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MATTHEW

This book is a verse-by-verse analysis of the New Testament Gospel of Matthew. It provides a comprehensive introduction to the gospel, which describes the world of Jesus and his first followers. This commentary explores the historical, social, and religious contexts of Matthew and examines the customs, beliefs, and ideas that inform the text. Unfamiliar to many readers of the New Testament, this background will help readers fully understand the text of Matthew, which focuses on what Jesus taught and why the religious authorities in Jerusalem rejected his message and gave him up to the Roman governor for execution. This book will be an important tool for clergy, scholars, and other interested readers of Matthew.

Craig A. Evans is Payzant Distinguished Professor of New Testament at Acadia Divinity College in Nova Scotia. He is the author of several books about Jesus and the New Testament, including *Ancient Texts for New Testament Studies* (2005) and *Jesus, the Final Days* (2009).

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Preface



In keeping with the stated purpose of the *New Cambridge Bible Commentary*, I have written the present commentary on Matthew for a “wide range of intellectually curious individuals.” It is not written primarily for the scholar, though I hope scholars will find it useful. My commentary is not an example of what is sometimes called a “commentary on commentaries,” which given the modest size of the commentaries in this series would not have been possible had I wished to do so. I have therefore kept the engagement with scholarly literature to a minimum.

Although I benefited greatly from many learned commentaries on Matthew, I refer to them only occasionally in the notes. Other studies, usually specialized studies in certain passages or themes in Matthew, appear in the footnotes, though again only sparingly. Because it is anticipated that not too many readers of this commentary read languages other than English, references to literature in foreign languages have been kept to a minimum. My constant companions were the weighty commentaries by John Nolland (2005) and Dick France (2007). I benefited also from the detailed redactional analysis of the text offered in Robert Gundry’s commentary (1982, revised 1994) and from the rich selection of primary materials related to the Mediterranean world found in Craig Keener’s commentary (1999).

Readers will notice that I have written a rather brief Introduction. The purpose of the Introduction is to orient readers toward the basic issues and the positions taken in the commentary, not to offer an exhaustive review of the almost endless discussion of critical issues with which scholars today grapple. Readers are invited to consult the commentaries and other books in the Suggested Readings list for further discussion of introductory matters.

I offer my thanks to the New Cambridge Bible Commentary editorial board for inviting me to write this commentary and for patiently awaiting its completion. I also thank Brian LePort and Jesse Richards for their assistance in preparing the indexes. I dedicate the commentary to the memory of two great New Testament scholars, Graham Stanton and Martin Hengel, both of whom died in the summer of 2009. I learned much from these Christian gentlemen and was blessed by their friendship and professional encouragement.

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All volumes in the *New Cambridge Bible Commentary* (NCBC) include footnotes, with full bibliographical citations included in the note when a source is first mentioned. Subsequent citations include the author's initial or initials, full last name, abbreviated title for the work, and date of publication. Most readers prefer this citation system to endnotes that require searching through pages at the back of the book.

The Suggested Reading lists, also included in all NCBC volumes after the Introduction, are not a part of this citation apparatus. Annotated and organized by publication type, the self-contained Suggested Reading list is intended to introduce and briefly review some of the most well-known and helpful literature on the biblical text under discussion.

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Abbreviations



ABD	<i>The Anchor Bible Dictionary</i> , edited by D. N. Freedman (6 vols., New York: Doubleday, 1992)
ABG	Arbeiten zur Bibel und ihre Geschichte
ABR	<i>Australian Biblical Review</i>
ABRL	Anchor Bible Reference Library
AGJU	Arbeiten zur Geschichte des antiken Judentums und des Urchristentums
ANF	The Ante-Nicene Fathers
ANTJ	Arbeiten zum Neuen Testament und Judentum
ArBib	The Aramaic Bible
AUSS	<i>Andrews University Seminary Studies</i>
BA	<i>Biblical Archaeologist</i>
BAG	W. Bauer, W. F. Arndt, and F. W. Gingrich, <i>A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament</i> (1957)
BAGD	W. Bauer, W. F. Arndt, F. W. Gingrich, and F. W. Danker, <i>A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament</i> (1979)
BAR	<i>Biblical Archaeology Review</i>
BBR	<i>Bulletin for Biblical Research</i>
BETL	Bibliotheca ephemeridum theologiarum lovaniensium
<i>Bib</i>	<i>Biblica</i>
BibOr	Biblica et orientalia
BibSem	The Biblical Seminar
BJRL	<i>Bulletin of the John Rylands University Library of Manchester</i>
BJS	Brown Judaic Studies
BK	<i>Bibel und Kirche</i>
BR	<i>Biblical Research</i>
BRev	<i>Bible Review</i>
BT	<i>The Bible Translator</i>
BTB	<i>Biblical Theology Bulletin</i>

<i>BToday</i>	<i>Bible Today</i>
<i>BZ</i>	<i>Biblische Zeitschrift</i>
BZNW	Beihefte zur <i>Zeitschrift für die neutestamentliche Wissenschaft</i>
CBQ	<i>Catholic Biblical Quarterly</i>
<i>CIL</i>	<i>Corpus inscriptionum latinarum</i>
ConBNT	Coniectanea biblica, New Testament Series
<i>CTM</i>	<i>Concordia Theological Monthly</i>
<i>DDD</i>	<i>Dictionary of Deities and Demons in the Bible</i> , rev. ed., edited by K. van der Toorn, B. Becking, and P. W. van der Horst (Leiden: Brill, 1999)
<i>DJG</i>	<i>Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels</i> , edited by J. B. Green, S. McKnight, and I. H. Marshall (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1992)
<i>DSD</i>	<i>Dead Sea Discoveries</i>
<i>EBR</i>	<i>Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception</i> , edited by H.-J. Klauck et al. (Berlin: de Gruyter, 2009–)
<i>EpReview</i>	<i>Epworth Review</i>
<i>ETL</i>	<i>Ephemerides theologicae lovanienses</i>
<i>ETR</i>	<i>Études théologiques et religieuses</i>
<i>EvQ</i>	<i>Evangelical Quarterly</i>
<i>EvT</i>	<i>Evangelische Theologie</i>
<i>ExpT</i>	<i>Expository Times</i>
FAT	Forschungen zum Alten Testament
FBBS	Facet Books, Biblical Series
FRLANT	Forschungen zur Religion und Literatur des Alten und Neuen Testaments
GNS	Good News Studies
<i>HBT</i>	<i>Horizons in Biblical Theology</i>
<i>HeyJ</i>	<i>Heythrop Journal</i>
<i>HTR</i>	<i>Harvard Theological Review</i>
<i>HUCA</i>	<i>Hebrew Union College Annual</i>
<i>IBS</i>	<i>Irish Biblical Studies</i>
ICC	International Critical Commentary
<i>IDB</i>	<i>The Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible</i> , edited by G. A. Buttrick (Nashville, TN: Abingdon, 1962)
<i>IEJ</i>	<i>Israel Exploration Journal</i>
<i>Int</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>
IRT	Issues in Religion and Theology
<i>ITQ</i>	<i>Irish Theological Quarterly</i>
<i>JBL</i>	<i>Journal of Biblical Literature</i>
JCP	Jewish and Christian Perspectives
<i>JETS</i>	<i>Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society</i>
<i>JGRChJ</i>	<i>Journal of Greco-Roman Christianity and Judaism</i>
<i>JJS</i>	<i>Journal of Jewish Studies</i>

Abbreviations

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<i>JSHJ</i>	<i>Journal for the Study of the Historical Jesus</i>
<i>JSJ</i>	<i>Journal for the Study of Judaism in the Persian, Hellenistic and Roman Period</i>
<i>JSNT</i>	<i>Journal for the Study of the New Testament</i>
<i>JSNTSup</i>	Journal for the Study of the New Testament, Supplement Series
<i>JSOTSup</i>	Journal for the Study of the Old Testament, Supplement Series
<i>JSP</i>	<i>Journal for the Study of the Pseudepigrapha</i>
<i>JSS</i>	<i>Journal of Semitic Studies</i>
<i>JTS</i>	<i>Journal of Theological Studies</i>
<i>LNTS</i>	Library of New Testament Studies
<i>LSJ</i>	Liddell, Scott, Jones, <i>Greek-English Lexicon</i>
<i>Neot</i>	<i>Neotestamentica</i>
<i>NewDocs</i>	<i>New Documents Illustrating Early Christianity</i> , edited by G. H. R. Horsley et al. (9 vols., Sydney: Macquarie University, 1976–2002)
<i>NGS</i>	New Gospel Studies
<i>NICNT</i>	New International Commentary on the New Testament
<i>NIDB</i>	<i>The New Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible</i> , edited by K. D. Sakenfeld et al. (5 vols., Nashville, TN: Abingdon, 2006–2009)
<i>NIGTC</i>	New International Greek Testament Commentaries
<i>NovT</i>	<i>Novum Testamentum</i>
<i>NovTSup</i>	<i>Novum Testamentum, Supplements</i>
<i>NTS</i>	<i>New Testament Studies</i>
<i>NTTS</i>	New Testament Tools and Studies
<i>PEQ</i>	<i>Palestine Exploration Quarterly</i>
<i>PG</i>	<i>Patrologia graeca</i> , edited by J. Migne
<i>PGM</i>	<i>Papyri graecae magicae</i> , edited by K. Preisendanz
<i>PIBA</i>	<i>Proceedings of the Irish Biblical Association</i>
<i>RB</i>	<i>Revue biblique</i>
<i>RestQ</i>	<i>Restoration Quarterly</i>
<i>RevQ</i>	<i>Revue de Qumran</i>
<i>RHPR</i>	<i>Revue d'histoire et de philosophie religieuses</i>
<i>SBL</i>	Society of Biblical Literature
<i>SBLDS</i>	Society of Biblical Literature Dissertation Series
<i>SBLSP</i>	<i>Society of Biblical Literature Seminar Papers</i>
<i>SBT</i>	Studies in Biblical Theology
<i>ScEs</i>	<i>Science et esprit</i>
<i>SEG</i>	<i>Supplementum Epigraphicum Graecum</i>
<i>SIG</i>	<i>Sylloge Inscriptionum Graecarum</i>
<i>SJT</i>	<i>Scottish Journal of Theology</i>
<i>SNTSMS</i>	Society for New Testament Studies Monograph Series
<i>SNTU</i>	<i>Studien zum Neuen Testament und seiner Umwelt</i> (journal)
<i>SNTU</i>	<i>Studien zum Neuen Testament und seiner Umwelt</i> (monograph series)

SPB	Studia postbiblica
SSEJC	Studies in Scripture in Early Judaism and Christianity
ST	<i>Studia theologica</i>
STDJ	Studies on the Texts of the Desert of Judah
TBei	<i>Theologische Beiträge</i>
TDNT	<i>Theological Dictionary of the New Testament</i> , edited by G. Kittel and G. Friedrich (1964–74)
TSK	<i>Theologische Studien und Kritiken</i>
TynBul	<i>Tyndale Bulletin</i>
TZ	<i>Theologische Zeitschrift</i>
VC	<i>Vigiliae christianae</i>
WBC	Word Biblical Commentary
WD	<i>Wort und Dienst</i>
WMANT	Wissenschaftliche Monographien zum Alten und Neuen Testament
WTJ	<i>Westminster Theological Journal</i>
WUNT	Wissenschaftliche Untersuchungen zum Neuen Testament
ZAW	<i>Zeitschrift für die alttestamentliche Wissenschaft</i>
ZDPV	<i>Zeitschrift des deutschen Palästina-Vereins</i>
ZNW	<i>Zeitschrift für die neutestamentliche Wissenschaft</i>
ZTK	<i>Zeitschrift für Theologie und Kirche</i>