# The Gospel of Matthew

## Description

This is a course on Bible Interpretation, demonstrated with the book of Matthew.

## Course Objectives

By completing this course, the student will:

1. Better understand the process of interpreting a book of the Bible and teaching it to their disciples.
2. Understand the contents and context of Matthew.
3. Better understand prophetic forms and how they influence the interpretation of Gospels.
4. Have a greater appreciation for the history of interpretation so that they are better prepared to enter into the ongoing discussion.
5. Have a greater motivation to make disciples.

## Textbooks

1. The Bible
2. Class notes

## Assignments

1. Read Matthew at least twice during the course, marking up the book with questions and associations.
2. Keep folders (3-ring binder, or a computer folder) devoted to Matthew with a collection of material relevant to its interpretation.
3. Final exam. Completion of the course is dependent on attendance on the final night and passing an exam on the material covered in the class.

## Schedule

Class times are 7:00–7:55 (15 minute break), 8:10–9:00.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Session | Content |
| 1/10 | 1  2 | Introduction to Course, and “Why are we Here?”; Bible Interpretation  Inter-Testamental History; Matthew 1:1–2:23 |
| 1/17 | 3  4 | Authorship and Synoptic Problem; Gospel Genre  Matthew 3:1–4:25 |
| 1/24 | 5  6 | Structure; Discourse  Matthew 5:1–7:29 |
| 1/31 | 7  8 | Narrative  Matthew 8:1–9:35 |
| 2/7 | 9  10 | Matthew 9:36–11:1  Matthew 11:2–12:50 |
| 2/14 | 11  12 | Parables; Matthew 13:1-53  Matthew 13:54–16:20 |
| 2/21 | 13  14 | Matthew 16:21–17:27  Matthew 18:1–19:1; 19:2–22:46 |
| 2/28 | 15  16 | Eschatology; Synoptic Study and the Life of Jesus  Matthew 23:1–26:1 |
| 3/7 | 17  18 | Crucifixion and Resurrection  Matthew 26:1–28:20 |
| 3/14 | 19  20 | Final Questions and Discussion  Final Exam and Celebration |

## Select Bibliography

Though there are no required textbooks for this course, you may wish to acquire some of the following for your personal study. If you have questions regarding these or other books, please ask.

Barrett, C. K., ed. *The New Testament Background: Writings from Ancient Greece and the Roman Empire that Illuminate Christian Origins*, rev.%% ed. San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 1987.

Blomberg, Craig L. *Matthew*. New American Commentary, ed. David S. Dockery, vol. 22. Nashville, TN: Broadman Press, 1992.

Bock, Darrell L. *The Missing Gospels: Unearthing the Truth behind Alternative Christianities*. Nashville, TN: Nelson Books, 2006.

Bruner, Frederick Dale. *The Christbook: Matthew 1–12*. Vol. 1, *Matthew: A Commentary*, revised and expanded ed. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2004.

Bultmann, Rudolf. *The History of the Synoptic Tradition*. Translated by John Marsh. New York: Harper and Row, Publishers, 1963.

Burridge, Richard A. *What are the Gospels? A Comparison with Graeco-Roman Biography*. 2d ed. Biblical Resource Series, ed. Astrid B. Beck and David Noel Freedman. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2004.

Ellis, E. Earle. “How the New Testament Uses the Old.” In *New Testament Interpretation: Essays on Principles and Methods*, ed. I. Howard Marshall, 199-219. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1977.

Hagner, Donald A. *Matthew 1–13*. Word Biblical Commentary, ed. Bruce M. Metzger, David A. Hubbard, and Glenn W. Barker, vol. 33A. Dallas, TX: Word Books, 1993.

Howard, Tracy L. “The Use of Hosea 11:1 in Matthew 2:15: An Alternative Solution.” *Bibliotheca sacra* (October 1986): 314-25.

Keener, Craig S. *A Commentary on the Gospel of Matthew*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1999.

Kingsbury, Jack Dean. *Matthew as Story*. 2d ed. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1988.

Kline, Meridith G. “The Old Testament Origins of the Gospel Genre.” *Westminster Theological Journal* 38, no. 1 (1975): 1-27.

Kowalczyk, Andrzej. “The Genre of the Gospel of Matthew.” *Folia Orientalia* 34 (1998): 45-52.

MacCartney, Dan, and Peter Enns. “Matthew and Hosea: A Response to John Sailhamer.” *Westminster Theological Journal* (Spring 2001): 97-105.

Mays, James L. “Now I Know: An Exposition of Genesis 22:1-19 and Matthew 26:36-46.” *Theology Today* 58 (2002): 519-25.

Nolland, John. *The Gospel of Matthew*. New International Greek Testament Commentary, ed. I. Howard Marshall and Donald A. Hagner. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2005.

Petersen, Norman. “Can One Speak of a Gospel Genre?” *Neotestamentica* 28, no. 3 (1994): 137- 58.

Sailhamer, John H. “Hosea 11:1 and Matthew 2:15.” *Westminster Theological Journal* (Spring 2001): 87-105.

Stein, Robert H. *Studying the Synoptic Gospels: Origin and Interpretation*. 2d ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2001.

Stendahl, Krister. *The School of St. Matthew and its Use of the Old Testament*. Lund: C. W. K. Gleerup, 1954.

Toussaint, Stanley D. *Behold the King: A Study of Matthew*. Grand Rapids: Kregel Publications, 1980.

Turner, David L. *Matthew*. Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament, ed. Robert W. Yarbrough and Robert H. Stein. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2008.