

Biographical Sketch of the Apostles of Jesus Christ

Matthew

Personal Information		Scripture References:
Name: Matthew	Nickname: Levi, Matthew the Publican	Matthew 10:2-4; Mark 3:18; 15:40; Luke 6:15; Acts 1:13 Matthew 9:9; Mark 2:14-17; Luke 5:27-32; Acts 1:13
Hometown: Capernaum	Region: Galilee	
Father: Alphaeus	Age when called:	
Mother:	Occupation before meeting Jesus:	What he accomplished during Jesus ministry years Disciple and Apostle of Jesus Obscurity Deserted Jesus during His trials and crucifixion Although he is not mentioned by name after Pentecost, it is widely accepted that Matthew faithfully accompanied Jesus throughout His earthly ministry
Spouse:	Tax Collector / Publican	
Address: Believed to be Capernaum, but some believe he was from Antioch, Syria	Manner of death: Unknown, but historians say that he was martyred by crucifixion, and was beheaded while hanging on the cross.	
Family: Unknown	Their writings: The Gospel of Matthew.	Major accomplishments after Jesus ministry: Other than authoring the Gospel bearing his name, nothing in the Scriptures tell us of anything after Pentecost, but historical documents indicate that Matthew was active in preaching the Gospel in and around Judea for up to fifteen years after Pentecost, and later was killed for his faith in a region of Ethiopia while on a missionary journey.
Special Events in his life:		
Passage	Event	Remarks
Matthew 9:9-13; Mark 2:14; Luke 5:27-28	Calling	Matthew was sitting at the receipt of custom
Luke 5:28-29	Great feast	After his calling, Levi made a feast in honor of Jesus

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Notes on Matthew:

The name “Matthew” means “gift of Jehovah.” Levi and Matthew are identified as Publicans (Levi - Mark 2:14, Luke 5:27 and Matthew – Matthew 9:9; 10:3); and was an agent of Herod Antipas, stationed at Capernaum

A “Publican” was a derogatory term for a Jew who worked with the Romans. In New Testament times the Jews classified them with harlots, Gentiles and sinners (Matthew 18:17; Matthew 21:31, 33; Matthew 9:10; Mark 2:15,16; Luke 5:30).

Matthew/ Levi was a man of influence, as after his conversion and calling, Levi gave a banquet for Jesus in his own house and many tax collectors were invited and attended (Luke 5:29).

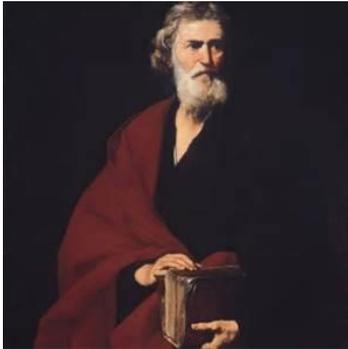
Levi and James were both identified as sons of Alphaeus, meaning that they could be brothers. This is purely speculation as they are never identified as brothers in the Bible. However, that does not mean that they are not as well.

Matthew gave a banquet for Jesus ((Does not signify that this Matthew was the Apostle) – Luke 5:29; Mark 2:15

When he was called by Jesus, Matthew was a man who was much despised by his fellow Jews. He was a tax collector for the Roman government. The Romans had a unique way of hiring tax collectors. They had established territories and jurisdictions. A man who got one of these jobs paid the taxes in advance to the government, an amount that had been figured for that area. Once the tax collector paid the tax fee, he was given authority to levy taxes on people as he saw fit, and was welcome to make a profit from this. The people were aware of this, and thus came to hate those who taxed them. Matthew was apparently very successful in his endeavors, and was much despised.

However, when Jesus said to Matthew, “Follow me,” the scripture says he immediately left his place of authority and oppression, and went with Jesus. Mark and Luke go on to tell us that Matthew went to his own home, and prepared a feast for Jesus, and the house was filled with people who were like Matthew was.

It is obvious from the passages that Matthew was completely and utterly changed. He gave up everything for Jesus.



His version of the Gospel was written to show that Jesus of Nazareth was the Kingly Messiah that was prophesied in the Old Testament to the Jews. The Gospel of Matthew was the first to present, in Hebrew, the accounts of the teaching of Jesus.

The recurrent word in Matthew is *fulfilled*, indicating that the Messianic prophecies were fulfilled in Jesus.

The word *Kingdom* appears fifty times in Matthew, and the *Kingdom of Heaven* thirty times. Jesus is also referred to as *King* throughout the book:

The apostolic symbol of Matthew is three money bags which reminds us that he was a tax collector before Jesus called him or with a quill and book as the Evangelist.

As the Gospel writer, Matthew included Jesus lineage from David (1:1-16). He included the Sermon on the Mount (chapters 5-7) and included the story of the coin in the fish’s mouth (17:27)