
Contents

Preface to the Revised Edition	xi
Preface to the First Edition	xiii
Abbreviations	xv
Chapter 1: Understanding Matthew's Gospel	1
Joining the Authorial Audience	3
Joining Matthew's Authorial Audience	5
Part One: Before Reading	5
Part Two: Reading Matthew	7
Part Three: After Reading	7
Part One: Before Reading	
Chapter 2: A Cross-Cultural Step	13
External References	14
Internal Evidence	17
Where Was the Gospel Written?	21
When Was the Gospel Written?	22
Why the Name "Matthew"?	23
Conclusion	24
Chapter 3: Recognizing the Gospel's Genre	30
An Eyewitness Account of Jesus' Life?	30
The Gospels as Theological Documents	30
The Gospel as Ancient Biography	40
Conclusion	42

Chapter 4: The Audience's Religious Traditions	47
Matthew and Mark	47
Matthew's Use of Q	59
Matthew's Use of M	60
Conclusion	61
Chapter 5: The Audience's Social and Religious Experiences:	
Part 1	66
A Minority Community	67
A Community Recently Separated from a Synagogue	71
Issues Involved in the Recent Bitter Separation	74
Conclusion	77
Chapter 6: The Audience's Social and Religious Experiences:	
Part 2	81
A Community in Transition, Building a New Identity	81
An Alternative Community on the Cultural Margins of Society	84
Conclusion	89
Chapter 7: Competent to Read: Utilizing Narrative Conventions	92
Recognizing the Author's Conventions	93
The Audience and Gaps in the Text	95
Conclusion	100
Part Two: Reading Matthew	
Chapter 8: The Audience and God's Point of View	105
Uspensky's Five Aspects of Point of View	106
Matthew 1:1–17: Establishing God's Point of View	107
Matthew 1:18–25: God's Initiative and Jesus' Mission	109
Matthew 2:1–12: Responses to God's Initiative	111
Matthew 2:13–23: God's Active Presence	112
Matthew 3:1–17: God's Point of View Is Transferred to Jesus	113
Conclusion	115
Chapter 9: Maintaining God's Point of View	119
God's Point of View	119
God's Point of View and Satan	127
The Devil Made Me Do It? "The Things of Human Beings"	129
Conclusion	130
Chapter 10: Shaping Matthew's Plot	132
B. W. Bacon's Pentateuchal Theory	132

J. D. Kingsbury: Repeated Formula	133
Attention to the Plot	134
Chapter 11: Matthew's Plot: Kernels and Satellites	140
The First Narrative Block (1:1–4:16)	141
The Second Narrative Block (4:17–11:1)	142
The Third Narrative Block (11:2–16:20)	144
The Fourth Narrative Block (16:21–20:34)	147
The Fifth Narrative Block (21:1–27:66)	148
The Sixth Narrative Block (28:1–20)	150
Affective Impact	151
Chapter 12: Settings in Matthew's Gospel	154
Galilee of the Gentiles: The First Four Narrative Blocks	155
Jerusalem	160
Jerusalem and Galilee in the Sixth Narrative Block (28:1–20)	162
Heaven and Earth	162
Temporal Settings	164
Chapter 13: Characters: Jesus—Agent of God's Saving Presence	167
Construction of Characters	167
Names of Address for Jesus	169
Actions and Words	177
Comparison ("Synkrisis")	179
Disclosure	181
Conclusion	182
Chapter 14: Characters: Jesus—Crucified and Risen	186
Jesus' Death: The Work of His Opponents	186
Jesus' Death: God's Will	187
Jesus' Death as Self-Giving	189
Jesus' Death as a Model for Discipleship	190
Jesus' Death Accomplished for Others	190
Jesus' Death to Save from Sin	191
Jesus' Death Uniting Jews and Gentiles as the People of God	196
Jesus' Death and Resurrection as the Beginning of the New Age	197
Summary of Traits	199
Chapter 15: Characters: The Authorities—Opponents of God's Will	202
The Jerusalem Leaders	202
What to Call Them?	204
The Authorities: Opponents of God's Action in Jesus	205

The Third Narrative Block (11:2–16:20)	207
The Fourth (16:21–20:34) and Fifth (21:1–27:66)	
Narrative Blocks	210
Conclusion	213
Chapter 16: Characters: The Disciples	215
The Other Disciples	215
The Disciples	216
The Second Narrative Block (4:17–11:1): Disciples Called and Instructed	216
The Third Narrative Block (11:2–16:20): The Disciples as Recipients of Revelation, Their Struggle, and Contrasts with the Authorities	219
The Fourth Narrative Block (16:21–20:34): The Disciples Struggle with the Way of the Cross	221
The Fifth Narrative Block (21:1–27:66): The Disciples' Failure	223
The Sixth Narrative Block (28:1–20): Restoration and Commissioning	225
The Identity and Lifestyle of Disciples	226
Part Three: After Reading	
Chapter 17: Conclusion: The Content of Matthew's Gospel	231
The Identity and Lifestyle of Matthew's Audience	231
Matthew and Contemporary Religious Experience	234
Understanding Matthew's Gospel	241
Appendix: Redaction and Narrative Approaches	243
Redaction Criticism	243
Limitations of Redaction Criticism	244
Audience-Oriented Criticism	246
Who Is the Audience?	247
Bibliography	251
Index of Modern Authors	269
Index of Ancient Sources	272