



A TRUE TALE OF TWO KINGS

MATTHEW 2:13-23 BIBLE STUDY

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CONTEXT: WHAT ARE YOU GETTING CHRIST FOR CHRISTMAS?



- 1 Then, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold: Magi from the East arrived in Jerusalem 2 saying, “Where is the One who was born King of the Jews? For we saw His star at its rising [or in the East] and we have come to worship Him.” 3 But when **King Herod heard**, he was **unsettled** – and all Jerusalem with him. 4 And having assembled all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah [Christ] was to be born. (Mt 2:1-4, AT)





CONTEXT: WHAT ARE YOU GETTING CHRIST FOR CHRISTMAS?



- 5 Then they said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judah. For so it has been written by the prophet: 6 ‘And you, Bethlehem, [in the] land of Judah are by no means least among the rulers of Judah. For out of you will come a ruler Who will shepherd My people, Israel [Mic 5:2].’”
- 7 Then Herod, having secretly called the Magi, ascertained from them the precise time of the shining star. 8 And sending them into Bethlehem, he said, “Go, investigate precisely about the Child. Then, when you find [Him], report back to me, so that I too may come and worship Him.”





CONTEXT: WHAT ARE YOU GETTING CHRIST FOR CHRISTMAS?



- 9 Then they, having heard the King, went and behold: the star which they had seen at its rising[or in the East]! It went before them until it came to a standstill over [the place] where the Child was. 10 When they saw the star, they were overjoyed with exceedingly great joy. 11 And when they came into the house, they saw the **Child with His mother Mary** and, falling down [to their knees], they worshipped Him. And having opened their treasure chests, they presented Him with gifts – gold, frankincense, and myrrh.
- 12 And having received a divine warning in a dream not to return to Herod, they withdrew to their land by different way. (Mt 2:9-12, AT)





MATTHEW 2:13-14
ECHOES OF EXODUS



- 13 Then, after they withdrew, behold: an angel of the Lord appears to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Get up! Take **the Child and His mother** and flee to Egypt. And stay there until I tell you. For Herod is about to pursue the Child in order to destroy Him. 14 So he got up, took **the Child and His mother** during the night, and withdrew to Egypt. (Mt 2:13-14, AT)





MATTHEW 2:13-14
ECHOES OF EXODUS



- I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their fellow Israelites, and I will put my words in his mouth. He will tell them everything I command him.
(Dt 18:18, NIV; cf. Dt 18:15)





MATTHEW 2:13-14
ECHOES OF EXODUS



- 2 There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light. 3 Just then there appeared before them **Moses** and **Elijah**, talking with Jesus. (Mt 17:2-3, NIV)





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MATTHEW 2:13-14
ECHOES OF EXODUS



- 15 The **king of Egypt** said to the Hebrew midwives, whose names were Shiphrah and Puah,
16 “When you are helping the Hebrew women during childbirth on the delivery stool, **if you see that the baby is a boy, kill him**; but if it is a girl, let her live (Ex 1:15-16, NIV)





MATTHEW 2:13-14 ECHOES OF EXODUS



- 14 The man said, “Who made you ruler and judge over us? Are you thinking of killing me as you killed the Egyptian?” Then Moses was afraid and thought, “What I did must have become known.” 15 When **Pharaoh** heard of this, he tried to **kill** Moses, but Moses **fled** from Pharaoh and went to live in Midian, where he sat down by a well. (Ex 2:14-15, NIV)





MATTHEW 2:15
ECHOES OF EXODUS



- And he stayed there until the **death** of **Herod** – in order that that which was spoken by the Lord through prophet would be fulfilled: "Out of Egypt I summoned My Son" (Mt 2:15, AT)





MATTHEW 2:15
PERSECUTED CHRIST,
PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS



- 23 When you are **persecuted** in one place, **flee** to another. Truly I tell you, you will not finish going through the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes. 24 “The **student** is not above the **teacher**, nor a **servant** above his **master**. 25 It is enough for students to be like their teachers, and servants like their masters. If the **head** of the **house** has been called Beelzebul, how much more the **members** of his **household!** (Mt 10:23-25, NIV; cf. Mt 10:17-39, 13:21)





MATTHEW 2:15
PERSECUTED CHRIST,
PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS



- 24 Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must **deny themselves** and take up their **cross** and **follow me**. 25 For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever **loses their life for me** will find it. (Mt 16:24-25, NIV)





MATTHEW 2:15
PERSECUTED CHRIST,
PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS



- 9 “Then you will be handed over to be **persecuted** and **put to death**, and you will be **hated by all nations because of me**. 10 At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, 11 and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. 12 Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, 13 but **the one who stands firm to the end will be saved**. 14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come. (Mt 24:9-14, NIV)





MATTHEW 2:15
ECHOES OF EXODUS



“When Israel was a child, I loved him,
and out of **Egypt** I called my son.
(Hos 11:1, NIV)





MATTHEW 2:15
ECHOES OF EXODUS



- Then say to Pharaoh, ‘This is what the LORD [YHWH] says: Israel is my **firstborn son**, and I told you, “Let **my son** go, so he may **worship me**.” But you refused to let him go; so I will kill your **firstborn son**.’ ” (Ex 4:22, NIV)





MATTHEW 2:15 ECHOES OF EXODUS



- 1 When Israel was a child, I loved him, and **out of Egypt I called my son**. 2 But the more they were called, the **more they went away from me**. They **sacrificed to the Baals** and they **burned incense to images**. 3 It was I who taught Ephraim [Joseph's son, referring to the northern tribes of Israel] to walk, taking them by the arms; but they did not realize it was I who healed them. 4 I led them with cords of human kindness, with ties of love. To them I was like one who lifts a **little child** to the cheek, and I bent down to feed them. 5 “Will they not return to **Egypt** and will not **Assyria rule over them** because **they refuse to repent**? 6 A sword will flash in their cities; it will devour their **false prophets** and put an end to their plans. 7 My people are **determined to turn from me**. Even though they call me God Most High, I will by no means exalt them. (Hos 11:1-7, NIV)





MATTHEW 2:15 ECHOES OF EXODUS



- “How can I give you up, Ephraim? How can I hand you over, Israel? How can I treat you like Admah? How can I make you like Zeboyim? [the kings of Admah and Zeboyim were defeated with the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah in Genesis 14] My heart is changed within me; all my compassion is aroused. 9 I will not carry out my fierce anger, nor will I devastate Ephraim again. For I am God, and not a man—the Holy One among you. I will not come against their cities. 10 They will follow the LORD [YHWH]; he will roar like a lion. When he roars, his **children** will come trembling from the west. 11 They will **come from Egypt**, trembling like sparrows, **from Assyria**, fluttering like doves. I will settle them in their homes,” declares the LORD [YHWH].

(Hos 11:8-11, NIV)





MATTHEW 2:16
A KID-KILLING KING



- Then, seeing that he had been fooled by the Magi, Herod became very angry and gave orders to execute all the boys in Bethlehem and its surrounding regions who were two years old or younger – according to the time that was precisely ascertained by the Magi. (Mt 2:16, AT)



MATTHEW 2:17-18 ECHOES OF EXILE



- 17 Then, that which was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled: 18 A voice in Ramah was heard, | weeping and great mourning | [It is] Rachel weeping for her children, | and refusing to be comforted, | because they are no more.
(Mt 2:17-18, AT)





MATTHEW 2:17-18
ECHOES OF EXILE



- This is what the LORD [YHWH] says: “A voice is heard in Ramah, mourning and great weeping, Rachel weeping for her **children** and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more.” (Jer 31:15, NIV)





MATTHEW 2:17-18 ECHOES OF HOPE



- 16 This is what the LORD [YHWH] says: “Restrain your voice from weeping and your eyes from tears, for your work will be rewarded,” declares the LORD [YHWH]. “They will **return from the land of the enemy**. 17 So there is **hope** for your descendants,” declares the LORD [YHWH]. “Your children will **return to their own land**. (Jer 31:16-17, NIV)





MATTHEW 2:17-18 ECHOES OF HOPE: NEW COVENANT



- 31 “The days are coming,” declares the LORD [YHWH], “when I will make a **new covenant** with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah. 32 It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to **lead them out of Egypt**, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them,” declares the LORD [YHWH]. 33 “This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time,” declares the LORD [YHWH]. “I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. 34 No longer will they teach their neighbor, or say to one another, ‘Know the LORD [YHWH],’ because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest,” declares the LORD [YHWH]. “For I will **forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.**” (Jer 31:31-34, NIV)





MATTHEW 2:17-18
ECHOES OF HOPE:
NEW COVENANT



- This is my blood of the **covenant**, which is poured out for many for the **forgiveness of sins**. (Mt 26:28, NIV)
- In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the **new covenant in my blood**; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.” (1 Cor 11:25, NIV)





MATTHEW 2:19-21
TEMPORARY
TYRANTS & TROUBLES



- 19 Then, after Herod **died**, behold: an angel of the Lord appears to Joseph in a dream in Egypt 20 saying "Get up! Take **the Child and His mother**, and go to the land of Israel. For those who were pursuing the Child's life have **died**. 21 So he got up, took **the Child and His mother**, and went into the land of Israel. (Mt 2:19-21, AT)





MATTHEW 2:19-21
TEMPORARY
TYRANTS & TROUBLES



- You will be **hated by everyone because of me**, but the one who **stands firm to the end** will be saved.
(Mt 10:22, NIV)





MATTHEW 2:19-21
TEMPORARY
TYRANTS & TROUBLES



- 19 Now the LORD [YHWH] had said to Moses in Midian, **“Go back to Egypt, for all those who wanted to kill you are dead.”** 20 So Moses took his **wife and sons**, put them on a donkey and started back to Egypt. And he took the staff of God in his hand. (Ex 4:19-20, NIV)



MATTHEW 2:22
ARCHELAUS:APPLE
DOESN'T FALL FAR



- But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning as king of Judea in place of his father Herod, he became afraid to go there. Then, having received a divine warning in a dream, he withdrew into the regions of Galilee. (Mt 2:22, AT)





MATTHEW 2:22
ARCHELAUS: APPLE
DOESN'T FALL FAR



The prudent **see danger** and **take refuge**,
but the simple keep going and pay the penalty.
(Pr 22:3, NIV)





MATTHEW 2:23
JESUS OF **NAZARETH**



- And he went and settled in the town called Nazareth – in order that that which was said through the prophets should be fulfilled: that He would be called a Nazarene.
(Mt 2:23, AT)





MATTHEW 2:23
JESUS OF **NAZARETH**



- **“Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?”** Nathanael asked. **“Come and see,”** said Philip. (Jn 1:46, NIV)





MATTHEW 2:23
JESUS OF NAZARETH:
DESPISED?



- This is what the LORD [YHWH] says—the Redeemer and Holy One of Israel—to him who was **despised** and **abhorred by the nation**, to the servant of rulers: “**Kings** will see you and stand up, **princes** will see and bow down, because of the LORD [YHWH], who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.” (Is 49:7, NIV)





MATTHEW 2:23
JESUS OF NAZARETH:
DESPISED?



- 2 He grew up before him like a tender **shoot**, and like a **root** out of dry ground. He had **no beauty** or **majesty** to attract us to him, **nothing** in his appearance that **we should desire** him. 3 He was **despised** and **rejected** by mankind, a man of **suffering**, and familiar with **pain**. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was **despised**, and we held him in **low esteem**.
(Is 53:2-3, NIV)





MATTHEW 2:23
JESUS OF NAZARETH:
DESPISED?



- 4 Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. 5 But he was **pierced for our transgressions**, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and **by his wounds we are healed.** (Is 53:4-5, NIV)





MATTHEW 2:23
JESUS OF NAZARETH:
NAZIRITE?



- You will become pregnant and have a son whose head is never to be touched by a razor because the boy is to be a **Nazirite** [*nazir*], **dedicated to God from the womb**. He will take the lead in delivering Israel from the hands of the Philistines.”
(Jdg 13:5, NIV)





MATTHEW 2:23
JESUS OF NAZARETH:
MESSIANIC BRANCH [*NĒṢER*]



- “The days are coming,” declares the LORD [YHWH], “when I will raise up for David a **righteous Branch**, a **King** who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land. In his days Judah will be **saved** and Israel will live in **safety**. This is the name by which he will be called: The LORD [YHWH] Our **Righteous Savior**. (Jer 23:5-6, NIV; cf. Jer 33:15; Is 4:2; Zec 3:8, 6:12)





MATTHEW 2:23
JESUS OF NAZARETH:
MESSIANIC BRANCH [*NĒṢER*]



A shoot will come up from the stump of **Jesse**;
from his roots a **Branch** [*nēṣer*] will bear fruit.
(Is 11:1, NIV)





MATTHEW 2:23
JESUS OF NAZARETH:
MESSIANIC BRANCH [*NĒṢER*]



- The Spirit of the LORD [YHWH] will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD [YHWH]— (Is 11:2, NIV; cf. Mt 3:16-17)





MATTHEW 2:23
JESUS OF NAZARETH:
MESSIANIC BRANCH [*NĒṢER*]



- This is the genealogy [more lit. *genesis*] of Jesus the **Messiah** [Christ] **the son of David**, the son of Abraham: (Mt 1:1, NIV)

