. Dave Mathewson

#### Main Themes:

- **Matthew as Fulfillment of the Old Testament Story:** The primary lens through which to understand Matthew is the Old Testament. Matthew presents Jesus as the fulfillment of the promises made to Israel, Abraham, and David. The story of Israel's exile and the hope for future deliverance is key to understanding Matthew's narrative. "The New Testament must be seen as the climax and fulfillment of the story begun in the Old Testament."
- **Authorship and Titles:** While the Gospels were originally anonymous, the titles (e.g., "The Gospel According to Matthew") were added later by the church. However, these attributions are considered reliable indicators of authorship based on early church tradition.
- **Unique Structure: Five Blocks of Discourse:** A distinctive feature of Matthew's Gospel is its organization around five major blocks of Jesus' teachings. These are the Sermon on the Mount, a collection of parables, and the Olivet Discourse, among others. This structure emphasizes Jesus as a teacher. "One of the key structural features of Matthew is that Matthew, unlike the other Gospels... has put his material together in a way that stresses five main discourses or five main blocks of the teachings of Jesus."
- **Emphasis on Gentile Inclusion:** Matthew highlights the inclusion of Gentiles in God's plan of salvation. This is evident in the genealogy that traces Jesus back to Abraham and through stories such as the visit of the Magi and Jesus' explicit call to make disciples of all nations. "One of the things we're going to see about Matthew very quickly is that Matthew more than any of the other Gospels consistently portrays Jesus as saving Gentiles, not just the Jewish constituency."

- **Jesus as the New Israel and the New Moses:** Matthew portrays Jesus as the embodiment of Israel's destiny and as a new and greater Moses. This is seen in the parallels between Jesus' early life and the Exodus story (flight to Egypt, escape from Herod's decree).
- **The Sermon on the Mount as Ethical Guidance for Believers:** The Sermon on the Mount is not simply an unattainable standard meant to drive people to despair and reliance on grace; rather, it is intended to be a practical guide for those who have already entered God's kingdom and experienced its transforming power. Furthermore, Jesus' teaching fulfills the law, offering the true goal to which it was pointing, as obedience to Jesus and His teaching defines God's people now.

### Key Ideas and Facts:

- **The Old Testament Story Assumed by Matthew:** Israel is in exile due to sin.
- God will intervene to set things right and rescue Israel.
- This intervention will bring salvation to the entire world through the restoration of Israel.
- **Matthew's Answer:** This story finds its conclusion and fulfillment in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- **Genealogy:** The genealogy in Matthew 1 is significant for establishing Jesus' legal right to sit on David's throne through Joseph, and that Matthew intentionally structures it into three sets of 14 generations to emphasize David. It also mentions the exile.
- **Jesus as the Son of David and the Son of Abraham:** This dual lineage connects Jesus to the fulfillment of promises to both the Jewish people (David) and the entire world (Abraham).
- **The Magi:** Their visit demonstrates Gentile recognition and worship of Jesus, fulfilling the prophecy of Isaiah 60. "With these kings... following this dawning light of the star and coming to Jerusalem and giving gifts of gold and frankincense and worshipping Jesus, basically what Matthew's saying, this promise restoration of Isaiah 60 is already being fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ."
- **Jesus' Temptation:** Jesus' successful resistance to temptation breaks the cycle of sin and exile initiated by Adam and Israel, qualifying Him to bring salvation to all.

- **Jesus' Baptism:** Jesus is baptized in the Jordan River and then he goes to the wilderness to be tempted.
- **Jesus Fulfills the Law:** "Jesus came not to abolish the law but to fulfill it... Jesus' teaching is the true goal to which the law was pointing. Jesus' teaching is the true intention of the law."
- **The Great Commission:** Matthew's Gospel ends with Jesus commissioning his disciples to make disciples of all nations, teaching them to obey all that He has commanded.

#### Quotes:

- "The New Testament, despite the word new, is not something that is discontinuous with the Old Testament... the New Testament stands in relationship to the Old, not as something superior, not as something brand new or unheard of before, but it stands in relationship to the Old as promise and fulfillment."
- "What all four Gospels have in common is they find that the conclusion to this story and the fulfillment of this story takes place in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ."
- "Matthew was a tax collector that Jesus called to be one of his disciples, one of his followers."
- "So, by calling Jesus the son of Abraham, not only is Jesus the answer to the salvation of the Jews... but now by linking Jesus with Abraham, Jesus will also be the means by which salvation will extend to the entire world."
- "The genealogy attempts, the primary function of it is to demonstrate that Jesus has the legal right to sit on David's throne as the adopted legal son of Joseph, who was biologically a descendant of David."
- "When Matthew says Jesus came to fulfill it, the idea is, fulfillment means that Jesus is the goal of what something pointed to."
- "...the center of God's will for his people is now no longer found in the law of Moses, it is found in the person and teaching of Jesus Christ."

## 4. Study Guide: Mathewson, NT Literature, Session 7, Introduction to Matthew

### Matthew: A Study Guide

#### I. Quiz

Answer the following questions in 2-3 sentences each.

1. What Old Testament concept would most Israelites relate to the Roman rule in the New Testament?
2. What did all four Gospels have in common?
3. What is a key structural feature that is unique to the book of Matthew?
4. Why might Matthew choose to start his genealogy with Abraham?
5. Why was it significant that the wise men, or magi, were the ones to visit Jesus after his birth?
6. What is meant by the term "new Israel?"
7. What is meant by the term "new Moses?"
8. How is Jesus seen as the light of the nations?
9. What is one thing that the Sermon on the Mount is not meant for?
10. What is the goal of Matthew's gospel?

#### II. Quiz - Answer Key

1. They would most likely relate to the concept of exile. Despite their physical return to the land, they still felt spiritually and politically exiled due to their sin, waiting to be delivered from Roman rule.
2. All four Gospels find the fulfillment of the Old Testament story in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. They each present Jesus as the culmination of God's promises to Israel and the world.
3. Matthew is unique in its structured presentation of Jesus' teachings in five main blocks of discourse. These discourses, such as the Sermon on the Mount, are strategically placed throughout the Gospel.

4. By calling Jesus the son of Abraham, Matthew links Jesus not only to the salvation of the Jews but also to the promise that all nations would be blessed through Abraham. This connects Jesus to the broader mission of salvation for both Jews and Gentiles.
5. The Magi were Gentiles who traveled from afar to worship Jesus, signifying the inclusion of non-Jews in God's plan of salvation. Their presence highlights Matthew's emphasis on Jesus as the Messiah for all nations, fulfilling the promises made to Abraham.
6. Jesus is the "new Israel" because he fulfills the destiny of Israel by resisting temptation and remaining obedient to God. Through Jesus, salvation is then offered to both Israel and all nations.
7. Jesus is considered the "new Moses" because, like Moses, he escapes the attempt of a foreign king to kill him and has come to deliver and rescue his people in a greater way than Moses. He brings a new Exodus and fulfills the prophecies associated with Moses.
8. Jesus is portrayed as the light of the nations by fulfilling the prophecies of Isaiah. The Magi following the star to worship Jesus signifies the fulfillment of Isaiah 60, where nations come to the light and kings bring gifts, demonstrating that God's salvation extends to all people.
9. The Sermon on the Mount is not primarily meant as a program for transforming society or simply to make people feel despair over their inability to live up to its standards. Instead, it serves as an ethic for those who have already entered God's kingdom.
10. The gospel of Matthew is about how to be obedient to Jesus. Rather than adhering to Mosaic law, those who have entered into a relationship with Christ are to follow the teaching of Jesus.

### III. Essay Questions

1. Discuss the significance of Matthew's genealogy of Jesus, highlighting its connection to both David and Abraham. How does this genealogy shape Matthew's overall portrayal of Jesus' identity and mission?
2. Analyze Matthew's use of the Old Testament. How does Matthew demonstrate that Jesus is the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies and promises?
3. Explore the role of Gentiles in Matthew's Gospel. How does Matthew portray Gentiles responding to Jesus, and what significance does this have for understanding the scope of Jesus' ministry?
4. Examine the structure of Matthew's Gospel, focusing on the five main blocks of discourse. What is the purpose of these discourses, and how do they contribute to Matthew's overall message?
5. Discuss the significance of the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7). Who is it for and what is it meant to achieve?

## IV. Glossary of Key Terms

- **Messiah:** The promised king of the line of David who would deliver Israel. The Greek term for Messiah is Christos (Christ).
- **Exile:** The state of being forced to live outside one's native country, especially for political reasons or as a punishment. In the context of the Old Testament, it refers to the period when the Israelites were deported from their homeland.
- **Gentiles:** Non-Jewish people; people of the nations.
- **Genealogy:** A record or account of the ancestry and descent of a person, family, or group.
- **Discourse:** A lengthy speech or piece of writing on a particular subject. In Matthew, it refers to the five main blocks of teaching by Jesus.
- **Eschatological Discourse:** A teaching about the end times, particularly concerning the return of Christ, judgment, and the establishment of God's kingdom. Also known as the Olivet Discourse.
- **Sermon on the Mount:** A collection of Jesus' teachings found in Matthew 5-7, covering topics such as ethics, discipleship, and the kingdom of heaven.
- **Kingdom of God:** The reign or rule of God, both present and future. In the Gospels, it refers to the transformative power of God at work in the world through Jesus Christ.
- **New Israel:** The idea that Jesus and his followers represent the true or restored Israel, fulfilling the destiny and purpose of the Old Testament nation of Israel.
- **New Moses:** The idea that Jesus is a leader like Moses, who delivers people from bondage and brings a new covenant or law from God.
- **Magi:** Wise men or astrologers, traditionally believed to be from Persia or Babylon, who visited Jesus after his birth, bringing gifts and worship.
- **Fulfillment:** In the context of Matthew, it refers to the idea that Jesus' life, teachings, and actions are the culmination and realization of Old Testament prophecies and promises.
- **Canon:** The collection of books recognized as the authoritative written word of God, possessing divine authority for faith, doctrine, and life.



## **5. FAQs on Mathewson, NT Literature, Session 7, Introduction to Matthew, Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)**

### **FAQ on the Gospel of Matthew**

#### **1. Why is it important to understand the Old Testament when reading the Gospel of Matthew?**

The New Testament, especially Matthew, isn't discontinuous with the Old Testament. Matthew views Jesus as the fulfillment of Old Testament promises, not as something entirely new. Understanding the Old Testament narrative of Israel's exile due to sin, God's promise of intervention and restoration, and the eventual salvation of the entire world through Israel is crucial to understanding Matthew's purpose in showing how Jesus fulfills that story.

#### **2. According to Matthew, what story would the Israelites have been telling themselves based on the Old Testament?**

The Israelites would have seen themselves as still in exile because of their sins, despite having physically returned to the land. They would have been anticipating God's intervention to set things right, rescue Israel, fulfill the promises made to Abraham and David, and ultimately bring salvation to the entire cosmos.

#### **3. Who wrote the Gospel of Matthew and how do we know?**

While the Gospel of Matthew is technically anonymous, the early church attributed it to Matthew, a tax collector and one of Jesus's disciples. These titles were attached early and are considered reliable indicators of authorship, even though the author did not include their name in the text.

#### **4. What is a unique structural feature of the Gospel of Matthew?**

Unlike the other Gospels, Matthew presents Jesus as teaching in five main blocks of discourse. These include the Sermon on the Mount, a collection of parables, and teachings about the end times. These blocks are intentionally structured, ending with a phrase like "when Jesus finished saying these things," and may be meant to portray Jesus as a teacher, like Moses.

### **5. How does Matthew connect Jesus to the Old Testament in the very first verse of his Gospel?**

Matthew introduces Jesus as the Messiah, the son of David, and the son of Abraham. By calling Jesus the "son of David," Matthew links Jesus to the Old Testament promises of a coming Davidic king. By calling Jesus the "son of Abraham," Matthew broadens the scope to include not only the salvation of the Jews but also the means by which salvation will extend to the entire world (Gentiles included).

### **6. What is the significance of the genealogy in Matthew 1?**

The genealogy demonstrates that Jesus legally had the right to sit on David's throne as the adopted legal son of Joseph, who was a biological descendant of David. It's also structured in three sections of 14 generations, possibly emphasizing David, as 14 is the number of the Hebrew letters for the name David. The inclusion of exile in the genealogy shows that Jesus has come to bring the exile to an end.

### **7. How does Matthew portray Jesus as fulfilling the Old Testament prophecies of Isaiah?**

Matthew presents Jesus as the light of the nations by highlighting instances of Gentiles responding to Jesus. The visit of the Magi, who follow a star to worship Jesus and give him gifts, is seen as a fulfillment of Isaiah 60, which foretells a time when nations will come to Jerusalem, bringing wealth and worshiping God.

### **8. What is the purpose of the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew's Gospel?**

The Sermon on the Mount is not primarily a program for transforming society or a measuring stick to show us how we fall short. Rather, it is an ethic for those who have entered God's kingdom. It's a teaching and instruction for how God's people, who have experienced the transforming power of God's kingdom, should live in response to that. Jesus says he has not come to abolish the law, but to fulfill it, that Jesus' teaching is the true goal to which the law was pointing.