

The Gospel of Matthew

Session 3: Matthew Chapter 2: The King in Exile - Prologue/Narrative

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; Micah 5:2-4 **CCC:** 528, 530

NOTES AND QUOTES

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.

1. **Formula Quotation Theology¹ (FQT):** Assumes reader knows OT and uses OT references to prove Jesus is Messiah; Is used especially in Prologue (FQT#1) as Matthew documents the birth of Jesus, 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* Gentiles
2. Need to understand major redemptive events of OT: 1. Exile (Gen 12) 2. **Passover** 3. Royal Kingdom (1000 BC) 4. Kingdom Divided – Main Prophet: Isaiah 1-39 (Book of Woe) Isaiah 40 – 55 (Book 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 and 3 of his sons who were plotting against him; he was trying to replace a collapsing dynasty 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 escaped to keep from being murdered; Esau is the father of the Edomites; descendants of both families had much animosity towards each other; Herod did not have a legitimate claim to be called king of the Jews as Jacob's family received by way of the birthright blessing and were the 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 Messianic Light of the Star of David as foretold in the OT in Book of Numbers³ (Narrative book); Herod knows OT and knows he could lose his position
5. Isaiah 60:3-6 suggests the gentile nations will bring gifts to God (*Literal Sense*); gifts of Magi signify the mystery of Christ incarnate; Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh; (*Allegorical sense – how relates to Christ*) Gold signifies ROYALTY/KINGSHIP, Frankincense is WORSHIP/DIVINITY, Myrrh is a burial ointment and represents HUMANITY, PASSION and & DEATH; (*Moral Sense – how 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 changed when they encountered Christ, just as we are changed.
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 prophesy about the Messiah; many parallels between Jesus and Moses (Gen 15, Exodus 1:15 – 16; 2:1-10; 4:19; 34:28; Matthew 4-2)
7. (FQT#4) – Rachel² weeping (Matthew 3:16 – 18) – As Ramah³ was a place of sorrow and weeping in OT, so Bethlehem becomes the new city of sorrows
8. (FQT#5) – Holy family goes to Nazareth; Matthew (NT- Mat 3:22-23) quotes Jeremiah (OT) by saying “He (Joseph) went and dwelt in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, *He shall be called a Nazorean.*”
9. Jesus is driving the Pharisees crazy because He is focusing on the Gentiles, but Jesus has heard from His Father, He has a mission and is not swayed by what they think of Him; He is going to reemphasize this over and over again and each time it gets better and better. They want Him dead.

¹ **Formula Quotation Theology:** Matthew's gospel continually looks back in order to look forward, as it is steeped in Old Testament quotations, which function as evidence of Jesus' messianic identity. “[Matthew] introduces many of his direct quotations from Scripture with the stereotyped formula ‘this was to fulfill 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

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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*.