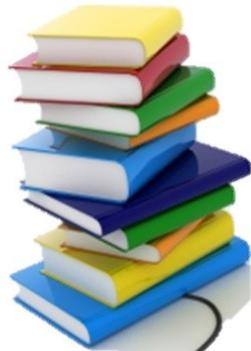


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M	27/01	19
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**THE NEW TESTAMENT
IN ONE YEAR**

January : Matthew 1-23

Web: www.newcraigs.co.uk . Tel: 01592 204405



THE NEW TESTAMENT

IN ONE YEAR

Did you know there are 260 chapters in the New Testament? Did you also know that there are 260 weekdays in a year? This seemed like an opportunity too good to miss, so here at Newcraigs we're reading the whole New Testament throughout 2014, from Matthew to Revelation.

How you take part is up to you; you might read a chapter each morning before you start the day or go to work, or read together with your family around the dinner table. You might meet up with a few friends, once a week, to read and discuss that week's chapters, or catch up online during your lunch break.

What really matters is that we're listening to God, as he speaks to us through his Word. We want this to be as flexible as it can be. We don't want to stress you out by giving you another thing you "have to do", or make you feel guilty if you miss a day, but we hope that you can carve out some time this year for READ260. The aim is simple; to listen to God, as we read his Word together, and let him transform us.



Photograph: Elie, Fife.

Matthews Gospel

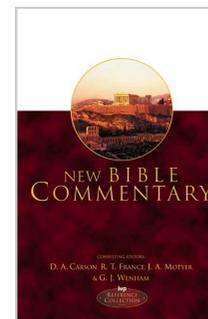
This month it's no surprise that we begin with the first of the gospels, Matthew. Over the next few months, as we immerse ourselves in the life, miracles, teaching, death and resurrection of Jesus, we'll see that these gospels are more than just two dimensional biographies. They're carefully crafted to communicate deep theological truths about who Jesus was and why he came.

Matthew is one of the three synoptic gospels (along with Mark and Luke). This means there's a lot of shared material between these three books (you'll notice a very different approach when we get to John), but what is distinctive about Matthew's gospel? One thing you'll notice is that he gives lots of space to the teaching of Jesus, so prepare to be challenged. Another feature of Matthew's gospel is his rich use of the Old Testament. As we peer into his book we meet God's promised king, the Son of Man, Jesus the Messiah.

The gospel is written by the apostle Matthew (also known as Levi in Mark and Luke). Before he met Jesus he was a tax collector, and therefore seen as a traitor by society. You can read about his first encounter with Jesus in Matthew 9:9-13. We don't know exactly when Matthew wrote his gospel, but it's likely that it was written in the mid A.D. 60s, after Mark and before the fall of Jerusalem in A.D. 70.

The book is full of Jewish features, so it makes sense that Matthew was living in a Jewish context, and writing to a predominantly Jewish audience.

Helpful Resources



If you could only have one book on your shelf (apart from a Bible, obviously!) a good option would be the New Bible Commentary, published by IVP and is available through our *on-line bookstore.

It gives a helpful introduction to every book in the Bible and takes you chapter by chapter from beginning to end. Are you ever left scratching your head over a tricky passage? Then the New Bible Commentary is a great place to turn. This will be an excellent tool to have by your side as we read through the New Testament this year.

One of the most well known sections in Matthew is the Sermon on the Mount. Why not take some time this month to dig a bit deeper into prayer, money, relationships, anxiety and much more.

Two other excellent books that will guide you through Matthew 5-7 are 'The Sermon on the Mount', by D. A. Carson and 'The Message of the Sermon on the Mount', by John Stott.

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