

MATTHEW

Matthew's Gospel can, at times, seem to be just a collection of unrelated sayings. Even repetitious. That is because **ORIGINALLY** it **WAS** just a collection of the sayings that Early Xtians remembered. "I remember Jesus said this here." Another one said, "He said this", "I was at the hill outside Capernaum, when he said. . ."

This is why Matthew often has **SIMILAR SAYINGS** lumped together, as they would have been in early **ORAL TRADITION**.

So more info: <https://catholicleader.com.au/analysis/who-wrote-the-gospel-of-matthew>

There is ample evidence that the Apostle Matthew wrote the first Gospel, that he wrote in Aramaic, not Greek, and that he wrote it much earlier than 85 AD. Christian tradition unanimously attributes the first Gospel to Matthew. The early Christian Bishop Papias (c 60-120) said that Matthew composed the **Sayings** (LOGIA in Greek) **of Jesus** in the Hebrew language for Jewish converts. Hebrew means the Hebrew spoken in Israel at the time of Christ, which we call today *Aramaic*.

So Matt's Gospel was **ORIGINALLY** just collected sayings of Jesus. Later on, an editor gave it the form we know today. Papias (c 60-120) wrote:

Therefore Matthew put the logia in an ordered arrangement in the Hebrew language, but each person interpreted them as best he could.

Irenaeus (ca. A.D. 180) continued to support Papias's views about Matthew and Mark.

As for when Matthew wrote his Gospel, it is most likely that he did so in the 50s or 60s of the first century. That is **LESS** than 30 years after the Crucifixion! The earliest quotation of Matthew is found in Ignatius who died around 115 A.D. So Matthew was **in circulation well before** Ignatius died in **115**. It is generally believed that Matthew [in its present form] was written before A.D. 70 and as early as A.D. 50. The Logia collection Papias mentioned would have been **right after the death of Xt**, as Early Xtians were "remembering" what XT did and said.

"Matthew **composed**" does not mean Matt sat down and wrote it like J.K. Rowling "wrote" *Harry Potter*. The community "Put it Together", that is "wrote it"—**ORALLY!** Then it was actually 'written down' on parchment. Remember most people could NOT read or write. Peter had MARK "write" his gospel. Peter was a fisherman. He could speak Greek and Aramaic, but probably couldn't write, just as you probably can't fix a computer or do the plumbing. We could call it the Gospel of Peter, not of Mark! Matt undoubtedly could write because of his occupation as a 'tax collector' or accountant.

So there was **PROTO-Matt**, [the Logia] and then Matt, in its present form. The Gospel of MARK, which **we have**, was the First Gospel **WRITTEN** as we have it. Matt then is **BOTH BEFORE MK** and **After MK!**

<https://carm.org/when-were-gospels-written-and-by-whom>

This site gives reasons why the first 3 Gospels—but not John—were written before 70 AD when the Temple was destroyed by the Romans.

Mark

Mark was **not an eyewitness** to the events of Jesus' life. [But Peter was an eyewitness.] Mark was a disciple of Peter and undoubtedly it was Peter who told Mark of the life of Christ sharing what Peter remembered in the Gospel known as MARK. Papias claimed that Mark, the Evangelist, who had never heard Christ, *was the interpreter of Peter, and that he carefully gave an account of everything he remembered from the preaching of Peter*. Generally, Mark is said to be the earliest gospel—as we have it—written between AD 50-55 but **BEFORE AD 70**.

as a general scheme:

1a Logia, collected sayings of Matthew
[written originally in Aramaic, for JEWS in the Holy Land]

1st Mark (Peter's Gospel)
because it is the shortest, for one thing
MK started w John the Baptist (where Xt started!)
[written in Alexandria the 2nd largest city, w lots of Jews, who spoke GREEK]

2nd
1a revised, MATT (the one we have) and at the same time LUKE
so Matt is both 1a and 2 with LK; both Matt and LUKE in final form (about the same time)
adding some stories from another source called Q,
[from the German word Quelle, which means 'source'].
This 'source' has never been found IN WRITTEN FORM.

This should not surprise us since most 'writing' was done by traditional ORAL composing.
[Quelle is noted March 1, when BOTH describe the Temptation of Xt in the Desert,
because the description by both is almost identical.]

[MATT was written for Jewish Xtians,
for those familiar w Jewish Customs.]

[LUKE was written in Antioch
for Gentile converts to Judaism and
JEWS living in the cosmopolitan
culture of Syria.]

**Both MT and LK added INFANCY NARRATIVES but:

MT from Joseph's view

LK from Mary's point of view

to show: 1) that Jesus, the man, did not become the Messiah-God after he was baptized
and

2) that XT was the Messiah (XT) & God BEFORE he was born.

GOSPEL OF JOHN

Clearly the LAST Gospel written. Why LAST? It was written:

1) AFTER the destruction of the Temple in 70 AD and

2) AFTER the original Xtians—who were Jews—were expelled from the Synagogues.

{At first those who accepted XT as Messiah continued to attend the synagogue.

But after 70 they were not allowed. John often uses the term, "The Jews" did this
or that. The leaders of the Jewish Community kicked the followers of XT out!

After 70 any Jew who thought Xt was the Messiah, was barred from synagogue.

Paul too, after his conversion, went to speak in the synagogues but was kicked out. }

JOHN makes no attempt to be 'historical'. That is, he is not writing a minute by minute, day by
day, account. John is NOT writing a police report. He is composing a statement of
what the Life of Jesus MEANT and MEANS.