

The Gospel of Matthew #11

DISPLAYING JESUS

Matthew 2:13-18

I. Reading the story at one level...

It is about God's sovereign protection of Jesus, Joseph, and Mary from evil Herod

The angel comes to warn

Joseph's obedience

God's Son a refugee!

The terrible massacre of the babies in Bethlehem

Herod is removed and Jesus is protected

II. Reading the story at a deeper level...

It is about Jesus and Who He is as the Messiah

Matthew's use of the OT to do this

His use of "fulfill" is often to "fill up" the meaning

A. So far

1. Messianic lineage: the Son of David: 1:1-17

2. Immanuel from Isaiah 7:14

3. Joshua/Jesus the Deliverer/Savior

4. The King of the Nations: the magi from Daniel

5. The Shepherd of Micah 5:2

So Reformed covenantal preaching of Jesus in the OT is not "our thing" but the way Matthew and the rest of the NT writers see Him. The unity of the Bible in revealing Christ is **awesome!** Worship!

B. And now from 2:13-17

1. The true _____ : v15 quotes **Hosea 11:1**

You cannot thwart His purposes. But you can resist to your destruction (Psalm 2). Beware.

2. The true _____ : v15 quotes **Hosea 11:1**

He delivers His people from the Bondage of Satan's Kingdom. Your slavery to Satan is far more terrible than Israel's to Pharaoh

3. The true _____ : v18 quotes Jeremiah **31:15**

Ramah was a small town c5mi N of Jerusalem, where exiles were gathered on their way to Babylonia.

Rachel (Jacob/Israel's wife) is the idealized Mother of Israel, presented by Jeremiah as weeping for her lost children because they are no longer a nation. Deep grief and hopelessness

But Jeremiah 31 is a message of **HOPE!** God will restore the nation (v16-17) and will establish a new covenant, superior to the one at the Exodus! If only Rachel could see the outcome she would be comforted.

Jesus is going to bring back the Captives into His Kingdom of Peace forever! If only the mothers of Bethlehem could see that all Herods will be destroyed—and death itself by this One he was trying to kill, they would be comforted.

So Jesus is *your* Hope is a world of hopelessness and death.

Mathew's purpose is to display Jesus above all. How does that compare with your purpose?