The Gospel of Matthew

Small Group Handout

Author: Matthew

Date: 50-60 AD (Significant because the earlier the date the more credible and reliable this Gospel is)

Overview:

Matthew starts off by tracing all the way back to Abraham so we can see the genealogy of Jesus. What is interesting though is that within this genealogy we see Matthew make use of a rabbinic tool called gematria. . Gematria uses the numeric value of the letters of the Hebrew alphabet. With careful study we see King David (number 14) encoded within the genealogy of Jesus that Matthew leads out with. The main audience was originally Jewish people so it is important for us to do our research into Jewish culture/customs. The main message to take away from Matthew is that Christ is the King and Messiah of Israel, which is also one of his primary reasons for writing. Matthew wanted to show us that Jesus is the long awaited Messiah which is why you will see Matthew quoting from the OT many times.

Outline for study or the 7 A’s of Matthew:

1. The Arrival

* Jesus Birth (1:1-2:23)
* Jesus Ministry starts (3:1-4:25)

1. The Authority

* The Sermon on the Mount (5:1-7:29)
* Miracles (8:1-9:38)

1. The Agenda

* The commissioning of the disciples (10:1-42)
* The Mission of the King (11:1-12:50)

1. The Adversaries

* Parables (13:1-52)
* The Kingdom Conflict (13:53-17:27)

1. The Administration

* Parables Part II (18:1-35)
* Jesus Ministry within Jerusalem (19:1-23:39)

1. The Atonement

* The Olivet Discourse (24:1-25:46)
* The Crucifixion and Resurrection (26:1-28:15)

1. The Assignment (The Great Commission) (28:16-20)

* Texts elsewhere in Matthew for The Great Commission (Matt 18:12-14), (Matt 15:21-28), (Matt 4:12-16)