

Matthew 2:13-23—Depravity and Deliverance

- In his outrage (his kingdom/kingship is being threatened) he takes out vengeance on the male children of Bethlehem.
 - Illustration—ever seen a toddler throwing a massive tantrum? Kingdom threatened!
 - Note: Our depravity, and the sinful/weak/phony/empty kingdoms they represent, HATE having their reign threatened, and will unleash havoc in order to recapture it!
- **OT Links:**
 - God raises up Joseph in Egypt to save his brothers from famine. God raises up another Joseph to take his Son to Egypt to be saved from the sword.
 - Moses, who leads Israel out of Egypt, comes into the world amidst a Pharaoh who was murdering all the children.
- **The Bible is the historical, true story of the whole world—this is NOT Aesop’s Fables—This is God orchestrating ALL of actual human history to point toward and accomplish the coming of Jesus to redeem a people for his glory!**
- **MIT—in the face of deep depravity around us and inside us, Jesus stands as our powerful deliverer!**
- **Immediate Context:**
 - 2:1-12—ends with a group of foreigners who are expressing allegiance to King Jesus and defiance to King Herod
 - 2:13-18—presents a group of people who, in complete allegiance to phony king Herod, defy the true Kingship of Jesus by seeking to kill him!
- **2:15—“Out of Egypt I called my Son”—Jesus Ends Our Slavery**
 - Quote from Hosea 11:1 about Exodus/Plagues
 - **Hosea 11:1-2—When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son. The more they were called, the more they went away; they kept sacrificing to the Baals and burning offerings to idols.**
 - That whole plague story happened to prove that God is a powerful deliverer!
 - Now we see Jesus going BACK to Egypt. Jesus is inaugurating a NEW EXODUS! Joseph and Mary are NOT just getting away from Herod, they are setting the stage for God’s mercy to be displayed through a Messiah who would deliver from Egypt!
 - **Son = the entire nation of Israel, not specifically Jesus**
 - Israel, in OT, is referred to as God’s singular son. Yet, Israel proves over and over to be a disobedient and idolatrous son.
 - **Matthew—in quoting this prophecy, Matthew is declaring Jesus to be the true Israel, who will lead a new exodus!**
- **2:17-18—Prophecy out of Jeremiah 31—Jesus Ends Our Exile**
 - Why weeping? Because families were literally being ripped apart! Potentially never to be seen again! When Babylon came to take Israel to exile!
 - Jeremiah ends this bit by saying, “weep no more..because there is a coming hope.”
 - **What is the promise?—Jeremiah 31:16-34—God will send a new King to inaugurate a new Kingdom which will bring his people back to one another!**
 - **Jeremiah 31:15-17, 31-34—Thus says the Lord: “A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping. Rachel is weeping for her children; she refuses to be comforted for her children, because they are no more.” Thus says the Lord: “Keep your voice from weeping, and your eyes from tears, for there is a reward for your work declares the Lord, and they shall come back from the land of the enemy. There is hope for your future declares the Lord, and your children shall come back to their own country.”...“Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the Lord. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my**

law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."

- Jesus is not just inaugurating a new exodus but ENDING a mournful exile!
- Jesus rescues from high-level, cultural depravity! Depravity on display here—infanticide, murder, total wickedness
- "the world" (all that exists in our universe NOT under the lordship of Christ) is in outright RAGE-FILLED warfare against the true King and his Kingdom!
 - Racism, poverty, abortion, broken families, devastated foster care system, orphans, oppression/abuse at the hand of capitalism/big business, etc, etc.
 - The enemy is dead but still deadly and he is waging war from the grave!
 - This passage screams HOPE in the midst of pain/chaos/depravity! A new King is born who will conquer death, heal our hurts and reconcile us to God!
- This chapter reminds us that Jesus' coming not only SOLVES problems but CREATES problems!
 - He is, definitively, a subversive KING!
 - New Covenant!! — God is not simply on a societal improvement plan but a salvation-securing plan!
- 2:23— Called a Nazarene— Jesus Gives Extravagant Grace
 - NOT a direct quote of the OT
 - Notice— "what was spoken by the PROPHETS"—this is a general allusion to what Nazarene means!
 - What is "a Nazarene"—a Nazarene is a place of the nobody and an outcast and an enemy!
 - John 1:45-46— Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see."
 - Isaiah 53— Jesus was despised and rejected by men!
 - All of chapter 2 is declaring, Jesus came to save his enemies!
 - Herod, Priest, chief priests, etc.—all these people are set up as the enemies of Jesus and yet Jesus has come to save them! Jesus has come to save us!
- Jesus delivers from the depravity INSIDE of us!
 - There are bad guys in Matthew 2 and there is a good guy in Matthew 2—do you identify more with King Herod or with Jesus?
 - Afraid of a king who will invade our kingdoms and desires and depravities.
 - Jesus isn't just bringing peace and hope to the chaos and depravity OUT THERE but the chaos and depravity INSIDE OUR HEARTS!
 - Make no mistake about it—if we had been there when Jesus showed up, outside of God's outrageous grace, we would NOT HAVE WELCOMED HIM. WE WOULD HAVE REJECTED HIM.
 - God's mercy in salvation = in his mercy, he OVERCOMES our rebellion and rejection of Jesus, and draws us into the beauty and freedom and joy of forgiveness and salvation!
 - Our tendency = look at Herod and think, "how on earth could you do that...miss the king...etc, etc.?"
 - In just a few chapters, Jesus will teach us that the hatred we are willing to harbor in our hearts is just as wicked as the murderous tantrum of Herod in Matthew 2. WE ARE NOT BETTER THAN HEROD!
 - May we mourn both the depravity OUT THERE and the depravity IN HERE!
- In the face of depravity around us and inside us, Jesus is the True and Final Deliverer!
 - Herod = a wicked king, unleashing every measure of evil to seek to protect his power and kingdom.
 - Jesus = a righteous king, unleashing every measure of mercy, to redeem and rescue his enemies and to bring joy, peace, hope and salvation to all creation!

- Herod, the phony king, died (v.19). Jesus, our deliverer, died and yet DID NOT STAY DEAD! Jesus is the display of God's mercy as he represents the grace of God to save his enemies!
- Jesus is our deliverer! He demands we come and submit to him and surrender to him and thus TURN AWAY FROM THE SIN AND SLAVERY REPRESENTED IN OUR EXILE! Have Jesus rather than exile!
- Herod and all our false, idolatrous kings = serve me or die!
- Jesus our True King = even when you reject me, I will die for you!
- Applications:
 - It is not safe to oppose the plan of God—resistance only leads to pain, misery, death
 - God is sovereignly working ALL things according to HIS PLAN—resisting that plan is the essence of futility.
 - Do not fear opposition but respond in faith and obedience—protect and preserve ourselves and families by listening, obeying, and trusting God with the results!
 - Parents—may we set an example for our children that we turn to God's word in trust and obedience in good/bad, fear/peace, security/anxiety, etc.
 - Come to Jesus—there are competing kingdoms but only ONE TRUE KING!
 - Psalm 2—depicts the happenings of Matthew 2 so well.
 - Psalm 2—Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and against his Anointed, saying, "Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us." He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision. Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury, saying, "As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill." I will tell of the decree: The Lord said to me, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you. Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel." Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth. Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled. Blessed are all who take refuge in him.
 - Nations conspiring and raging against the Messiah
 - God laughing—a dreadful, scornful, laugh at the folly of rejecting the Anointed One.
 - "Be wise...be warned...Kiss the Son"—bow before the Son! He WILL have his full kingship. The hands he holds forth are hands scared with nail holes from the cross he bore in your place! There is coming a day (could be soon) where he will reign in judgement on ALL wickedness. Today is the day of GRACE...receive it! Blessed are all who take refuge in him!