

Gospel of Matthew Chapters 1-3 Test

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This is an "open book" test. Try to answer the questions yourself, but feel free to look at commentaries or seek counsel. If it is too hard, do the test with someone. The answers do not need to be long. The point is to understand the Gospel and apply it to your life. As in anything in life, there is vocabulary and background we need to know, but the most important thing is to read and understand the Gospel in a spiritual way.

General Questions on Matthew

1. Who was the Apostle Matthew (tell about his job before he became a disciple).
2. Who did the Apostle and Evangelist Matthew intend his audience to be for his Gospel? Please justify your answer.

Matthew Chapter 1

1. Summarize the content of this chapter in a few words. You do not need to go into great detail.
2. What is your favorite verse from this chapter? Why?
3. Why did Matthew include in His Gospel a long genealogy? What was he trying to prove?
4. Why was the genealogy of Joseph given?
5. Why is Jesus called the "Son of David"? Why is this important?

And Jacob begat Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ. Mat 1:16

6. What does "Jesus" mean?
7. What does "Christ" mean?
8. What does the name "Jesus Christ" teach us about Jesus?

Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, (23) Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us. Mat 1:22-23

9. It is important to know this prophesy. Where is it from?

10. Why is it so important that Jesus be born of a virgin?

And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS. Mat 1:25

11. This is a harder question. Does this verse indicate that Mary later had other children? The important word here is "till". What can this word mean in scripture? Please cite at least one example.

Matthew Chapter 2

1. Summarize the content of this chapter in a few words. You do not need to go into great detail.

2. What is your favorite verse from this chapter? Why?

Mat 2:1 Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem,

3. What does "Bethlehem" mean? Why is this apropos?

4. Why did the Wise men come to Jerusalem?

Mat 2:2 Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.

5. Why did the wise men go to Jerusalem?

6. This "star" was very special. Why is it called "His star"? Hint: There is something in the Old Testament about this.

7. Describe the star's behavior and what this tells us about its nature?

Mat 2:11 And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.

8. What do the treasures represent?

Mat 2:16 Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently enquired of the wise men.

9. Why did Herod kill all these children?

10. There is a church commemoration regarding this verse. What is it? When is it celebrated?

Mat 2:23 And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, He shall be called a Nazarene.

11. This is a harder question. Where is this prophesy from?

Matthew Chapter 3

1. Summarize the content of this chapter in a few words. You do not need to go into great detail.
2. What is your favorite verse from this chapter? Why?

Mat 3:1-2 In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, (2) And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

3. Where is the birth of St John described? Tell about it in a few words.
4. What is the meaning of "Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."?

Mat 3:3 For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

5. What is the "way of the Lord?" It refers to us personally.
6. What is the spiritual meaning of "make his paths straight"?

Mat 3:5-6 Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judaea, and all the region round about Jordan, (6) And were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins.

7. Compare and contrast the baptism of John and Christian baptism. Cite at least one similarity and one difference.
8. Describe how baptism occurred when the Baptist baptized someone.

Mat 3:9 And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.

9. This verse is a prophesy about who?
10. What virtue is it teaching?

Mat 3:13-15 Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him. (14) But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me? (15) And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him.

11. What is the meaning of (*note the italics*) "Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to *fulfil all righteousness*"?

Mat 3:16-17 And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: (17) And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

12. What is the significance of (*note the italics*) "And Jesus, when he was baptized, *went up straightway out of the water*"?

13. What Great Feast commemorates this event? Give two names for it.

14. Do you know approximately when in the church year it is?

15. What does "Theophany" mean? How is this event a Theophany"?

16. Please name at least 2 more "Theophanies": one from the OT and one from the NT.

17. One of the symbols for the Holy Spirit is the Dove. Why?

18. Name at least three other symbols for the Holy Spirit and what they teach about Him.

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