Session 3: Matthew Chapter 2: The King in Exile - Prologue/Narrative 1 2 **NEXT WEEK: Matthew Chapter 3 (Narrative-Book 1):** John: The Forerunner to the King Main Readings: Matthew 2 Additional Readings: Numbers 24:15-19; 1 Samuel 16:1, 16:4-13; Isaiah 11, 60:3-6; Jeremiah 23.5-6; 3 4 Micah 5:2-4 CCC: 528, 530 5 **NOTES AND QUOTES** 6 Today's Study: Investigate the importance of the king in exile, welcome the wise men known as the Magi, and then escape into Egypt with the Holy Family all in this session before concluding chapters one & two. 7 8 1. Formula Quotation Theology¹ (FOT): Assumes reader knows OT and uses OT references to prove 9 Jesus is Messiah; Is used especially in Prologue (FOT#1) as Matthew documents the birth of Jesus, 10 the Magi (FQT#2), shepherds, and escape to Egypt; Magi represent how God is bringing Gentiles into covenant - irritates the Pharisees as some of Jesus stories are parables involving righteous 11 12 Gentiles 2. Need to understand major redemptive events of OT: 1. Exile (Gen 12) 2. Passover 3. Royal Kingdom 13 (1000 BC) 4. Kingdom Divided – Main Prophet: Isaiah 1-39 (Book of Woe) Isaiah 40 – 55 (Book 14 15 of Consolation) – Jews of 1st century waiting for this restoration of Israel 3. Herod was appointed as king of the Jews by the Roman Senate in 40 BC; he murdered his favorite wife 16 17 and 3 of his sons who were plotting against him; he was trying to replace a collapsing dynasty 18 of priestly rule; famous for building projects - Temple was one of them; he was an *Edomite* - a descendant of Isaac's son Esau who forfeited his birthright to his brother Jacob (youngest)²; Jacob 19 20 escaped to keep from being murdered; Esau is the father of the Edomites; descendants of both 21 families had much animosity towards each other; Herod did not have a legitimate claim to be 22 called king of the Jews as Jacob's family received by way of the birthright blessing and were the 23 true heirs to the Davidic throne. 4. Herod was threatened by the revelations of the Magi; they were seeking the King of the Jews, the 24 25 Messianic Light of the Star of David as foretold in the OT in Book of Numbers³ (Narrative book); 26 Herod knows OT and knows he could lose his position 27 5. Isaiah 60:3-6 suggests the gentile nations will bring gifts to God (*Literal Sense*); gifts of Magi signify 28 the mystery of Christ incarnate: Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh); (Allegorical sense – how relates 29 to Christ) Gold signifies ROYALTY/KINGSHIP, Frankincense is WORSHIP/DIVINITY, Myrrh 30 is a burial ointment and represents HUMANITY, PASSION and & DEATH; (Moral Sense - how 31 relates to me) Gold is Christ's wisdom shining in us (walking in wisdom), Frankincense is prayer and adoration, Myrrh is daily sacrifice (Romans 12:1); important to understand that Magi were 32 33 changed when they encountered Christ, just as we are changed. 34 6. (FQT#3) - Escape to Egypt; (Literal Sense - how relates to Christ) - Israel went into Egypt and out of Egypt, so did Christ – remember Christ is going to relive the history of Israel-fulfilling the OT 35 36 prophesy about the Messiah; many parallels between Jesus and Moses (Gen 15, Exodus 1:15 – 37 16; 2:1-10; 4:19; 34:28; Matthew 4-2) 7. (FOT#4) – Rachel² weeping (Matthew 3:16 - 18) – As Ramah³ was a place of sorrow and weeping in 38 39 OT, so Bethlehem becomes the new city of sorrows 40 8. (FQT#5) – Holy family goes to Nazareth; Matthew (NT- Mat 3:22-23) quotes Jeremiah (OT) by saying 41 "He (Joseph) went and dwelt in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the 42 prophets might be fulfilled, *He shall be called a Nazorean*." 43 9. Jesus is driving the Pharisees crazy because He is focusing on the Gentiles, but Jesus has heard from His 44 Father, He has a mission and is not swayed by what they think of Him; He is going to reemphasize 45 this over and over again and each time it gets better and better. They want Him dead. 46 ¹Formula Quotation Theology: Matthew's gospel continually looks back in order to look forward, as it is 47 48 steeped in Old Testament quotations, which function as evidence of Jesus' messianic identity. "[Matthew] 49 introduces many of his direct quotations from Scripture with the stereotyped formula 'this was to fulfill 50 what was spoken'....and they offer an authorial commentary on the narrative." Matthew has about 60 references of quotations from the Old Testament...Only in Matthew has Jesus come not to abolish the law 51

- and the prophets, but to fulfill them. That Jesus is to be related to the Scriptures is a commonplace in early
- 53 Christianity, but Matt has uniquely standardized the fulfillment of the prophet word. Besides using the
- 54 formula citations to fit the general theology of the unity of God's plan, the Matthew selected them to serve
- his particular theological and pastoral interests in addressing a mixed Christian community of Jews andGentiles.
- 56 57

²Rachel was the second wife of Jacob and his first love. She was the mother of twins Joseph and Benjamin,
who became two of the twelve tribes of Israel (Jacob's descendants became *Israel* and Esau's descendants
become *Edomites* which Herod was the descendent). Rachel died after giving birth to Benjamin and was

buried in the Benjamite town of Ramah where many died and were taken into exile.

Jacob's 1st wife was Leah, Rachel's older sister whose father Laban (wife was Rebekah and Laban was
Abraham's brother) deceived Jacob into marrying Leah first. Remember Jacob used the same type of
deceit to take the birthright from his older brother Esau (Isaac was their father and Abraham and Sarah
were Isaac's parents).

- ⁶⁷ ³Ramah: a village about 5 miles north of Jerusalem, where Rachel (1Jer 31:15 - 20) is buried (1Sam 10, 2);
- 69 Rachel was said to mourn for her children since she was the ancestress of Ephraim, the chief of the
- northern tribes who were taken into Babylonian captivity. Mt 2:18 applies this verse to the slaughter of the
- 71 innocents by Herod.
- 72



According to the Hebrew Bible, the **Tribe of Manasseh** was one of the Tribes of Israel. It is one of the ten lost tribes. Together with the Tribe of Ephraim, Manasseh also formed the *House of Joseph*.

73