

Each of the four gospels of Jesus was written for a unique readership, and with a distinct purpose in mind. Matthew's gospel was written in Greek, but seems to have been intended for a Jewish audience. His two primary purposes in writing the account of Jesus were to prove to the Jews that Jesus was their long-awaited Messiah, and to show that the Jewish Messiah was for all people.

1. Compare Matthew's genealogy with Luke's (Luke 3). Besides being in reverse order, how do they differ?

2. Why do you think Matthew begins where he does?

3. Why do you think Matthew mentions in his genealogy some of the mothers? What do they have in common?

4. The name *Jesus* is the Greek form of *Joshua*, which means *the Lord saves*. What would the name *Joshua* remind Matthew's Jewish readers about? Why would that be important for them to remember at this point?

5. Matthew quotes at least 47 Old Testament scriptures in his gospel, most of which were considered to be prophetic in reference to the Messiah. How does he draw attention to this in verse 22?

6. **Personal Sharing:** Have you ever had an experience where the Lord communicated something very specific to you? What were the circumstances surrounding it? How did you respond to the Lord's message?

7. How does Matthew indicate that the "Magi" (wise men) were not Jewish?

8. Scholars believe the Magi came from Persia or southern Arabia. According to Esther 8:17, how might these people have known about "the one who is born king of the Jews?"

9. Why did they travel all that way?
10. **Personal Sharing:** Can you recall a time when you had to overcome some huge obstacles (physical or intangible) in order to worship God? If so, what kept you pushing forward? If not, can you imagine being so driven?

11. The wise men brought gold, incense and myrrh, gifts for a king. Note the other circumstances in Jesus' life in which he is given myrrh:
Mark 15:23 –
John 19:39-40 -
12. In a Jewish reader's mind, what would the account of Jesus' escape to Egypt and return to Israel parallel?

13. **Personal Sharing:** What has been most effective in convincing you that Jesus is real, and that he is your Messiah? (i.e. proof of scripture, experiences with God, experiences with God's people?)

Sermon Notes

Date: _____ Presenter: _____ Text: _____