

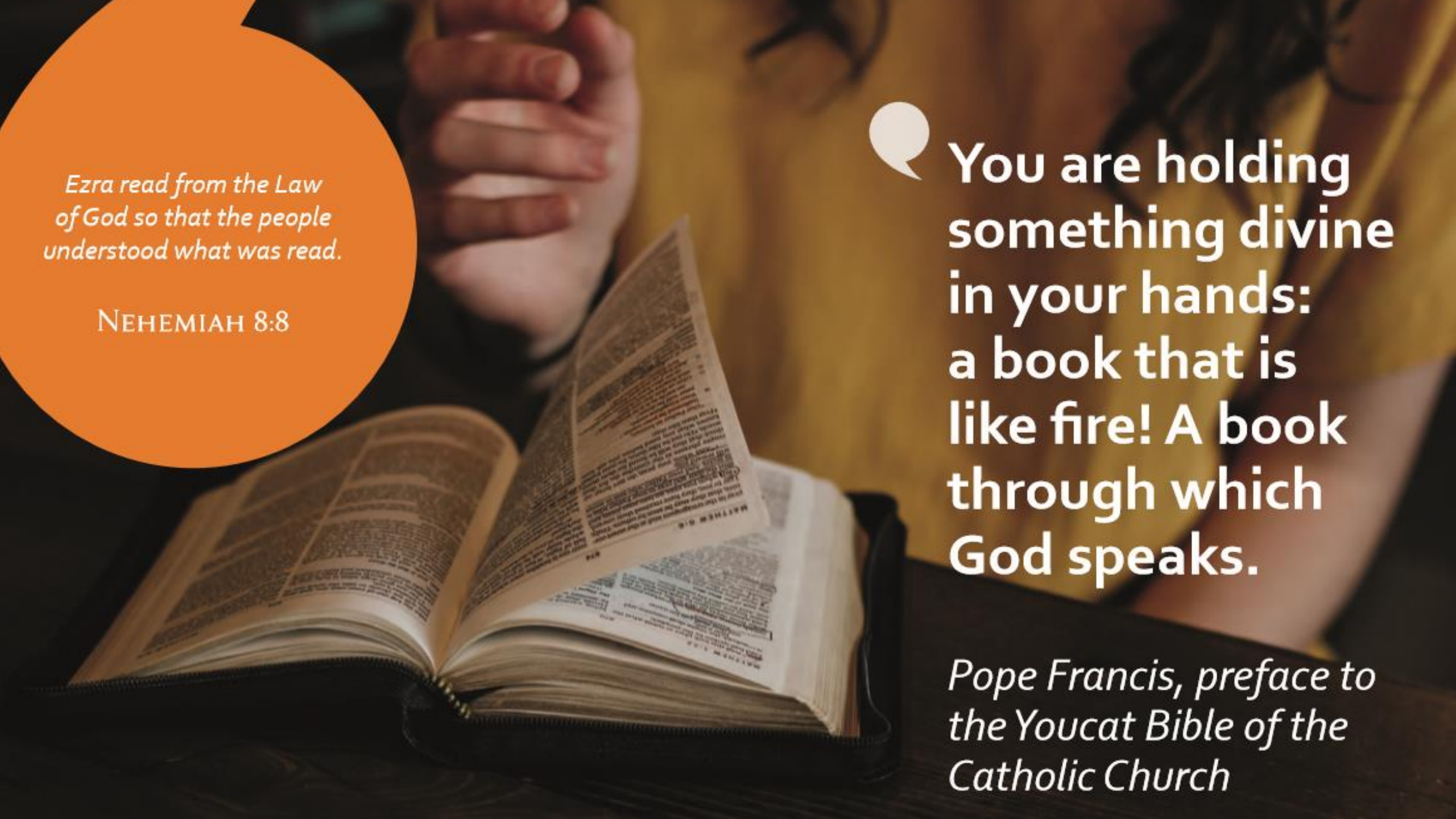
The God Who
Speaks:

The Year of the
Word

30th September 2019 – 31st
December 2020



THE
GOD
WHO
SPEAKS

An open Bible with hands clasped in prayer above it. The background is a warm, golden-brown color, possibly a wall or a light source. The Bible is open, showing text on both pages. The hands are clasped together in a prayerful gesture, with fingers interlaced. The overall mood is solemn and reverent.

*Ezra read from the Law
of God so that the people
understood what was read.*

NEHEMIAH 8:8

**You are holding
something divine
in your hands:
a book that is
like fire! A book
through which
God speaks.**

*Pope Francis, preface to
the Youcat Bible of the
Catholic Church*

‘Scripture is at the centre of everything the Church does. The Word of God shapes our prayer and worship. The Bible shows us how to understand the world, how we are called to live and relate to each other.’



This year has been designated as 'The God Who Speaks - The Year of the Word'.

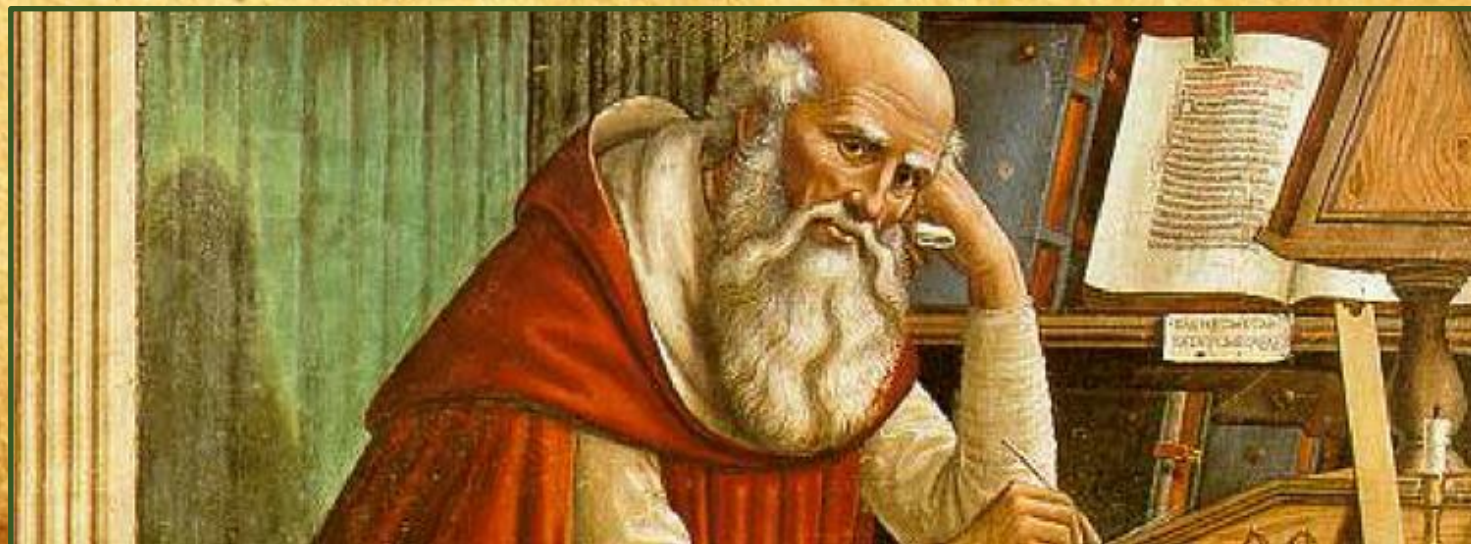
There will also be a specific focus on St. Matthew's Gospel.



The Official Launch

The official launch of The God Who Speaks – The Year of the Word is on **30th September** with Cardinal Nichols video in the National Gallery on the feast of St. Jerome.

The ‘year’ will officially start on **Sunday 1st December 2019**, the first Sunday of Advent, the beginning of the Church's Liturgical Year.



OFFICIAL PRAYER FOR THE YEAR

Living God,
you walk alongside us and
speak to us throughout the Scriptures.

Your Son, Jesus Christ,
listens to our hopes and fears
and shows us how to live for one another.

Send us the Holy Spirit
to open our hearts and minds
so that we may be your witnesses
throughout the world.

AMEN

V. Your word is our path and your truth is our light.
R. This day and every day.

Our Lady of the Annunciation

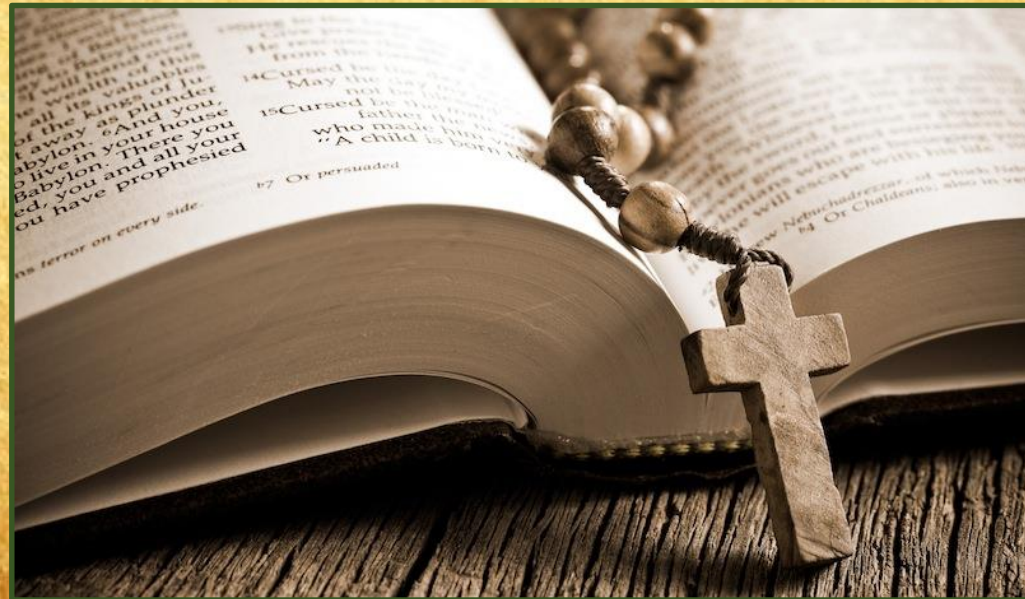
PRAY FOR US, St Matthew
PRAY FOR US, St Jerome

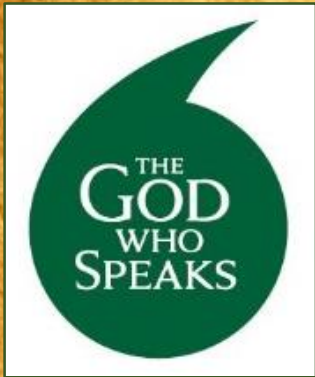
THE
GOD
WHO
SPEAKS

godwhospeaks.uk

The aim of The God Who Speaks - The Year of
the Word is:

‘Celebrating, Living and Sharing
God’s Word.’





Celebrating



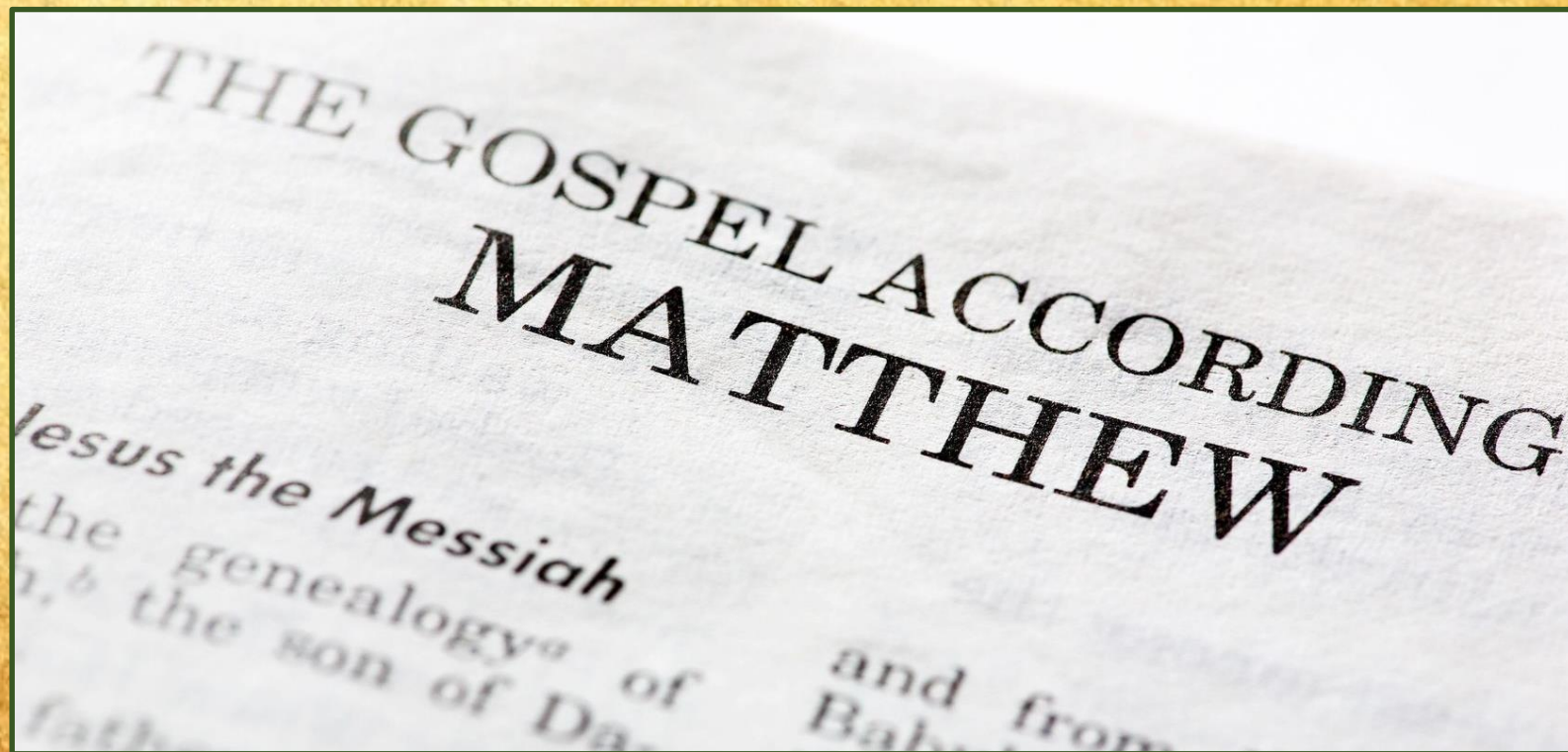
Living



Sharing



During this very special year we will have the opportunity to celebrate, live and share in the joy of scripture, and in particular the good news of Matthew's gospel.



Fun Bible Facts



Over 100 million copies
of the Bible are sold
each year!



The word 'bible' is from the Greek *ta biblia*, which means 'the scrolls' or 'the books'. The word is derived from the ancient city of Byblos, which was the official supplier of paper products to the ancient world.



The full Bible has been translated into 532 languages.

It has been partially translated into 2,883 languages.

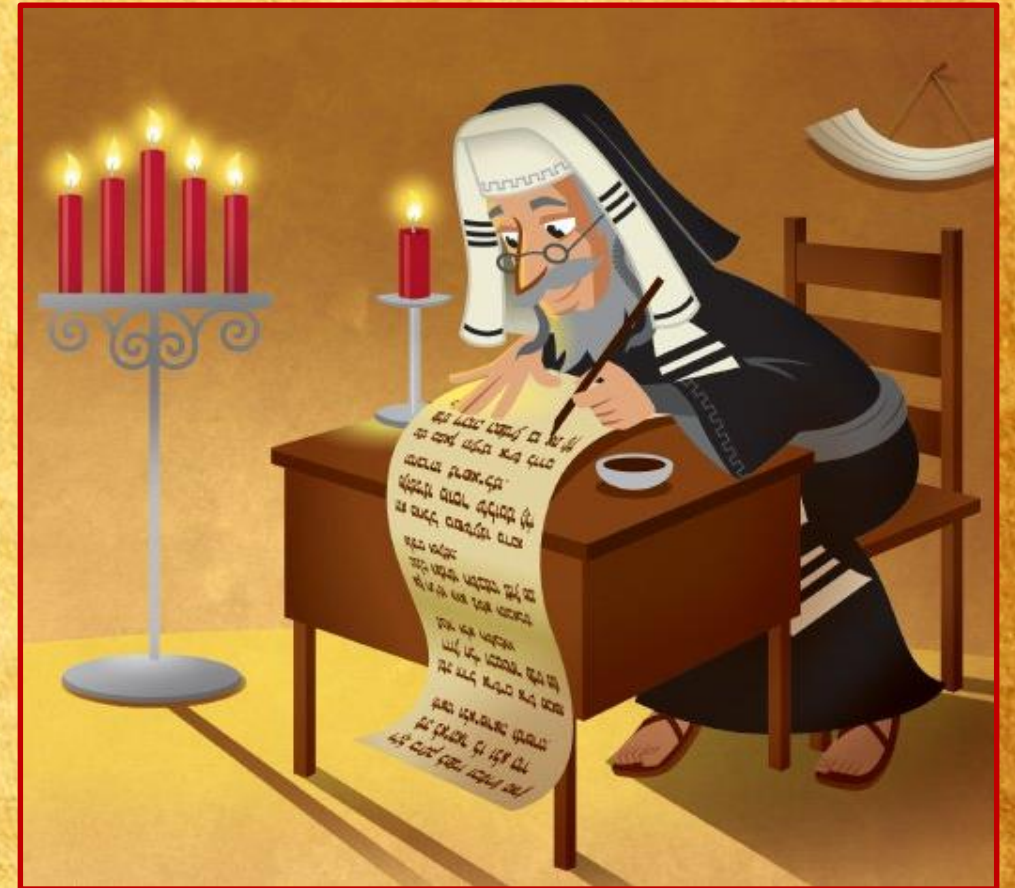


The Bible was written by people from many different occupations.

Parts of the Bible were written by **kings**. Half of the Psalms, a good chunk of Proverbs, and Ecclesiastes were written by royalty.



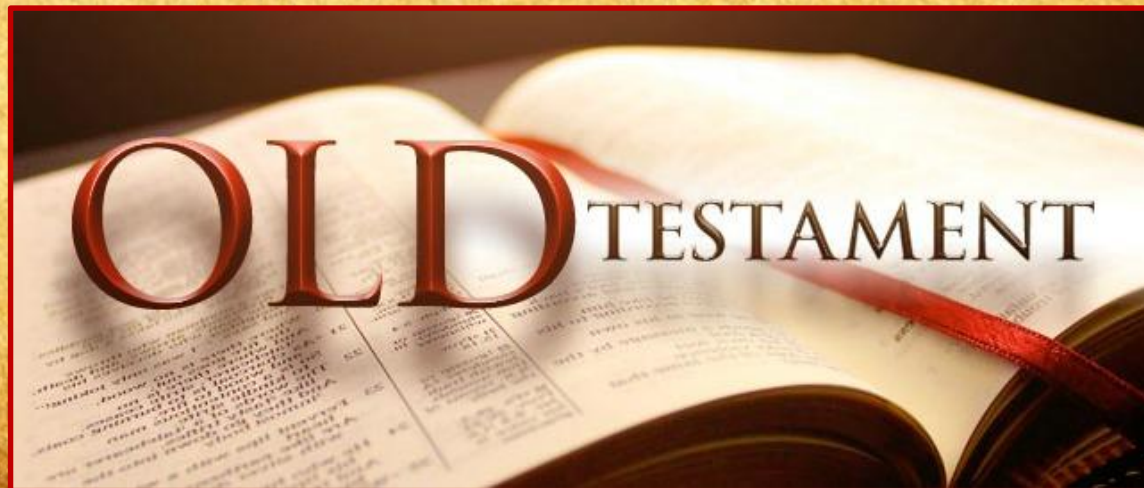
But other parts of the Bible are written by farmers, fishermen, a tentmaker, homeless prophets, a doctor, a professional scribe, musicians, pastors and many more besides!



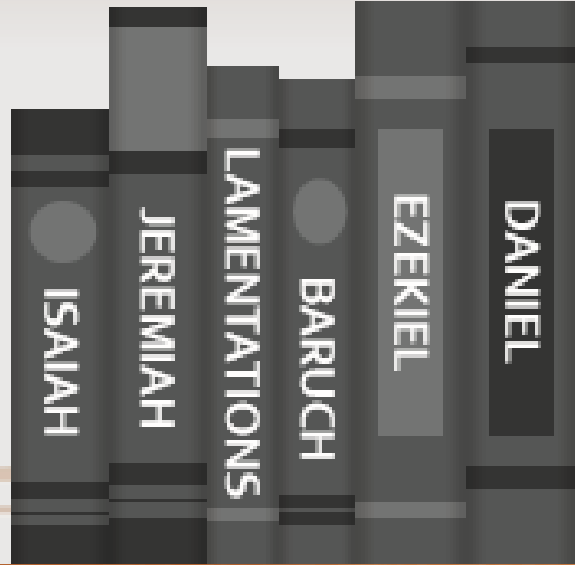
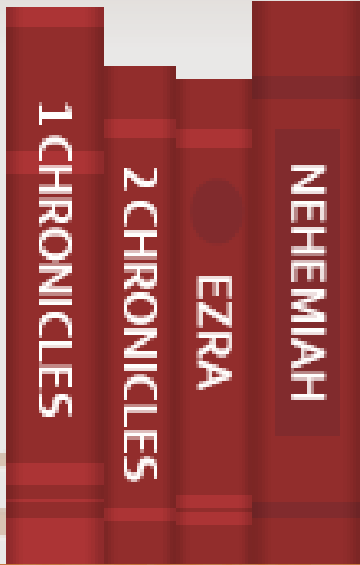
The Bible is split into two 'sections':

- The Old Testament
- The New Testament

There are 46 books in the Old Testament...



The Old Testament



... and **27 books** in the New Testament.

INTRODUCTION TO THE NEW TESTAMENT



... and here they are!



Making a total of how many
books altogether in the Bible?

73!



The shortest verse in the Bible is **John 11:35**, which states, 'Jesus wept.'



The shortest book of the Bible
is **3 John**.

You can read this book in about
one minute!

The book right before it, **2
John**, is the second-shortest
book of the Bible.



The longest word in the Bible is
‘Mahershalalhashbaz’

(Isaiah 8:3)



The Bible is about 611,000
words long!

When translating the Bible from its original languages to English, translators tend to use more words to get across the original author's point.

And who wrote all of
those words?!



The Bible was written in three languages!

Those languages are Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek.

Most of our Old Testament was written in Hebrew, which was the language the original readers spoke. A few bits of the Old Testament were written Aramaic (looking at you, Ezra and Daniel).

The New Testament was written in Greek, the commonly-spoken language of the time.



The Bible was written by more than 40 traditional authors!

The books of the Bible are traditionally attributed to heroes of the Jewish and Christian faiths.

Moses is given credit for the first five books of the Bible, most of the prophets are given credit for the books named after them... and there are a few 'unknowns'!



Moses wrote about 20% of the Bible
in terms of word count.

Paul wrote the most individual
documents.

Ezra, Luke and Jeremiah make up the
rest of the top 5 in the number of words
written.





Moses
125,139 words



Ezra
43,618 words



Luke
37,932 words



Jeremiah
35,306 words



Paul
32,408 words



There are at least 185 songs in the Bible!

About 150 of these are in the book of Psalms. (we say ‘about’ because there’s some debate as to whether a few of the separate Psalms were originally meant to be sung as one.) But throughout both the Old and New Testaments, people will sing songs about God or the events around them.

And 185 is a bare minimum!



The Bible was written on three continents!

Most was written in what is modern-day **Israel (Asia)**. But some passages of Jeremiah were written in **Egypt (Africa)** and several New Testament epistles were written from cities in **Europe**.



There are 21 dreams recorded in the
Bible!

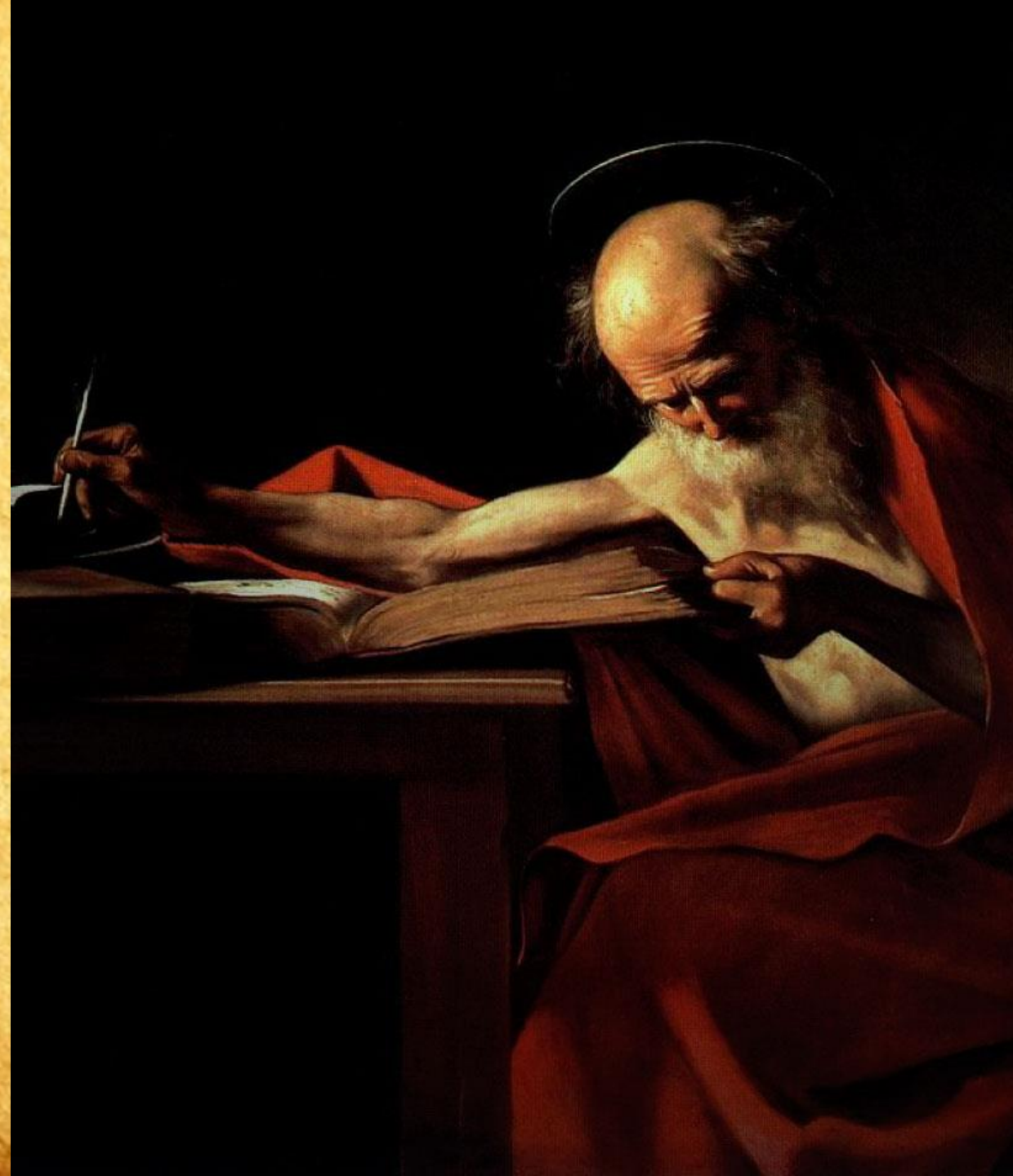
And most of them are had by two
different men named Joseph!



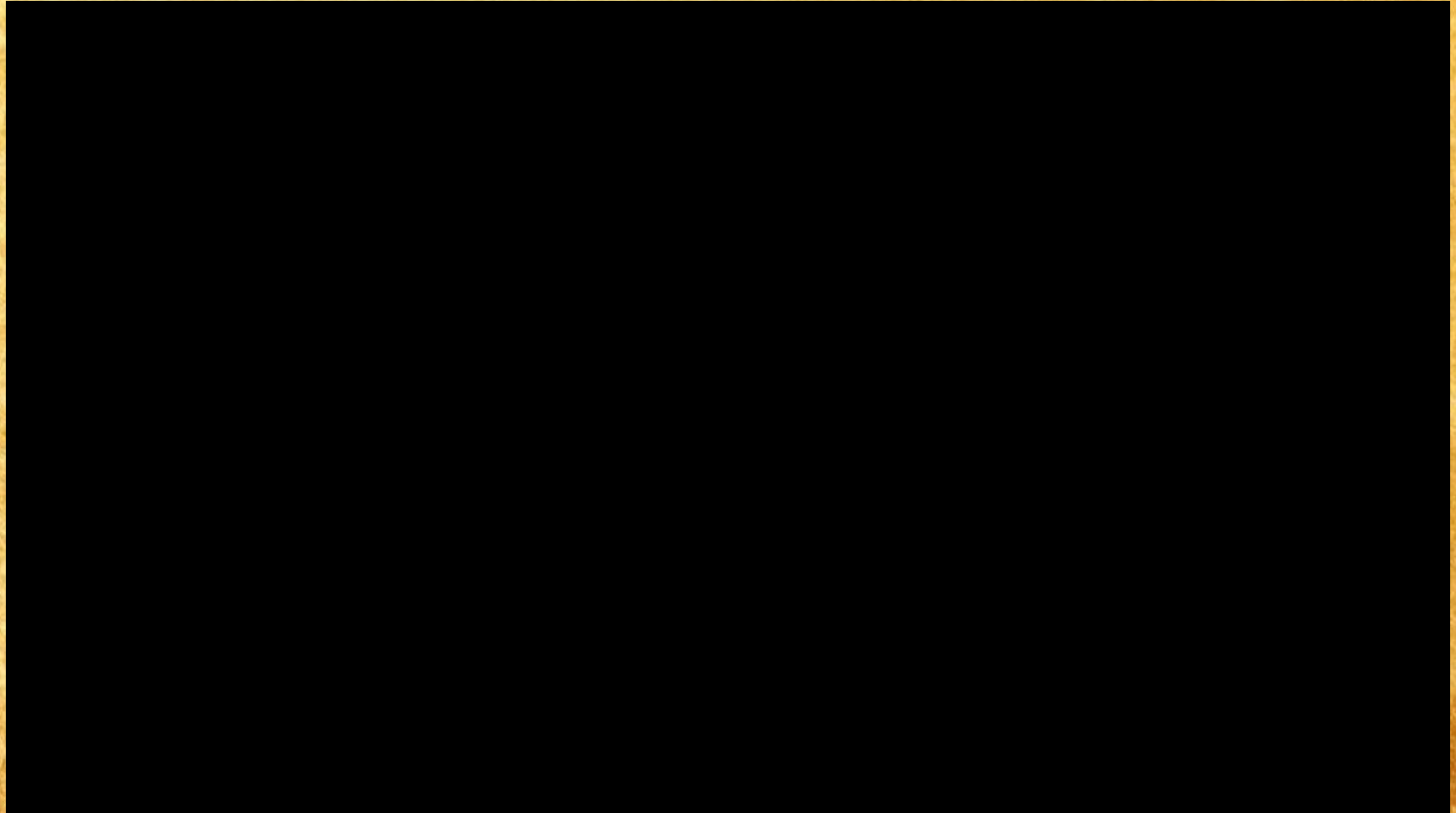
Why St. Jerome?

Patron of archaeologists,
Biblical scholars, librarians,
students and translators

Of all the things that made Jerome famous, nothing was so legendary as his translation of the Bible; he spent his entire life translating the scriptures from Hebrew and Old Latin.

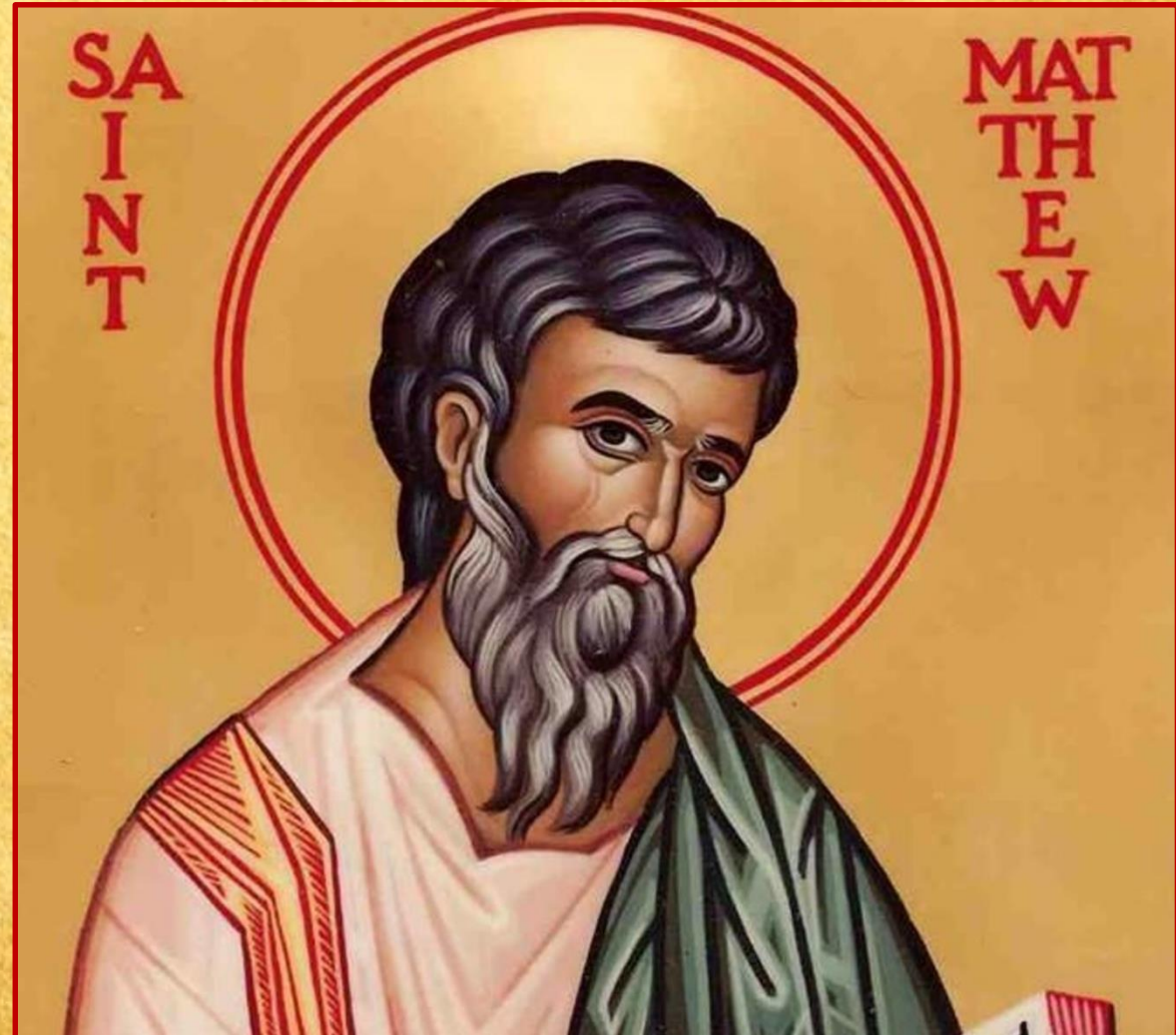


The Life of St. Jerome



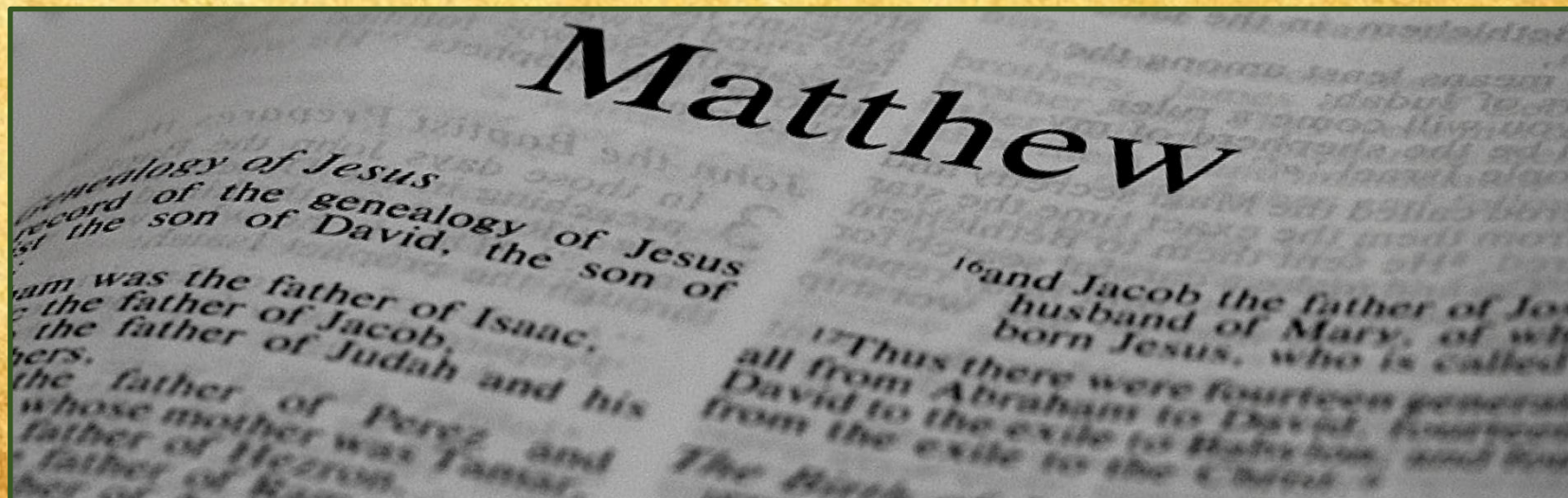
Matthew the Gospel Writer

The Year of the Word will focus on the Gospel of Matthew which will start to be read at the beginning of Advent on 1st December 2019.



Matthew the Gospel Writer

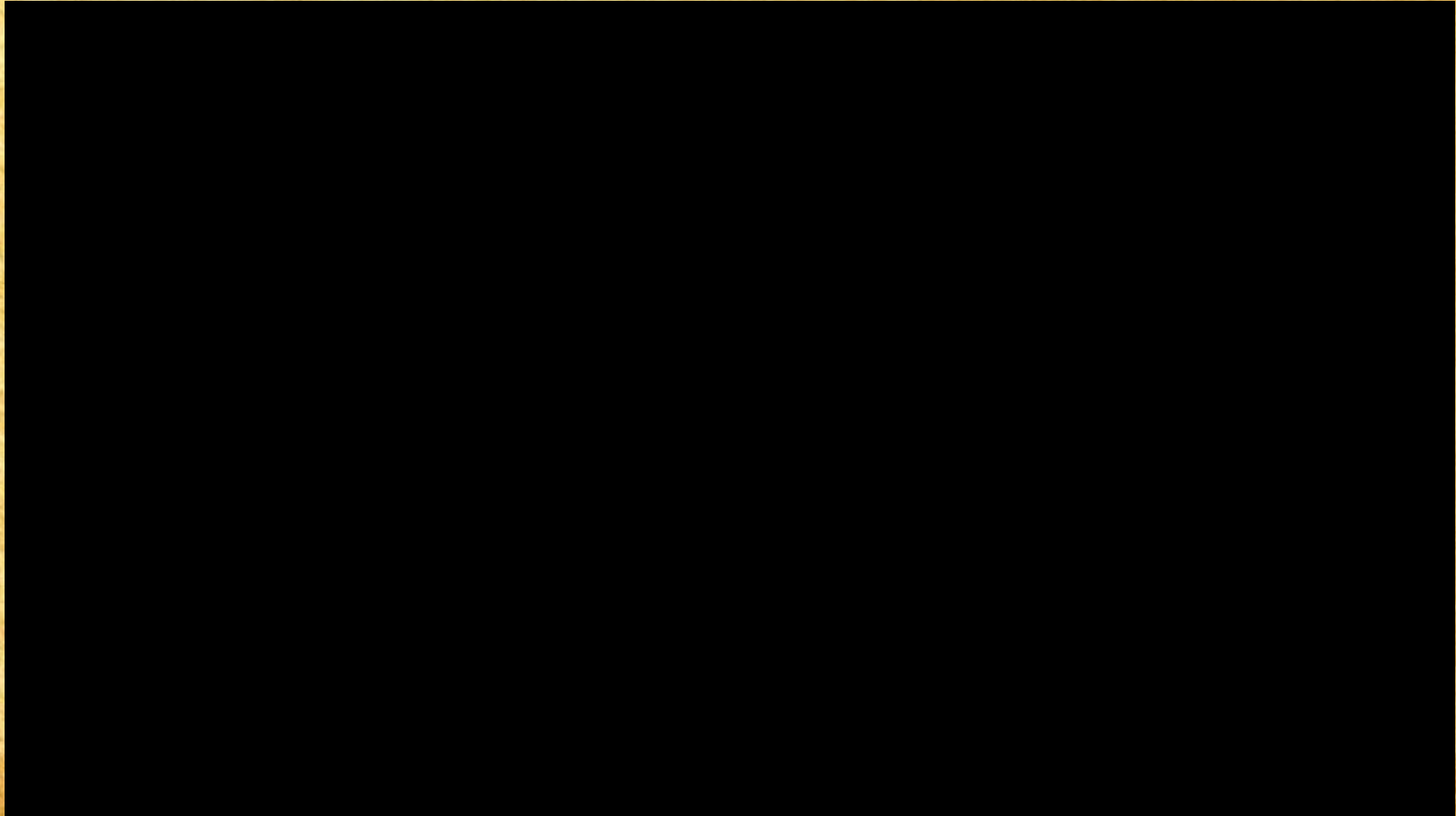
Little is known about St. Matthew, except that he was the son of **Alpheus**, and he was likely born in Galilee. He worked as a **tax collector**, which was a hated profession during the time of Christ.



St Matthew – Saints For Kids



St. Matthew – Catholic On-line



The Prologue and Jesus' Birth and Significance

CHAPTER 1:18-25
The Nativity

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel.

CHAPTER 2:7-12
Three Wise Men

The Kingdom of Heaven is Announced

Always treat others as you would like them to treat you.

CHAPTER 3:13-17
John Baptises Jesus

CHAPTER 4:18-22
Simon Peter, Andrew, James & John

CHAPTER 5:3-12
Sermon on the Mount
The Beatitudes

CHAPTER 6:9-15
The Lord's Prayer

CHAPTER 7:7-12
The Golden Rule

Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me.

Signs of the Kingdom

CHAPTER 8:28-34
Miracle of the Gadarene Pigs

CHAPTER 9:27-31
Jesus Heals the Blind Men

The Church, the first fruits of the Kingdom of Heaven

CHAPTER 18:10-14
The Lost Sheep

CHAPTER 17:1-8
Jesus is Transfigured

CHAPTER 16:15-20
Jesus Asks the Disciples
Who do you say I am?

CHAPTER 15:22-28
The Daughter is Healed

Where two or three gather in my name, there I am with them.

CHAPTER 14:13-21
Feeding the Five Thousand

The Mystery of the Kingdom of Heaven

I speak to you in parables.

CHAPTER 13:31-33
Parable of the Mustard Seed

CHAPTER 12:40-42
Death & Resurrection

CHAPTER 11:28-30
Come To Me All Who Are Weary

CHAPTER 10:5-15
Jesus Sends His Disciples

The Coming of the Kingdom of Heaven

Love God and love your neighbour as yourself.

CHAPTER 19:13-15
Jesus Blesses the Little Children

CHAPTER 20:20-28
Mother of the Sons of Zebedee

CHAPTER 21:1-11
The Entry into Jerusalem

CHAPTER 22:1-14
Parable of the Wedding Feast

CHAPTER 23:13-36
Jesus Denounces the Hypocrites
Woe to you!

CHAPTER 24:29-31
The Coming of the Son of Man

CHAPTER 25:1-13
Parable of the Bridesmaids

CHAPTER 26:26-29
Jesus and the Eucharist

CHAPTER 27:31-44
Jesus is Crucified and Buried

CHAPTER 28:1-10
Women Find the Empty Tomb

The Passion and Resurrection

And know that I am with you always to the end of time.

JOURNEY WITH MATTHEW



PILGRIM PRAYER FOR THE YEAR

Pilgrim God, you walk alongside us and speak to us throughout the Scriptures:
in the message of the prophets, the songs of David and the vision of Paul.

Your Son, Jesus Christ, listens to our hopes and fears and shows us how to live:
in our love of neighbour, our desire for justice, and in our dying and rising each day.

Send us the Holy Spirit to open our hearts and minds so that we may be your witnesses throughout the world:
in our protection of the vulnerable, our words and actions and in our communion with the earth.

AMEN

V. Your word is our path and your truth is our light.

R. This day and every day.

Our Lady of the Annunciation PRAY FOR US.

St Matthew PRAY FOR US.

St Jerome PRAY FOR US.



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Celebrating Living Sharing

