

SPATES' SMALL GROUP

TUESDAY EVENINGS 7:00 PM

JACK & BARBY SPATES

1829 MARIAN DRIVE

NORMAN, OK

(405) 366-1996

LEADER: JACK SPATES

The Gospel of Matthew – Studying through the book of Matthew.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW¹

IMPLIED PURPOSES – To present evidence that Jesus is the Messiah who had been promised in the Old Testament and to provide an eyewitness narrative of his life and teachings with a view toward instilling belief in Jesus as Messiah and King.

AUTHOR'S PERSPECTIVE – Matthew, a Jew writing to fellow Jews, seeks to provide sufficient reason to believe in Jesus as the Messiah. In pursuit of that purpose, Matthew takes pains to demonstrate that the events of Jesus' life are the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy. Matthew also writes as a disciple of Jesus who observed most of what he included in his Gospel.

IMPLIED AUDIENCE – The audience is assumed to be Jewish, steeped in a knowledge of the Old Testament. However, Matthew also has as a secondary strategy to persuade Gentiles that Jesus is the Messiah of the whole world (as in the famous great commission).

WHAT UNIFIES THE BOOK – The person and teaching of Jesus; the alternating blocks of narrative and discourse; the story line from Jesus' birth through his earthly ministry to his death and resurrection; the standard ingredients of the Gospel as a genre.

SPECIAL FEATURES – Recurrent quotation and citation from the Old Testament; emphasis on Jesus as kingly or royal; messianic preoccupation; orderly arrangement of material, including arrangement in groups of three and seven; apocalyptic (end times) interest; biographical interest (starting with Jesus' birth and ending with his death and resurrection); emphasis on discipleship.

¹ Ryken, Leland, Ryken Philip, & Wilhoit, *Ryken's Bible Handbook*, Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Wheaton, Illinois, 2005, Page 415