


Christmas Meditation


"The Uncelebrated Christmas Story"
Matthew 2:13-23



Matthew's "Christmas Story"

Purpose:

- To demonstrate that Jesus of Nazareth is the Messiah, the promised deliverer in fulfillment of the Scriptures



Matthew's "Christmas Story"

"The Origins of Jesus" (1:1)

1. Genealogy: Jesus' messianic credentials as the son of David (coming Davidic king)
2. Five selected scenes: each scene is presented as a "fulfillment" of Scripture

Matthew 2:13-23

Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise and 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."

And He arose and took the child and his mother by night, and departed for Egypt; and was there until the death of Herod, that what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet might be fulfilled, saying "OUT OF EGYPT DID I CALL MY SON."

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 in all its environs, from two years old and under, according to the time which he has ascertained from the magi.

Then that which was spoken through Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled, saying,

"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."

But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Arise and take the child and his mother, and go into the land of Israel; for those who sought the child's life are dead."

And he arose and took the child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel.

But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in the place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being warned in a dream, he departed for the regions of Galilee,

and came and resided in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled – He shall be called a Nazarene.

(Matthew 24:13-23; NASB)

The Uncelebrated Story

Setting:

- murderous opposition by King Herod
 - appointed by Rome as “king of the Jews”; ruled Palestine from 40 – 4 B.C.
 - he was ruthless and very paranoid

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1. Sojourn in Egypt

- Jesus’ movements re-enacted Israel’s sojourn in and exodus from Egypt
- “Fulfilled” Hosea 11:1 – Jesus is the true Son of which Israel was but a type

Jesus brings a new, greater Exodus!

The Uncelebrated Story

2. Slaughter in Bethlehem

- Fulfillment of Jeremiah 31:15
 - the weeping in Bethlehem corresponds to the weeping over the exile in Jeremiah’s day
 - the weeping of the exile is completed (fulfilled) because the Deliverer has come

The Uncelebrated Story

3. Move to Nazareth

- Fulfillment of the prophets
 - to be called a “Nazarene” implies that He would be unrecognized and despised
 - as a “Nazarene”, Jesus fulfills the motif of the rejected, suffering servant foretold by the prophets

The Uncelebrated Story

Conclusion

Jesus, who is born as the Davidic king to deliver God’s people, achieves this as a despised, rejected Savior