

INTRO TO MATTHEW

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¹ **The book of the generation of Jesus / Yeshua**, a name mentioned 983 times in the NT

Christ / the Anointed; **Messiah** -- a title mentioned 555 times; in Greek: **Iesous Christos**,

the son of David / the great king of both houses: Israel and Judah; mentioned 58 times in the NT,

the son of Abraham / called the father of faith, mentioned 74 in the NT.



So, who is this person Matthew, the eyewitness is writing about? Before we answer the question... it is interesting, the name:

Matthew comes from a Hebrew word: **matay**, the part of a question... meaning: **how long?** In the OT, many times the Lord God asked: **how long?** Many times OT priests asked: **how long?** The congregation sang: **how long?** The prophets from Isaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel, to Zechariah, they all lamented: **how long?**

Said a little differently, they might have asked: **Where is Matthew?** [Matthew, Eyewitness to Jesus.](#)

Matthew was destined to first answer this persistent question. In 1994, Dr. Peter Thiede leading authority on ancient manuscripts who directed the Institute for Basic Epistemological Research in Paderborn, Germany; Dr. Thiede was a life member of the Institute for Germanic Studies, University of London... and startled higher critics throughout the world... with the examination published in: [Eyewitness to Jesus](#) about his research on the famous Magdalen College papyrus fragments of Matthew, which he dated roughly 60AD; in other words: before the fall of Jerusalem due to their codex nature... perhaps **within 25 years of when Jesus, the Christ** walked among us. Check out: [Matthew 26](#)

So, who is this person that Mathew is writing about? He is the one who finally arrived, who the OT prophets foretold throughout its pages; the One whom the people of God had been looking for.

Jesus... from the Hebrew: **Yeshua**, often translated **Joshua**; his name means: **Yahwah is salvation**; Moses, the law-giver was prohibited from entering the promised land; and it was Joshua who was tasked with leading the people of God back to the land given to Abraham.

Christ... this is the word representing: **Messiah**, literally **the Anointed**. In the OT, the Hebrew word: **mashiach**... 37 times translated: **the anointed**; in Aramaic: **mashicha**; in Greek: **Messias**. Prophecies of the Messiah in the OT may vary, but they were known throughout the Middle East: some were spoken in Egypt and the Sinai desert; others around Jerusalem; and still others in Babylon and as far as Persia; those prophecies mentioned here are only a few, starting with:

Genesis 3 / [God promised there will be continuous enmity between the serpent and the woman... and between your seed and her seed](#)... and this hatred... will bruise / or crush the serpent's head; and the serpent... will bruise his heel.

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Genesis 49 declares: [A scepter shall not depart from Judah until Shiloh -- rest... comes, and unto him the gathering of the people](#)... who had fair warning a scattering would occur for some reason.

Shiloh, like a good Shepherd... when He comes will gather them, and give them rest.

In the OT tabernacle and temple, everything including its vessels and furniture were anointed; and from Aaron onward, all the high priests of the OT were anointed; the anointing separated the thing or person unto God for special service; often, anointing was regarded as an act of God... because He commanded it to be done. One final comment: anointing is associated with the presence of the Holy Spirit.

David, the shepherd was anointed, specially selected by the Lord God to rule over His people... he was given a position of leadership which implies great responsibility, too.

Deuteronomy 18 / written in the Sinai of Arabia, the Lord said to Moses, [I will raise up a Prophet like you; and will put My words in his mouth, and He will speak to them all I have commanded him.](#)

Prophet Isaiah spoke of... [a Suffering Servant](#); Prophet Jeremiah, spoke of... [a Branch](#); Prophet Daniel, spoke of... [the Son of man](#) coming.

The OT spoke loudly and often of final events as the time of the Gentiles comes to a close... when a King of kings comes and destroys a global agenda being worked by the faithless and the foolish; and that King will establish a government of utopian character and proportion. **Messiah**... is the title of this one who comes from God to fulfill promises of deliverance and to form a new state of God's blessing.

Numbers 24 / also written in the Sinai of Arabia wilderness: I shall see him, but not now; I shall behold him; but not near; there will come a Star out of Jacob; a scepter out of Jacob will come and He will have dominion.

Psalms 2, 45, 72, 110 / sung in Jerusalem 3000 years ago are messianic songs sung in the congregation of God's people: Who is this Son who angers the nations? Where is His throne? When will this happen? Why does the Lord ask David's Lord to sit at his right? [Messiah will resemble the order of Melchizedek](#); He will not look like some hocus pocus performers who think they somehow resemble Aaron.

Psalms 22: Who is this One who cried [My God, My God why have you forsaken me?](#)

Isaiah 9: to those walking in darkness, first... [a Child is born of peace and love... what He started, an eternal government expanding from the throne of David.](#)

Isaiah 42:1-9; 49:1-6; 50:4-9; 52:13 – 53:12... sections of scripture which speak of the Suffering Servant:

Ezekiel 34 / written in Babylon: [I will set up one Shepherd over them, and He will feed them.... and He will be their Shepherd; and I the Lord will be their God](#); My beloved Servant will be a Prince among them. And we know a prince is a king in the making; this "David" comes as a Shepherd and a Prince.

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Jeremiah 23: Woe to the pastors who destroy and scatter the sheep of My pasture, says the Lord. Behold, the days come, that I will raise up unto David a righteous Branch, and a King will reign and prosper, and will execute judgment and righteousness in the land.

In his days, Judah shall be saved; and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is His name whereby He shall be called: **THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.**

Daniel 7:13 / written in Babylon and Persia the Son of man suddenly comes to take his kingdom... as the time of the Gentiles concludes.

Micah 5: But you, Bethlehem Ephrata, little among the thousands of Judah, out of you He will come forth unto Me to be ruler in Israel; whose going forth from of old, from the days of eternity. And He will stand and shepherd in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty and name of the Lord his God... for now He will be great to the ends of the earth.

Zechariah 9: Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, your King comes to you; righteous and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon the colt the foal of an ass.

It makes you wonder, when did all that begin to happen if not when Jesus came?

For more than 3,000 years... the people of God throughout the Middle East heard these great promises; yet, with the idea of different messiahs... based on so many detailed prophecies, and nobody was able to successfully harmonize in one person all the messianic hopes... until **Jesus** guided all these different streams into one; **Jesus** said: for the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

In the 1800's, Dr. Edersheim of Oxford University, England writing on this subject in his great volume: **THE LIFE AND TIMES OF JESUS THE MESSIAH**, he makes the following relevant comments of JESUS:

If He be not the Messiah, He has at least thus far done the Messiah's work.

If He be not the Messiah, there has at least been none other before or after Him.

If He be not the Messiah, the world has not... and never can have a Messiah.

Jesus, the Christ... has been written about, theorized about, sung about, hated and loved... more than anyone who has walked this planet; something some college class-passers would like us to forget and not to remember -- usually for the sake of some feigned political correctness or a juvenile fairness principle... posited by some loveless, angry, critical legalist's agenda... whose endless research and professional opinion is designed to cause doubt on point after point about who Jesus really was... IF... Jesus really existed. Well, they should thank God... if He didn't really exist... because without him, apparently, they really didn't have a life... and what they really have to say about him... is really as useless as what they say about: Fido, the mutt. Of course, they really know.

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Well, if Jesus did not exist... and the knowledge of what He taught cannot be confidently known and acted upon; then applying their very logic and research... we can more confidently say: NONE of the roman Caesars and senators existed... and whatever is told about them can be confidently dismissed; and then all the fantastic roman church traditions and legends and myths can be pushed aside, too. After all, if God can't be trusted, then who needs those creepy people?

The western calendar is anchored to Christ's first coming 2000 years ago. In 1760's, G.F. Handel wrote his most famous oratorio: **Messiah**. Its Contents list 50 sections of scripture featuring the work of the Messiah; here we mention only nine beginning with:

Comfort ye My people; **But who may abide** the Day of His coming; **The people who walked** in darkness; **For unto us** a Child is born; **Surely He** hath borne our griefs; **I know** that my Redeemer lives; **But thanks be to God** who gives us the victory; **Worthy is the Lamb**;

...and of course, the whole world knows that grand Chorus:

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! For the **Lord God omnipotent** reigneth;

the kingdom of this world is become, **the kingdom of our Lord, and of His Christ**;

And He shall reign for ever and ever – **King** of kings, and **Lord** of lords.

Hallelujah!

Well, **Messiah** has come and completed His work as the Suffering Servant; and He will come again... but it will not be in humility; He will come as King of kings since all the wannabe kings will be dead... sooner than most of us can imagine, when He comes to clean up things; and just hearing the words of that song... makes me think the Lord is getting the world ready for what the great apostle Paul wrote:

That at the name of Jesus, every knee shall bow; in heaven, in earth, and under the earth... and every tongue shall confess that **Jesus Christ is Lord**, to the glory of God the Father... / notice it will not be optional, all the critics will be silent... while our Father in heaven is still laughing.

...which makes me want to shout **Hallelujah**... one more time; but we have work to do.

So, enjoy reading what Matthew, this meticulous **disciple** / in Greek: **mathetes** = literally **one doing the math**... putting it together piece by piece by piece... this student of the Lord Jesus... who faithfully compiled for us; and then, who willingly gave up his life... wanting us to know... the lessons he learned as he walked the streets of life... with **the Messiah**.

¹ **The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.**

[Matthew, Eyewitness to Jesus.](#)