

Matthew Handout

Week Five

2:1 Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, 2 “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him.” 3 When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. 4 Gathering together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. 5 They said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for this is what has been written by the prophet:

6 ‘And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, Are by no means least among the leaders of Judah; For out of you shall come forth a Ruler, Who will shepherd My people Israel.’”

7 Then Herod secretly called the magi and determined from them the exact time the star appeared. 8 And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the Child; and when you have found Him, report to me, so that I too may come and worship Him.” 9 After hearing the king, they went their way; and the star, which they had seen in the east, went on before them until it came and stood over the place where the Child was. 10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. 11 After coming into the house they saw the Child with Mary His mother; and they fell to the ground and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they presented to Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. 12 And having been warned by God in a dream not to return to Herod, the magi left for their own country by another way.

13 Now when they had gone, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up! Take the Child and His mother and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is going to search for the Child to destroy Him.”

14 So Joseph got up and took the Child and His mother while it was still night, and left for Egypt. 15 He remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: “Out of Egypt I called My Son.”

16 Then when Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he became very enraged, and sent and slew all the male children who were in Bethlehem and all its vicinity, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the magi. 17 Then what had been spoken through Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled:

18 “A voice was heard in Ramah, Weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children; And she refused to be comforted, Because they were no more.”

Who is Herod?

Revelation of God: General/common. Supernatural Special- Best of all

Heb. 1:1 God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature....

Progressive revelation

Micah 5:2 But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, from the days of eternity. Therefore He will give them up until the time when she who is in labor has borne a child. Then the remainder of His brethren will return to the sons of Israel. And He will arise and shepherd His flock in the

strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD His God. And they will remain, because at that time He will be great to the ends of the earth. This One will be our peace.

What kind of prophesy is this?

Single and complete.

Historical fulfillment as foreshadowing

Dual/Partial

Why do we care?

“By another way”

Are they really all that wise?

Was it a close call?

Ps. 2: The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers take counsel together

Against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying, “Let us tear their fetters apart

And cast away their cords from us!” He who is in the heavens laughs, the LORD scoffs at them.

The bigger gospel story:

Gen. 3:13 Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?” And the woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.” The LORD God said to the serpent... I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; He (Messiah) shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise Him on the heel.”

Mat. 2:17 Then what had been *spoken through Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled*:

18 “A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children; and she refused to be comforted, because they were no more.”

Jer. 31:21 “Set up for yourself roadmarks, place for yourself guideposts; direct your mind to the highway, the way by which you went.

Jer. 31:31 “Behold, days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them,” declares the LORD. “But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days,” declares the LORD, “I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. They will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them,” declares the LORD, “for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.”

What does Matthew want us to see?

Why is his passage selection so sweet?

But why include the horrific story?

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Egyptian captivity-> Babylonian captivity? Roman captivity? Freedom in Christ

Slaughter of the innocents Egypt/Bethlehem-> slaughter of John the B.-> Slaughter of Jesus->

Rom. 8:35 Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? Just as it is written,
“For Your sake we are being put to death all day long; we were considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”
But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.

The rest of the characters...

The “religious folks”

Joseph, again...

15b This was to *fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet*: “Out of Egypt I called My Son.”

Ex. 4:21 The LORD said to Moses, “When you go back to Egypt see that you perform before Pharaoh all the wonders which I have put in your power; but I will harden his heart so that he will not let the people go. Then you shall say to Pharaoh, ‘Thus says the LORD, “Israel is My son, My firstborn. So I said to you, ‘Let My son go that he may serve Me’

In chapter 1, Jesus is the perfect representative of God. --

In chapter 2, He is the perfect representative of the people. –

15. He remained there until the death of _____ Herod.

Ps. 146:3 Do not trust in princes, in mortal man, in whom there is no salvation. His spirit departs, he returns to the earth; in that very day his thoughts perish. How blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD his God, Who made heaven and earth, the sea and all that is in them; Who keeps faith forever; Who executes justice for the oppressed; Who gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets the prisoners free. The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD raises up those who are bowed down...

Why keep rehearsing the story in different forms?

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In Rev. 12:3 Then another sign appeared in heaven: and behold, a great red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads were seven diadems. And his tail swept away a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she gave birth he might devour her child. And she gave birth to a son, a male child,

who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron (Ps. 2); and her child was caught up to God and to His throne. Then the woman fled into the wilderness (Ex.) where she had a place prepared by God, so that there she would be nourished for one thousand two hundred and sixty days.

Why are they safe in Egypt?

The most important character...

Embedded warnings

Herod lives

The religious folks

19 But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, and said, "Get up, take the Child and His mother, and go into the land of Israel; for those who sought the Child's life are dead." So Joseph got up, took the Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Then after being warned by God in a dream, he left for the regions of Galilee, and came and lived in a city called Nazareth. This was to *fulfill what was spoken through the prophets*: "He shall be called a Nazarene."

Why go back to Judea?

Archelaus

Nazareth:

Isa. 49:7 Thus says the LORD, the Redeemer of Israel and its Holy One, to the despised One, to the One abhorred by the nation,

Isa. 53:2 For He grew up before Him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of parched ground; He has no stately form or majesty that we should look upon Him,

Nor appearance that we should be attracted to Him. He was despised and forsaken of men....

Acts 24:5

Netzer-

Isa. 11:1 Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse, and a branch (netser) from his roots will bear fruit.

Last takeaways

- There is nothing we can suffer in this life that Jesus has not, in some way, taken on.

-Opposition

-Sometimes God says

in order to live

-Frustration

Discussion

Share an example from your life when God's timing proved to be way better than your timing.

What do you do to battle the "Herod" or the "priest/scribe" tendencies of your heart? Which character from this passage do you think is more of a threat to the church?

What is one area of your spiritual life that you might need to make a little effort to grow in, to walk the extra couple of miles for the blessing?

OR

What is some new ministry you might think about doing or supporting.