

in the age in which they originated. The Gospel was intended for all the world. The world at the time of the Advent was represented by three great historical races. Says Neander: "The three great historical nations had to contribute, each in its own peculiar way, to prepare the soil for the planting of Christianity—the Jews on the side of the religious element; the Greeks on the side of science and art; the Romans, as Masters of the world, on the side of the political element." These three civilizations extended over and moulded the world to which Christ came, and His Gospel was preached. Out of the three races the preachers of the Gospel gathered the Church, made up of those who believed in Jesus of Nazareth and accepted Him as the Divine Savior and Lord sent from God the Father. From that time there were four distinct classes of representative men, and four definite and different phases of thought recognized in the ancient world—Jewish, Greek, Roman and Christian. It is matter of history that the four Gospels were given to meet the needs of these four classes. Under the "Great Commission" the Apostles went forth to preach to the three great races a gospel suited to the practical wants of each. Their preaching furnished the material embodied in the three missionary Gospels, Matthew, Mark and Luke. In due time Matthew embodied the teaching for the Jews, the Chosen People, who had the world-religion with its divinely-given forms and its promise and prophecy of the Messiah; Mark prepared it for the Romans, the men of power and law, of imperial and universal sway, the great workers and conquerors of the world; and Luke prepared it for the Greeks, the men of reason and universal humanity, the worshipers and perfecters of manhood. These missionary Gospels probably took their final shape before the fall of Jerusalem, between 50 and 70 A.D. It was later than this that the longing came, in the Church, for a spiritual Gospel which should help the Christian to develop, strengthen and perfect the life already begun, and the aged John, in response to the request of the pastors and Christians of Asia Minor, prepared the fourth Gospel for the followers of Christ, the men of faith, and of the new and divine life. These facts may be shown to have a solid historical basis.

The Gospel according to Matthew finds its key in its Jewish origin and design. It originated among Jews, was shaped by a representative Jew, and was designed by its author and the Divine Spirit to accomplish a particular purpose with reference to the Jews. Its Jewish origin gives it its particular coloring. It is pre-eminently the Gospel of Prophecy, of Messiah, of Jewish customs, rites and ceremonies. Its author was a representative Jew, a publican or tax-gatherer, trained to systematic methods; thoroughly acquainted with the whole Jewish religion and the Jewish character; familiar through long years of preaching with everything requisite to commend Jesus to the Jewish