The Heart of the Matter
As we undertake this survey of the New Testament, we come first to the four gospel accounts of the life of Jesus. They were written to awaken and to strengthen faith in Christ and to answer objections and misconceptions about Him. As the flame of Christianity spread rapidly beyond the Holy Land, the oral testimony of the apostles was no longer adequate; the truth concerning Christ needed to be recorded in written form. Matthew, a tax collector by trade, wrote his book to emphasize Christ, the King. The book includes numerous facts and expressions that would have appealed to the Jewish reader. The fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies and the presentation of Jesus as Messiah are clearly emphasized by Matthew. When we understand the book of Matthew, we bow before King Jesus, the promised Messiah of Israel.

Discovering the Way
1. A General Glance at All Four Gospels
Written to specific audiences and emphasizing distinct themes, each of the four gospels contributes a particular perspective to our knowledge of Jesus.

2. Some Interesting Facts about Matthew’s Account
We can enhance our understanding of Matthew’s gospel by learning more about the writer, his reason for writing, his specific style, and the overarching theme and thrust of the work.

3. Hitting the Highlights of Matthew’s Message
We can divide Matthew’s portrait of the promised King into four segments: the King arrived, the King accepted, the King opposed, and the King victorious.

Starting Your Journey
Matthew’s gospel reminds us that when we were born again, the King arrived in our hearts; as we began to grow, the King demonstrated His power; as growth continued, opposition increased; and ultimately, the King will win out!
Matthew

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**The King**
- His identity: Israel’s promised King
- His destiny: “Crucify Him!”

**Scope**
- Teaching the vast multitudes
- Teaching the Twelve

**Location**
- Bethlehem and Nazareth
- Ministry in Galilee
- Ministry in Judea

**People’s Reaction**
- Increased popularity
- Increased hostility

**Theme**
- Jesus is the King, Israel’s long-awaited Messiah.

**Key Verses**
- 16:16–19; 28:18–20

**Christ in Matthew**
- Jesus, the Messiah, fulfills the prophecies, promises, types, and expectations of the Old Testament Scriptures (16:16–19; 28:18–20).

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