

“All This Took Place to Fulfill . . .”

Matthew 1:18-2:23

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*Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²²**All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken** by the prophet: ²³“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us). ²⁴When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.*

2 *Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ²saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” ³When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for **so it is written by the prophet:** ⁶“ ‘And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.’ ” ⁷Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.” ⁹After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. ¹²And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way. ¹³Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” ¹⁴And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt ¹⁵and remained there until the death of Herod. **This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet,** “Out of Egypt I called my son.” ¹⁶Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. ¹⁷**Then was fulfilled** what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: ¹⁸“A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be comforted, because they are no more.” ¹⁹But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in*

a dream to Joseph in Egypt, ²⁰saying, “Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child’s life are dead.” ²¹And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. ²²But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. ²³And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, so **that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled**, that he would be called a Nazarene. Matthew 1:18-2:23 (ESV) [bolding, mine]

Take-Home Truth: The Messianic prophecies are fulfilled in Jesus of Nazareth.

The Pattern for all Five Stories

- One brief episode in Jesus’ life is told.
- Then a formula is given: “All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet . . .” Matthew 1:22a (English Standard Version)
- Then a specific Old Testament Scripture is quoted.

Story #1: Jesus of Nazareth was “Son of David” and more than “Son of David”.
(See Matthew 1:18-25)

Two Actions Needed for Legal Adoption

- Joseph accepted Mary as his wife.
- Joseph named Jesus.

Yeshua = “Joshua” in the Old Testament = “Jesus” in the New Testament = “salvation”

“ . . . the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” Matthew 20:28 (ESV)

ransom = the price paid to redeem someone from bondage or captivity

Story #1 Formula and Scripture: *All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us).* Matthew 1:22 (ESV)

Story #1 Subplot: When God speaks, will we obey?

Observations

- Believers must be alert to God's voice to hear His voice.
- Fear acts as a major force against obedience.
- Obedience demands a decision.

Story #2: JESUS OF NAZARETH WASN'T FROM NAZARETH!

(See Matthew 2:1-12)

Story #2 Formula and Scripture: “. . .for so it is written by the prophet: ⁶“And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.”” Matthew 2:5-6 (ESV)

Story #3: JESUS OF NAZARETH WAS THE FORERUNNER OF A NEW “EXODUS.”

(See Matthew 2:13-15)

Story #3 Formula and Scripture: *This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, “Out of Egypt I called my son.”* Matthew 2:15b (ESV)

Story #4: JESUS IDENTIFIED WITH THE SUFFERING OF HIS PEOPLE AND BRINGS FUTURE HOPE. (See Matthew 2:16-18)

Story #4 Formula and Scripture: *Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: ¹⁸“A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be comforted, because they are no more.”* Matthew 2:17-18 (ESV)

Story #5: BY GOD'S PLAN, JESUS' FAMILY SETTLED IN AN OBSCURE PLACE
(See Matthew 2:19-23)

Story #5 Formula and Scripture: *And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, so that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, that he would be called a Nazarene.*
Matthew 2:23 (ESV)

Application Tip: Spend some time considering what you've been hearing from God over the last weeks and months. Is there an invitation from God that you have been putting off or resisting? If so, why? Finally, tell God your fears and ask Him to help you choose obedience.