

Dating the Book Of Matthew

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The widespread acceptance of certain theological views among modern scholars—such as the dating of biblical books or other significant doctrines—does not automatically make these views correct. If truth were determined by majority opinion, how could we challenge errors within widely held modern perspectives, especially when they diverge from traditional Christian teachings? Since becoming a Christian in 1970, I have witnessed many shifts in Christian beliefs. It is my observation that liberal scholars have been instrumental in promoting widespread errors and distorting the true Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

For example, I recently asked a group of Christians when they believed the Gospel of Matthew was written. I raised this question because, during a Sunday church meeting, it was suggested that Matthew was written around 70 AD. However, the group gave no clear answer, stating only that the exact date was unimportant to them, as long as they accepted the book as the inspired Word of God.

This response deeply concerned me, as I believe that knowing the early date of Matthew's writing is essential to properly understanding its message and purpose. The dating of biblical books is not a trivial matter—it plays a crucial role in defending and establishing the Gospel.

Following this discussion, I decided to investigate further, utilizing tools such as X's Grok and ChatGPT to examine modern scholarly opinions on the dating of Matthew. To my surprise, I discovered that these modern perspectives often contradict the traditional understanding held by early Christian writers, including Papias of Hierapolis (c. 60–130 AD), Irenaeus of Lyons (c. 130–202 AD), and Clement of Alexandria (c. 150–215 AD).

Moreover, modern scholars frequently reject the Augustinian perspective regarding the dating of Matthew and the chronological order of the New Testament books.

After careful study, I concluded that the dating of Matthew, along with other New Testament books, is better explained in *The Final Decade Before the End* by Ed Stevens. This work presents compelling evidence for the early dating of all New Testament writings—before 70 AD—directly opposing the claims of modern scholars. (See “Dating of the Gospel of Matthew,” page 14, available at: <https://www.biertonparticularbaptists.co.uk/resources/Final%20Decade%20correct%2006072020%20Print.pdf>.)

My concern regarding the early dating of Matthew stems from its connection to the Synoptic Gospels—Mark and Luke—which, together with Matthew, record in full the Olivet Discourse of our Lord Jesus Christ. In this discourse, the Lord prophesied the destruction of Jerusalem and its temple, events that occurred in 70 AD, marking the end of the Law and the rule of Moses. This prophecy also fulfilled Jesus’ declaration that the Kingdom of God would be taken from the Jews and given to a people who would bear its fruit. As it is written:

“Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof.” (Matthew 21:43, KJV)

These predictions, made forty years before their fulfillment, serve as a testament to the divinity of Christ, for only God could foretell such events with perfect accuracy. Yet, modern liberal scholars, with their so-called knowledge, deprive believers of these precious truths concerning our Lord Jesus Christ.

For further study, I recommend reading *What Happened in AD 70* by Ed Stevens. (PDF available at: www.biertonparticularbaptists.co.uk/resources/What%20Happened%20At%20AD%2070%20AD.pdf.)