

## **Intro to the Gospel book of:**

### ***Matthew***

I went to work at Canada post 30 years ago. I learned early on that the history of the Post office goes back much farther. We had people who delivered mail by horse, train, and eventually planes. Today we have e-mail, trucks, and text messages to give a letter. Things have changed. Yet, things have remained the same. People still love letters. They still find ways to send a communication.

God began his mission to groom humans for a reason far back into history with the Garden of Eden. From that moment on, he has communicated with people. The method of communication has changed over the years. God began (presumably) face to face in that garden. Then came dreams, burning bushes, and pillars of fire. Years go by and God chose to use prophets. God communicated that he would provide someone to bring us to his heaven. It's the long way home. Within all this is communication between God and his creation.

Today God seems to not talk to us directly. He has backed off and offered us prayer to communicate. He has also left us with his word. A word that strangely speaks to us as we read it. This is not mystical. No, it's a knowledge and learning experience reading God's word. We grow from it. Matthew is the beginning of telling us more about God. The Old testament gave us some insight into how God deals with his people. Matthew is taking this communication a step further.

What happened if God came down to talk with us directly? More directly than he did with Moses and Abraham. The Jesus story is the continuation and evolution of communication with God. God never stopped communicating. He told us what he would communicate through prophets. He gave promises outlining how it would work in the future. Then came Jesus claiming to be the culmination of all these things.

Matthew get's it. He sees it. Jesus is the one talked about. He is the answer to the promises. Jesus reveals God in a way that is deeper and more personable. Jesus takes life deeper. He gives us meaning. We are to help others. We are to grow closer to God. Jesus and God the Father take that a step further by introducing a deeper Holy Spirit. All three persons of God are now communicating not only with each other but including us in the plans of God.

I believe that is why Matthew wrote this book. It's a manual on what's going on. It's a manual on how to relate with God better. This book is also a story of how God will finish his creation. This is a long study. I am not sure I have done Matthew justice but I'll give it a try. It's a long study because this book is very deep. Let's peel it back like an onion and see what God is continuing to do. Let's see how the Old and New testaments are connected. Maybe you will see Jesus, his connection to God, and this connection to us in a different light. Next week let's begin. Try reading Matthew 1 and 2 for next week's beginning study of Matthew.