

Matthew 2

READ: Matthew 2:

2 things are very prevalent in this passage:

- 1) The number of OT prophecies quoted & fulfilled by Jesus, &
- 2) God's providence as conveyed thru angelic messengers

Prophecies/Providence testify of God's omniscience – both before the event (*prophecy*) & during the event (*providence*). But this morning, I want us to focus on just one prophecy:

“This fulfilled what the Lord had spoken through the prophet (Hosea): ‘I called my Son out of Egypt.’”

As we trace the biblical theme, **“I called My Son out of Egypt!”** from Old to New Testaments, my goal is simple: to marvel at the relentlessness of God's plan from Creation to form a people of His own to be His agents, doing His will, His way on earth. Jesus said it best when He taught His disciples to pray: ***“Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven!”*** (*who says I can't speak King James English?!*)

God first attempted to create a people for Himself in the Garden. Adam & Eve were God's regents on earth, doing life with Him His way...until they distrusted Him. Murder, unfaithfulness, idol worship & “every man for himself” ruled until God ended humanity with the flood – and began again with Noah.

But the sinfulness of humanity escalated again. Men worshipped himself & idols, not God, & ignored His purpose for mankind – ***to fill the whole earth*** with people who knew, loved & worshipped Him. Man's sinfulness & egotism climaxed in the tower of Babel – so God forced them to spread out and populate the world by confusing their language.

Next, God chose Abraham, and thru him, Isaac, and the believing descendants his son, Jacob (Israel), to be His earthly nation. The Israelites – the descendants of the 12 sons of Israel – were led by God thru a famine out of Canaan into the land of Egypt. But after Joseph, the hero of Egypt, died, the multiplying descendants of Israel were enslaved by the new Pharaoh. Tho they had not been faithful worshipers of God, yet they cried out to Him in their distress, and God saved them thru 10 plagues out

of their oppressive slavery and into life with Him as His people. We know this as “the exodus,” the physical demonstration of the spiritual salvation completed by Jesus & available in Him!

Of this “exodus” from slavery into freedom, God says thru Hosea, ***“When Israel was a child, I loved him, & I called my son out of Egypt.”*** The context directs our understanding:

- God wasn't speaking of Jacob/Israel; he never lived in E!
- God was speaking of the Israelites, His first “nation-son”

And so we have God's OT people, the nation Israel – birthed by God out of the travail of slavery into true freedom: knowing God & doing His will His way on earth. As a result, Israel was meant to live the best earthly life possible & to witness to all the other pagan nations about living in a loving relationship w/ God. Hosea's prophecy in 550 BC points back to this historical event by which God called His nation-son out of Egypt. ***Or does it?***

You know that we serve a God who can speak a truth one day that has a literal meaning in that specific context AND centuries later, an expanded meaning in a different context!

And here's a prime example! **READ: Matthew 2:13-15 (NLT)**

-Hosea spoke it in reference to God's nation-son, Israel, & the exodus. Truly, God did call His son, Israel, out of Egypt -But 1500 years later, this same word of God links us to the full & final meaning of Hosea's prophecy: God called His only begotten Son, Jesus the Christ, out of Egypt & into His mission to reconcile humanity back to God eternally.

And though Jesus is the ultimate subject of this OT prophecy, the truth that God calls His sons out of Egypt doesn't stop with Jesus...in fact, it actually begins with Him! Egypt was originally the physical place of Israel's slavery; but it has come to mean a metaphor representing slavery to Sin from which God, thru Jesus, saves us! By trusting Jesus, we experience a spiritual exodus from slavery to Sin into freedom with God as His sons who He calls out of Egypt into Eternal, Abundant Life with Him. ***God still calls His sons (& daughters) out of Egypt!***

And how will we respond to a God who demonstrates His truth both when He speaks it AND ultimately in His Savior

forever? Would we ever ask this God, “Where are you?” believing that He might be otherwise preoccupied, or ignorant of our specific situation, or uncaring about our needs or desires? Will this demonstration of God’s omniscience provoke in us the kind of confidence in Him that changes our walk, trust, & witness? Certainly, we are God’s people – recreated in Christ to enjoy a loving relationship with Him, confident of His ability & willingness to provide everything we need for the best life possible!

INVITATION:

- 1) Is God calling you out of Egypt/Sin into eternal life in Jesus?
- 2) Will you leave behind the things of Egypt for life w/ God?
- 3) Will you follow God’s Spirit in you into the best earthly life?

MEDITATION: 1Peter 8-12 (NIV)

8) Though you have not seen him (Jesus), you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, 9) for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

10) Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, 11) trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of the Messiah and the glories that would follow. 12) It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things.

Of course, Jesus accomplished the salvation promised by God since Creation – but not until 3,000 years later. In the meantime, God used prophets to reveal bits & pieces of this salvation plan progressively. Each of these prophecies were ultimately fulfilled in Christ; but they also had limited meaning when they were spoken – one meaning in context, another in Christ.

This morning we’ll see how the glorious word of God can have literal meaning in the immediate context & expanded, symbolic and even metaphoric meaning much later in Jesus Christ for the sons God calls out of Egypt!

SERMON IN A SENTENCE: God Calls Sons Out of Egypt!