

The Aftermath of the Advent

Matthew 2:1-20

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Matthew is inspired to reveal four fulfillments of OT prophecy in the birth and early life of Jesus.

I. Jesus was born in Bethlehem fulfilling the prophecy of Micah 5:2, 4. (v. 1-12)

a. Gentiles traveled eight to nine hundred miles to joyfully celebrate the birth of the Messiah. (v. 1-3, 9-12) (Daniel 9:24-27)

“The Gentiles shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.” (Isaiah 60:3)

“I see him, but not now;

I behold him, but not near.

A star will come out of Jacob;

a scepter will rise out of Israel. (Numbers 24:17)

b. Herod the Great was alarmed at the news of the birth of a king. (v. 3-8)

c. Jewish religious leaders were indifferent to the information and did not travel six miles to investigate.

II. An angel warns Joseph to flee to Egypt fulfilling a second prophecy regarding the Messiah’s place of origin. (v. 13-15) (Hosea 11:1)

III. Herod wickedly tries to exterminate any threat to his throne thus fulfilling another OT prophecy. (v. 16-18) (Jeremiah 31:15; Revelation 12:1-5)

A great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head. ² She was pregnant and cried out in pain as she was about to give birth. ³ Then another sign appeared in heaven: an enormous red dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on its heads. ⁴ Its tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth. The dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that it might devour her child the moment he was born. ⁵ She gave birth to a son, a male child, who “will rule all the nations with an iron scepter.”^[a] And her child was snatched up to God and to his throne. (Revelation 12:1-5)

IV. An angel directed Joseph back to Israel after Herod's death, specifically to Nazareth in fulfillment of additional OT prophecies. (v. 19-23) (Isaiah 11:1, 49:7a, 53:2-3; John 1:45-46; Acts 24:5; Psalms 22:6-8, 69:20-21; Romans 8:17; Hebrews 12:1-3)

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;
from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. (Isaiah 11:1)

Philip found Nathanael and told him, “We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.”
“Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?” Nathanael asked. (John 1:45-46)

“We have found this man to be a troublemaker, stirring up riots among the Jews all over the world. He is a ringleader of the Nazarene sect... (Acts 24:5)

This is what the LORD says—
the Redeemer and Holy One of Israel—
to him who was despised and abhorred by the nation,
to the servant of rulers: (Isaiah 49:7a)

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. (Isaiah 53:2-3)

But I am a worm and not a man,
scorned by everyone, despised by the people.
All who see me mock me;
they hurl insults, shaking their heads.
“He trusts in the LORD,” they say,
“let the LORD rescue him.
Let him deliver him,
since he delights in him.” (Psalms 22:6-8)

Scorn has broken my heart
and has left me helpless;
I looked for sympathy, but there was none,
for comforters, but I found none.
They put gall in my food
and gave me vinegar for my thirst. (Psalms 69:20-21)

Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory. (Romans 8:17)

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. (Hebrews 12:1-3)