

The image shows the spine of an old, thick book with many pages, bound in dark brown leather. The book is positioned on the left side of the frame, with its spine facing right. The pages are aged and yellowed, and the leather shows signs of wear and discoloration. The background is a dark, solid color, possibly black or dark brown, which makes the book and the text stand out.

Matthew's Messiah

*The life and ministry of Jesus
from Matthew's perspective*

In those days John the Baptist
came, preaching in the
wilderness of Judea ² and saying,
“Repent, for the kingdom of
heaven has come near.”

³ This is he who was spoken of
through the prophet Isaiah:

“A voice of one calling
in the wilderness,
‘Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.’ ”

⁴ John's clothes were made of camel's hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey.

⁵ People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan.

⁶ Confessing their sins, they
were baptized by him in the
Jordan River.

⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them:

“You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸ Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.

⁹ And do not think you can say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham.

¹⁰ The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

11 “I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry.

He will baptize you with the
Holy Spirit and fire.

12 His winnowing fork is in his hand,
and he will clear his threshing floor,
gathering his wheat into the barn
and burning up the chaff with
unquenchable fire.”