

LESSON 3: MATTHEW 2

FEBRUARY 6, 2008

OVERVIEW

- . Matthew continues to build his case that Jesus is Messiah, by linking three key events in his early life, with Old Testament prophecy.
 - . Bethlehem
 - . Egypt
 - . Nazareth
- . Matthew reveals three different reactions to Christ
 - . Those who see, believe and worship the Lord
 - . Those who accumulate knowledge, yet can't surrender themselves fully to Christ
 - . Those who reject and seek to destroy Christ

MATTHEW CONTINUES TO LINK CHRIST'S EARLY YEARS TO OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECY

- . Born in Bethlehem: Matthew 2: 1-6
 - . Micah's prophecy: Micah 5:2
 - . Micah lived about 700 years before Christ at the same time as Isaiah
 - . Micah's prophecy alternates between periods of great peril in Israel and periods of great hope
 - . By the time of Christ, much of Micah's prophecy had already been fulfilled (the fall of the Northern kingdom)
 - . The high priests of Judah had a high regard for Micah
 - . A Star will be the guiding light
 - . Genesis 1: 14-18
 - . Numbers 24:17
 - . Luke 21:25
 - . Revelation 22:16
- . Escape to Egypt: Matthew 2: 13-18
 - . Jeremiah 31:15
 - . Rachael is Jacob's wife who died in childbirth – Genesis 35: 19-20
 - . Hosea 11:1
 - . Lived around the same time as Micah
 - . Hosea was ordered by God to remain in a marriage with his adulteress

- wife and to continue to love her despite her unfaithfulness
- . The story of Hosea parallels the history of God's relationship with Israel
- . Hosea 11:1 draws a close connection between the Exodus, God's freeing his people from human bondage and Jesus and God's willingness to liberate us from our sinful bondage

Return to Nazareth: Matthew 2: 19-20

- . The Jews did not have a high regard for Galilee and Nazareth
 - . John 1: 43-47
 - . John 7:52
- . Nazarene comes from the Greek word *nazoraïos* and the Hebrew word *nezer* which means branch
 - . Isaiah 11:1
 - . Jeremiah 23:5
- . Nazarene was a word used in Jesus' day to describe something that was despised

MATTHEW REVEALS THREE DIFFERENT REACTIONS TO CHRIST

- . Those who saw, believed and worshipped
 - . The Magi: Matthew 2:2, 2: 10-11
 - . Who were the Magi?
 - . Joseph and Mary: Matthew 2: 13-14, 19-23
- . Those who had accumulated Bible knowledge, yet just couldn't surrender themselves to Christ
 - . Chief Priests and teachers of the law: Matthew 2: 4-5
 - . Knew the prophecy but choose not to follow the Magi
- . Those who reject and seek to destroy Christ
 - . Herod the Great: Matthew 2:3, 7-8, 16-17
 - . Herod's son, Herod Archelaus: Matthew 2:22
 - . Those men believed prophecy enough to fear it
 - . Yet these men were arrogant enough to think they could change it
 - . They were blinded by pride and power

NEXT LESSON: ~~FEBRUARY 20, 2008~~ – MATTHEW 3

MARCH 5, 2008

THE
MEDITERRANEAN
SEA

GALILEE

•
NAZARETH

•
CAPERNAUM

SEA
OF
Galilee

SAMARIA

JORDAN RIVER

JUDEA

•
JERUSALEM

•
BETHLEHEM

DEAD
SEA

