

BAHRAIN REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH

The Journey to Egypt (Matthew 2:13-23)

August 29, 2024

The Fulfillment of the Promise

Note: The life of Christ-Jesus is not just a literary account – every event of His incarnation is revealed in the prophecies of the Old Testament.

Point: God is faithful to His Promises

1. Herod's Evil Intentions

Note: God knows every human heart – He knew Herod's wicked plan against Jesus

Review: Herod was greedy for power – he killed anyone who could pose a threat to his throne.

Result: He wanted to kill the baby Jesus because of that threat...

➤ He ordered the massacre of every male child under two years old... Mt 2:16

The Old Testament Prophecy... cf. Mt 2:17-18

Jeremiah 31:15 = There is mourning for Rachel over her children (Israel).

Context: Rachel was Jacob's wife who was named Israel... Gen 32:28; 35:9-10.

Point: Rachel is depicted as the mother of Israel mourning for the death of Israel's children at the hands of the Babylonians.

➤ The slaughter of every male infant in Egypt foreshadows what would happen at the time of Jesus' birth... Ex 1:22

Notice: From the beginning, the Devil sought to thwart the coming of Messiah...

Examples: Cain vs. Abel → Jacob vs. Esau → Joseph vs. his brothers → Pharaoh's slaughter of babies → Saul vs. David → Israel's conquerors → Herod's massacre of babies → The chief priests/Sanhedrin... etc.

Point: No matter what the Devil tries to prevent the Savior's coming, he will never succeed.

2. The Escape from Egypt

Context: An angel of God instructed Joseph in a dream to flee to Egypt because of Herod's threat... Mt 2:13

Note 1: Jesus, as being God incarnate, could die as a true human.

Point: The life of the baby Jesus was preserved for the fulfillment of the promise of salvation... Mt 2:15; Micah 5:2; Isa 7:14.

➤ The journey of the infant Jesus to Egypt needed to be fulfilled to align with the prophecy.

Hosea 11:1 = *When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son.*

When Israel was a child = Refers to the emerging Jewish population that was captive in Egypt... Ex 1:7.

NT: Refers to the infant Jesus who was taken to Egypt... Mt 2:15.

I loved him = Israel is the chosen people of God whom He has loved from the beginning... Rom 9:13a; Mal 1:2b; Eph 1:4f.

NT: Jesus is the Son of God... Jn 3:16; 15:9a.

and out of Egypt I called my son = Moses was called from Egypt to free Israel... Ex 2:1ff

NT: Jesus was called from Egypt to free (from sin) Israel.

Note 2: The terms 'Egypt' and 'Israel' have specific meanings in both the Old and New Testaments.

Egypt = enslaves people... Ex 1; 20:2.

➤ A symbol of captivity in sin = Gal 3:13; Act 7:35-40; Rev 11:8.

Israel = chosen, loved, forgiven, and saved by God in Christ... Rom 11:1, 17-20; Gal 3:6-29 = *The church*

3. Jesus and Moses

Note: Jesus is a figure of Moses' call for the liberation of God's people

Moses	Jesus
To lead to the Promised Land (Exo 6:7-8; Deut 1-16)	To lead to the New Heaven and New Earth (Isa 65:17-19; 66:22; Jn 14:2-3; 2 Pt 3:13; Rev 21:1f)
Born while the Hebrews were enslaved in Egypt... Ex 2:1ff	Born under the Roman Empire (Mt 2)
Sent to free the Hebrews from their captivity in Egypt	Sent to free people from sin and death (Rom 5:8)
Hidden and taken away as a baby due to Pharaoh's danger (Ex 2:1f)	Hidden and taken away as a baby due to Herod's danger (Mt 2:14)
Adopted to become a prince (Ex. 2:9-10)	From the beginning, already a royal and adopted by Joseph as his son (Lk 1:32; Rev 19:16)
Born without a home and laid in a basket of reeds (Ex 2:3)	Born without a home and laid in a manger (Lk 2:7)
Performed miracles so that Egypt and the Hebrews would believe in God (Ex 7-12) Example: Fed thousands through quail and manna (Ex 16:35)	Performed miracles so that sinners would trust in God... Example: Fed 5000 and 4000 people with small loaves and fish (Mk 6:30ff; 8:1ff)
Spent 40 days in Midian to strengthen his faith (Deut 9)	Fasted 40 days and overcame the Devil's temptation (Mt 4:1-11)
Worked in Midian as a shepherd (Ex 3:1)	Became the shepherd of God's people (Jn 10:1-18)
Glowed when talking with God (Ex 33:7ff; 34:29)	Glowed as God (Lk 9:28-36)
Acted as mediator between God and people as a prophet and guardian of the Hebrews (Deut 30:15-18)	Mediator as Prophet, King, and Priest (Mt 21:11; 1 Tim 2:5; Heb 4:14-16; Mt 1:1; 28:18; Rev 22:16)
Initiated the remembrance of the Passover (Ex 12)	Established the Holy Supper to remember Him (Mt 17:26ff)

4. Jesus the Nazarene

Context: After Herod's death (4 BC), the family returned to Israel to the town of Nazareth in Galilee... v.19-23

Note: The title "Jesus of Nazareth" is never mentioned in the Old Testament.

Point 1: This title reveals His humility as God incarnate... Phil 2:6-8.

- To fulfill the prophecy that He would be despised and rejected by people... Isa 53:3-4; Ps 22; Mt 8; Jn 1:10; Act 2:22ff.

Point 2: Nazareth was a small, unremarkable place... e.g., *Payatas, Quezon*.

John 1:46 = Philip: *Can anything good come out of Nazareth?*

- What Philip said is a description of how people will mock and scorn Jesus during his ministry

5. Challenges and Implications

- God chooses the humble and uses them in His vineyard... 1 Cor 1:27-28.
- Studying God's Word is not merely a fiction... the Bible should also be interpreted by the Bible (*Scripture interprets Scripture*).
- Jesus is the fulfillment of the promise – believers will never be disappointed in their hope.
- If Jesus had not fulfilled the prophecies... He would be a liar, and the Bible should not be believed – but He did fulfill them, and this is evidence of our salvation!
- Christmas is not an occasion for the lust of the eyes, but a celebration of the Messiah's coming.
- Only Jesus should be believed in, not prophets, priests, or any person... Jn 14:6.

Hope: Not only has Jesus freed us from our Egypt (sin), but God also loves us and assures that He will lead us to eternal life, with Him in the New Heaven and New Earth... Rev 21:1-4.