



# BOB'S WORD OF THE WEEK: MATTHEW



## BEST NAME

**Zerubbabel**

*(Zerubbabel's in Troubale, the temple's fallen down!)*

*Leader in restoring the second temple and ancestor of Jesus on his daddy's side.*

## COOLEST CHARACTER

**Matthew, Tax Collector**

*The old Stan Lee Cameo! Matthew the author inserts himself into a scene for good measure. And who doesn't like dining with tax collectors?!?*

## FAVORITE STORY

**A Ghost!** In Matthew 14, Jesus sees the disciples out on the lake, and he "water-walks" toward them in the early morning. The disciples are terrified (who wouldn't be?) and confuse him for a ghost. My daughter squealed with delight when she first heard the story (that adds to its legend for me). It's a demonstration of the hilarity that ensues when humanity seeks to make sense of God's vastness in our midst. We are terrified in every way!



## UNIQUE TO MATTHEW

- **Epiphany Story** -- No, there were not magi in Luke's manger!
- **Extensive genealogy** that connects Jesus to 42 generations of the faith story
- **Jesus as a refugee** -- the family flees to Egypt to escape persecution by Herod

## TIMELINE

The Gospel of Matthew was composed more than a half-century after the death of Jesus. This community was as far removed from the life of Jesus as we would be from 1971 in 2022.

34 CE

51 YEARS

85-90 CE

Death of Jesus

Composition of Matthew



1971 CE



51 YEARS



2022 CE

*All in the Family* Debuts

Evel Knievel Record Jump

Swann vs. Char. Meck BOE

Present Day,

Charlotte, NC



## TROUBLESOME STORIES

Enemies do a fair amount of teeth-gnashing, which is never a good thing; Joseph is applauded for not "quietly dismissing" Mary -- seems like a low bar (not to mention a twisted one!) for righteousness; Herod employs infanticide to achieve his means

## THEMES (SOME, NOT ALL!)

Providence and human agency; Jesus as the fulfillment of Torah; Jesus as new Moses and Messiah; Hope in the midst of marginalization and conflict



## IF MATTHEW WERE A BAND, IT WOULD BE NAMED...

**MATTHEW DOESN'T TALK ABOUT THE KINGDOM OF GOD, BUT INSTEAD THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN. IT SEEMS LOGICAL THAT ONE MIGHT NEED A STAIRWAY TO GET THERE, SO I'LL GO WITH LED ZEPPELIN.**

