Matthew is the first of the four books about the ministry of Jesus called the 'gospels'. Matthew wrote his gospel both in Greek and Hebrew.

Matthew was also called Levi. He was by profession a a tax collector. As such he was not just despised, but hated. The taxes did not go to the government but to the foreign occupying Roman power.

Matthew begins his record of the ministry of Jesus with his family tree. The family tree establishes that Jesus is of the royal linage, and therefore qualified as the Jewish Messiah (Messiah in Hebrew means "Anointed" to be a king, which, in Greek, is Christ), as the Messiah was prophesied to descend from King David.

Matthew 1

(1) The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

(2) Abraham begot Isaac; and Isaac begot Jacob; and Jacob begot Judas[1] and his brethren;

(3) And Judas begot Phares and Zara of Thamar; and Phares begot Esrom; and Esrom begot Aram;

(4) And Aram begot Aminadab; and Aminadab begot Naasson; and Naasson begot Salmon;

(5) And Salmon begot Booz of Rachab[2]; and Booz begot Obed of Ruth; and Obed begot Jesse;

(6) And Jesse begot David the king; and David the king begot Solomon of her that had been the wife of Urias;

(7) And Solomon begot Roboam; and Roboam begot Abia; and Abia begot Asa;

(8) And Asa begot Josaphat; and Josaphat begot Joram; and Joram begot Ozias;

(9) And Ozias begot Joatham; and Joatham begot Achaz; and Achaz begot Ezekias;

(10) And Ezekias begot Manasses; and Manasses begot Amon; and Amon begot Josias;

(11) And Josias begot Jechonias and his brethren, about the time they were carried away to Babylon:

(12) And after they were brought to Babylon, Jechonias begot Salathiel; and Salathiel begot Zorobabel;

(13) And Zorobabel begot Abiud; and Abiud begot Eliakim; and Eliakim begot Azor;

(14) And Azor begot Sadoc; and Sadoc begot Achim; and Achim begot Eliud;

(15) And Eliud begot Eleazar; and Eleazar begot Matthan; and Matthan begot Jacob;

(16) And Jacob begot Joseph[3] the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ[4].

(17) So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; and from David until the carrying away into Babylon are fourteen generations; and from the carrying away into Babylon unto Christ are fourteen generations.

(18) Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of spirit Holy.

(19) Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privately.

(20) But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the spirit which is Holy.

(21) And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shall call his name JESUS[5]: for he shall save his people from their sins.

(22) Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet[6], saying,

(23) Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

(24) Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife:

(25) And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS.

(King James Version updated with reference to the Greek texts, including minority texts)

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1 Judah
2 Rahab, the harlot a Canaanite of Jericho
3 This family tree is that of Joseph. It is thought that Mary was related to Joseph, as they often married within the tribe. Mary in marrying Joseph was *counted* in the tribe and in the linage.
4 Hebrew "Anointed" also Messiah
5 It is better translated and pronounced Y'shua, Yeshua or Yahshua. It means "Yah shall save"
6 The prophet Isaiah. Isaiah Chapter 7