



Why Is the Book of Matthew First? by [John T Polk II](#)

All Scriptures and comments are based on the **New King James Version**, unless otherwise noted.

QUESTION: Why is the Book of **Matthew** first?

ANSWER: Because of why and how it was written.

- Regarding the 4 biographies of the Life of Jesus Christ on earth:
 - Matthew wrote for Jews** with the theme: "**Behold, the King.**" Jesus "fulfilled" for the first time Old Testament prophecies throughout this account;
 - Mark wrote for Romans** with the theme: "**Behold, the Servant.**" Jesus "immediately" went about His travels, teaching, and miracles;
 - Luke wrote for Humanity** with the theme: "**Behold, the Man.**" Jesus "saves" anyone who follows Him, regardless of age, sex, circumstance, background, or work;
 - John wrote for Believers and Unbelievers** with the theme: "**Behold, the Son of God.**" Jesus is "the light" of the world because He came from God, received His teaching from God, and obeyed God's Will completely, and went back to God.
- Matthew is the "hinge" to show the fulfillment of the Old Testament in the events of the New Testament, hence, it has a fitting place in the canon.** This first book of the New Testament points to the Old Testament prophecies that anticipated the "Messiah" ("Shiloh," "Branch," "Sheep," "Suffering Servant") and begins with a genealogical, physical connection between Jesus and the blessing of God through Abraham and the promise of a King like David.
- Matthew divided the book into thirds with the phrase "From that time" (4:17; 16:21).** From the time John the Baptist was imprisoned, Jesus began to preach John's prophetic message to the Jews to "Repent" (4:17). Then from the time the Father's evidence convinced Jesus' disciples to confess Him, Jesus predicted His suffering and death and presented Himself for it (16:21).
- When Matthew writes, "that it might be fulfilled,"** he then quotes or refers to an Old Testament prophecy that had never been fulfilled by anyone living in the Prophet's day, or since, until the time of Jesus' life. (**Matthew 1:22; 2:15; 2:23; Matthew 4:14; 8:17; 12:17; 13:35; 21:4; 26:56; 27:35**). To "fulfill" means "there is no such thing as "partial fulfillment" of Bible prophecy regarding Jesus Christ, because to make full, to fill up, i.e. to fill to the full" shows that when something is "fulfilled," it cannot be used again. There is no therefore, there is no such thing as "dual fulfillment" of Messianic prophecies! Speculation and opinion are the rule in many commentaries on Old Testament prophecies, but when God points to New Testament events and says this happened this way "that it might be fulfilled," the silence of Scriptural proof that this prophecy pointed to some other person or event becomes deafening! God knew

what He had in mind when He spoke "at various times and in different ways ... to the fathers by the prophets" (**Hebrews 1:1-2**), and when He points to its "fulfillment," then those who believe – will!

—- *jtpll, December 11, 2022*