
NEW

TESTAMENT

IN A

YEAR

**New English Translation
(NET)**



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Tips

-Don't rush. Take a deep breath, say a little prayer, and listen with your heart as much as with your mind.

-Underline and make notes as you read.

-Try to come up with a title for each day to summarize what you read.

-Context is key! Remember that the text is divided up each day, but this division is not part of the original Bible. Therefore, you should continuously be reminding yourself what was written right before (and after) the section you are currently reading, even if this goes back a day or two (or more).



Contents

Gospel of Matthew / January 1	5
Gospel of Mark / February 16.....	44
Gospel of Luke / March 18	69
Gospel of John / May 4	112
Acts / June 9.....	144
Romans / July 25	184
1 Corinthians / August 16	201
2 Corinthians / September 7.....	216
Galatians / September 21.....	227
Ephesians / September 27	232
Philippians / October 5	239
Colossians/ October 9.....	244
1 Thessalonians / October 13.....	247
2 Thessalonians / October 18.....	251
1 Timothy / October 21	253
2 Timothy/ October 27	257
Titus / October 31.....	261
Philemon / November 3.....	263
Hebrews / November 4.....	264
James / November 19	275
1 Peter / November 24.....	279
2 Peter / November 29.....	284
1 John / December 2	287
2 John / December 7	292
3 John / December 8.....	294
Jude / December 9	294
Revelation / December 10	296

GOSPEL OF MATTHEW INTRODUCTION

The Gospel of Matthew is the first of four dynamic accounts of the life and teaching of Jesus. It can be thought of as one of the channels reporting the Good News. Matthew, also known as Levi, was a tax collector-turned apostle. Matthew makes it clear that Jesus is not the beginning of a new story, but the continuation and climax of all that God had done through the Jewish people. Jesus is the long-awaited Messiah-King. Matthew's readers would have understood the Old Testament teachings and predictions, and that now they were starting to come true in challenging and beautiful ways. In Matthew you will see how Jesus was deeply connected to everything people knew about God in the past, but also about what God wants for the future through the power of the risen Jesus.

JANUARY 1 - MATTHEW 1

Jesus' family tree is full of all sorts of interesting people.

The Genealogy of Jesus Christ

1:1 This is the record of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

1:2 Abraham was the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, **1:3** Judah the father of Perez and Zerah (by Tamar), Perez the father of Hezron, Hezron the father of Ram, **1:4** Ram the father of Amminadab, Amminadab the father of Nahshon, Nahshon the father of Salmon, **1:5** Salmon the father of Boaz (by Rahab), Boaz the father of Obed (by Ruth), Obed the father of Jesse, **1:6** and Jesse the father of David the king.

David was the father of Solomon (by the wife of Uriah), **1:7** Solomon the father of Rehoboam, Rehoboam the father of Abijah, Abijah the father of Asa, **1:8** Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, Joram the father of Uzziah, **1:9** Uzziah the father of Jotham, Jotham the father of Ahaz, Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, **1:10** Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, Manasseh the father of Amon, Amon the father of Josiah, **1:11** and Josiah the father of Jeconiah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

1:12 After the deportation to Babylon, Jeconiah became the father of Shealtiel, Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, **1:13** Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, Abiud the father of Eliakim, Eliakim the father of Azor, **1:14** Azor the father of Zadok, Zadok the father of Achim, Achim the father of Eliud, **1:15** Eliud the father of Eleazar, Eleazar the father of Matthan, Matthan the father of Jacob, **1:16** and Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, by whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ.

1:17 So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon, fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to Christ, fourteen generations.

The Birth of Jesus Christ

1:18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ happened this way. While his mother Mary was engaged to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. **1:19** Because Joseph, her husband to be, was a righteous man, and because he did not want to disgrace her, he intended to divorce her privately. **1:20** When he had contemplated this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. **1:21** She will give birth to a son and you will name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." **1:22** This all happened so that what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet would be fulfilled: **1:23** "**Look! The virgin will conceive and bear a son, and they will call him Emmanuel,**" which means "**God with us.**" **1:24** When Joseph awoke from sleep he did what the angel of the Lord told him. He took his wife, **1:25** but did not have marital relations with her until she gave birth to a son, whom he named Jesus.

Joseph had to trust God with his present circumstances and respond with obedience. What is something you need to trust that God is in control of today?

JANUARY 2 - MATTHEW 2

Both the wise men and King Herod are looking for Jesus, but for very different reasons. Still, Joseph continues to follow God's direction.

The Visit of the Wise Men

2:1 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, in the time of King Herod, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem **2:2** saying, “Where is the one who is born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” **2:3** When King Herod heard this he was alarmed, and all Jerusalem with him. **2:4** After assembling all the chief priests and experts in the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born. **2:5** “In Bethlehem of Judea,” they said, “for it is written this way by the prophet:

2:6 *“And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are in no way least among the rulers of Judah, for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.”*

2:7 Then Herod privately summoned the wise men and determined from them when the star had appeared. **2:8** He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and look carefully for the child. When you find him, inform me so that I can go and worship him as well.” **2:9** After listening to the king they left, and once again the star they saw when it rose led them until it stopped above the place where the child was. **2:10** When they saw the star they shouted joyfully. **2:11** As they came into the house and saw the child with Mary his mother, they bowed down and worshiped him. They opened their treasure boxes and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. **2:12** After being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back by another route to their own country.

The Escape to Egypt

2:13 After they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother and flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to look for the child to kill him.” **2:14** Then he got up, took the child and his mother during the night, and went to Egypt. **2:15** He stayed there until Herod died. In this way what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet was fulfilled: **“I called my Son out of Egypt.”**

2:16 When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he became enraged. He sent men to kill all the children in Bethlehem and throughout the surrounding region from the age of two and under, according to the time he had learned from the wise men. **2:17** Then what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled:

2:18 *“A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and loud wailing, Rachel weeping for her children, and she did not want to be comforted, because they were gone.”*

The Return to Nazareth

2:19 After Herod had died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt **2:20** saying, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.” **2:21** So he got up and took the child and his mother and returned to the land of Israel. **2:22** But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. After being warned in a dream, he went to the regions of Galilee. **2:23** He came to a town called Nazareth and lived there. Then what had been spoken by the prophets was fulfilled, that Jesus would be called a Nazarene.

God used dreams to speak and give direction to the wise men and Joseph. How is God speaking to you today?

JANUARY 3 - MATTHEW 3

John the Baptist had a serious message for the religious leaders. The fruit in their lives should show their repentance. God wants the same thing from us: evidence of a repentant heart.

The Ministry of John the Baptist

3:1 In those days John the Baptist came into the wilderness of Judea proclaiming, **3:2** “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.” **3:3** For he is the one about whom Isaiah the prophet had spoken:

***“The voice of one shouting in the wilderness,
Prepare the way for the Lord, make his paths straight.”***

3:4 Now John wore clothing made from camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his diet consisted of locusts and wild honey. **3:5** Then people from Jerusalem, as well as all Judea and all the region around the Jordan, were going out to him, **3:6** and he was baptizing them in the Jordan River as they confessed their sins.

3:7 But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, “You offspring of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? **3:8** Therefore produce fruit that proves your repentance, **3:9** and don’t think you can say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you that God can raise up children for Abraham from these stones! **3:10** Even now the ax is laid at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

3:11 “I baptize you with water, for repentance, but the one coming after me is more powerful than I am – I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. **3:12** His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clean out his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the storehouse, but the chaff he will burn up with inextinguishable fire.”

The Baptism of Jesus

3:13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to John to be baptized by him in the Jordan River. **3:14** But John tried to prevent him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and yet you come to me?” **3:15** So Jesus replied to him, “Let it happen now, for it is right for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then John yielded to him. **3:16** After Jesus was baptized, just as he was coming up out of the water, the heavens opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming on him. **3:17** And a voice from heaven said, “This is my one dear Son; in him I take great delight.”

Jesus wanted to be baptized to show His obedience to His Father. Have you been baptized? If so, think back to that experience and remember that you have new life in Christ. If not, why not?

JANUARY 4 - MATTHEW 4

Jesus knew Scripture and used it to refute the devil's lies. When we read the Bible, we learn to distinguish God's voice from other voices that might not be telling us truth.

The Temptation of Jesus

4:1 Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. **4:2** After he fasted forty days and forty nights he was famished. **4:3** The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become bread.” **4:4** But he answered, “It is written, ‘**Man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.**’” **4:5** Then the devil took him to the holy city, had him stand on the highest point of the temple, **4:6** and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down. For it is written, ‘**He will command his angels concerning you**’ and ‘**with their hands they will lift you up, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.**’” **4:7** Jesus said to him, “Once again it is

written: ***‘You are not to put the Lord your God to the test.’*** 4:8 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their grandeur. 4:9 And he said to him, “I will give you all these things if you throw yourself to the ground and worship me.” 4:10 Then Jesus said to him, “Go away, Satan! For it is written: ***‘You are to worship the Lord your God and serve only him.’***” 4:11 Then the devil left him, and angels came and began ministering to his needs.

Preaching in Galilee

4:12 Now when Jesus heard that John had been imprisoned, he went into Galilee. 4:13 While in Galilee, he moved from Nazareth to make his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali, 4:14 so that what was spoken by Isaiah the prophet would be fulfilled:

***4:15 “Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali,
the way by the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles –***

***4:16 the people who sit in darkness have seen a great light,
and on those who sit in the region and shadow of death a light has dawned.”***

4:17 From that time Jesus began to preach this message: “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.”

The Call of the Disciples

4:18 As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee he saw two brothers, Simon (called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea (for they were fishermen). 4:19 He said to them, “Follow me, and I will turn you into fishers of people.” 4:20 They left their nets immediately and followed him. 4:21 Going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in a boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets. Then he called them. 4:22 They immediately left the boat and their father and followed him.

Jesus’ Healing Ministry

4:23 Jesus went throughout all of Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of disease and sickness among the people. 4:24 So a report about him spread throughout Syria. People brought to him all who suffered with various illnesses and afflictions, those who had seizures, paralytics, and those possessed by demons, and he healed them. 4:25 And large crowds followed him from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and beyond the Jordan River.

People wanted to be near Jesus to hear what He had to say and to be healed. What makes you want to be near Jesus today?

JANUARY 5 - MATTHEW 5:1-26

The way Jesus describes who is blessed is very different from how the world thinks.

The Beatitudes

5:1 When he saw the crowds, he went up the mountain. After he sat down his disciples came to him. 5:2 Then he began to teach them by saying:

5:3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to them.

5:4 “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

5:5 “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

5:6 “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.

5:7 “Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

5:8 “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

5:9 “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the children of God.

5:10 “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to them.

5:11 “Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you and say all kinds of evil things about you falsely on account of me. 5:12 Rejoice and be glad because your reward is great in heaven, for they persecuted the prophets before you in the same way.

Salt and Light

5:13 “You are the salt of the earth. But if salt loses its flavor, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled on by people. **5:14** You are the light of the world. A city located on a hill cannot be hidden. **5:15** People do not light a lamp and put it under a basket but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. **5:16** In the same way, let your light shine before people, so that they can see your good deeds and give honor to your Father in heaven.

Fulfillment of the Law and Prophets

5:17 “Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets. I have not come to abolish these things but to fulfill them. **5:18** I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth pass away not the smallest letter or stroke of a letter will pass from the law until everything takes place. **5:19** So anyone who breaks one of the least of these commands and teaches others to do so will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever obeys them and teaches others to do so will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. **5:20** For I tell you, unless your righteousness goes beyond that of the experts in the law and the Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

Anger and Murder

5:21 “You have heard that it was said to an older generation, ‘*Do not murder,*’ and ‘whoever murders will be subjected to judgment.’ **5:22** But I say to you that anyone who is angry with a brother will be subjected to judgment. And whoever insults a brother will be brought before the council, and whoever says ‘Fool’ will be sent to fiery hell. **5:23** So then, if you bring your gift to the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, **5:24** leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother and then come and present your gift. **5:25** Reach agreement quickly with your accuser while on the way to court, or he may hand you over to the judge, and the judge hand you over to the warden, and you will be thrown into prison. **5:26** I tell you the truth, you will never get out of there until you have paid the last penny!

God wants us to be reconciled with our fellow Christians. It takes humility to seek reconciliation. Is there anyone you need to be reconciled with today?

JANUARY 6 - MATTHEW 5:27-48

Jesus’ teaching on keeping your word, divorce, adultery, retaliation, and loving your enemies are right next to each other for a reason.

Adultery

5:27 “You have heard that it was said, ‘*Do not commit adultery.*’ **5:28** But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to desire her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. **5:29** If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away! It is better to lose one of your members than to have your whole body thrown into hell. **5:30** If your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away! It is better to lose one of your members than to have your whole body go into hell.

Divorce

5:31 “It was said, ‘*Whoever divorces his wife must give her a legal document.*’ **5:32** But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except for immorality, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

Oaths

5:33 “Again, you have heard that it was said to an older generation, ‘*Do not break an oath, but fulfill your vows to the Lord.*’ **5:34** But I say to you, do not take oaths at all – not by heaven,

because it is the throne of God, 5:35 not by earth, because it is his footstool, and not by Jerusalem, because it is the city of the great King. 5:36 Do not take an oath by your head, because you are not able to make one hair white or black. 5:37 Let your word be ‘Yes, yes’ or ‘No, no.’ More than this is from the evil one.

Retaliation

5:38 “You have heard that it was said, ‘*An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.*’ 5:39 But I say to you, do not resist the evildoer. But whoever strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other to him as well. 5:40 And if someone wants to sue you and to take your tunic, give him your coat also. 5:41 And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two. 5:42 Give to the one who asks you, and do not reject the one who wants to borrow from you.

Love for Enemies

5:43 “You have heard that it was said, ‘*Love your neighbor*’ and ‘hate your enemy.’ 5:44 But I say to you, love your enemy and pray for those who persecute you, 5:45 so that you may be like your Father in heaven, since he causes the sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. 5:46 For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Even the tax collectors do the same, don’t they? 5:47 And if you only greet your brothers, what more do you do? Even the Gentiles do the same, don’t they? 5:48 So then, be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

The standards that Jesus lays out for His followers go beyond outward actions and are aimed at the heart. Ask Him to fill you and change you from the inside out.

JANUARY 7 - MATTHEW 6:1-18

God is our Father. He knows what we need before we ask Him, but He wants us to come to Him anyway. He shows us how to pray simply and humbly.

Pure-hearted Giving

6:1 “Be careful not to display your righteousness merely to be seen by people. Otherwise you have no reward with your Father in heaven. 6:2 Thus whenever you do charitable giving, do not blow a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in synagogues and on streets so that people will praise them. I tell you the truth, they have their reward. 6:3 But when you do your giving, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, 6:4 so that your gift may be in secret. And your Father, who sees in secret, will reward you.

Private Prayer

6:5 “Whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, because they love to pray while standing in synagogues and on street corners so that people can see them. Truly I say to you, they have their reward. 6:6 But whenever you pray, go into your room, close the door, and pray to your Father in secret. And your Father, who sees in secret, will reward you. 6:7 When you pray, do not babble repetitiously like the Gentiles, because they think that by their many words they will be heard. 6:8 Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. 6:9 So pray this way:

Our Father in heaven, may your name be honored,

6:10 may your kingdom come,
may your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

6:11 Give us today our daily bread,

6:12 and forgive us our debts, as we ourselves have forgiven our debtors.

6:13 And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

6:14 “For if you forgive others their sins, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 6:15 But if you do not forgive others, your Father will not forgive you your sins.