

The Conflict Stories in the First Gospel

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Biblical scholars and exegetes have been grappling with a number of historical contexts of the Gospel of Matthew: Was Matthew himself a Jew, or was he a Gentile who drew on earlier traditions which had been shaped by tensions between Christians and Jews? Were the FRPXQLWLHV WR ZKRP KH ZULWHV VWLOO IDFLQJ KRVWLO perhaps, the most puzzling question of all, why is this Gospel both profoundly Jewish and anti-Jewish? Several reasons justify such interest. Part of the reason for this focus on the Jewish background of Matthew is the renewed interest exhibited by scholars on the social setting of the New Testament. Another plausible reason is the growing body of his