

12/07/2025

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MATTHEW

That It Might Be Fulfilled

Matthew 02:13-23

I. Introduction

a. The Word Received

- i. Magi – traveled 800 miles to Jerusalem (where else would you to find the King of the Jews) – found the King, offered gifts, worshipped Him, defied Herod
- ii. Chief priests and scribes (called by Herod when he was troubled by the news of the magi)
 1. Experts in the law – knew the Old Testament prophecies – Micah 5 – ***Matt 2:6 ‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.’ ”***
 2. It wasn’t just experts who knew the prophecies – ***John 7:40 CSB When some from the crowd heard these words, they said, “This truly is the Prophet.” 41 Others said, “This is the Messiah.” But some said, “Surely the Messiah doesn’t come from Galilee, does he? 42 Doesn’t the Scripture say that the Messiah comes from David’s offspring and from the town of Bethlehem, where David lived?” 43 So the crowd was divided because of him.***
 3. They were content knowing and not doing anything with that knowledge – other than show it off
- iii. Herod – troubled – the fulfillment of what was written was a threat to him and his throne
 1. ***Mat 2:7 Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared. 8 And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found Him, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also.”***
 2. Political savvy – make the magi do the difficult work of tracking down the child without having to expend any of his own resources
 - a. The magi defied his orders and went home another way

13 Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, “Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him.” 14 When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, 15 and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, “Out of Egypt I called My Son.” 16 Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men. 17 Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying: 18 “A voice was heard

in Ramah, Lamentation, weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, Refusing to be comforted, Because they are no more.” 19 Now when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, 20 saying, “Arise, take the young Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the young Child’s life are dead.” 21 Then he arose, took the young Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel. 22 But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea instead of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being warned by God in a dream, he turned aside into the region of Galilee. 23 And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, “He shall be called a Nazarene.”

II. Fulfilled prophesy

- a. Matthew is doing a couple things in these first two chapters that carry through to the rest of his gospel
 - i. One is fairly obvious the other maybe not so much
- b. That it might be fulfilled, so it is written
 - i. *Mat 1:21 And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.” 22 So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: 23 “Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us.”*
 - ii. *Mat 2:5 So they said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet: 6 ‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.’ ”*
 - iii. *Mat 2:14 When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, 15 and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, “Out of Egypt I called My Son.”*
 - iv. *Mat 2:17 Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying: 18 “A voice was heard in Ramah, Lamentation, weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, Refusing to be comforted, Because they are no more.”*
 - v. *Mat 2:23 And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, “He shall be called a Nazarene.”*
 1. Virgin birth spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, His birth in Bethlehem spoken of by the prophet Micah, He was called out of Egypt spoken of by the prophet Hosea, weeping over the children spoken of by the prophet Jeremiah, He will be called a Nazarene generally spoken of by many of the prophets
 2. So what? Why is this so important?
- c. Marbles and red cups
 - i. If a took you to the roof of the church and showed you 300 randomly placed cups – handed you a marble, put a blindfold on you, spun you around, and told you to throw it – what chance would you have landing it one of those cups
 - ii. If I handed you five marbles – what chance would have in landing them all in 5 different cups
 1. You would have a better chance of doing that then someone randomly fulfilling all 5 of those prophecies

- iii. 300 cups isn't an arbitrary number - those 5 prophecies are only 5 of over 300 messianic prophecies Jesus has fulfilled
 - 1. You would have a greater chance of taking 300 marbles and throwing them into 300 cups one right after the other than someone randomly fulfilling all of those prophecies
- d. Let's add three more prophecies - being betrayed for 30 pieces of silver, having His hands and feet pierced, and soldiers gambling for His clothes,
 - i. A Christian mathematician named Peter Stoner once asked 'What are the odds of one man accidentally fulfilling just 8 specific messianic prophecies?'
 - 1. 1 in 10^{17}
 - 2. That's hard to picture, so Stoner gave this illustration - Imagine we take 10^{17} silver dollars - that's 100 quadrillion coins and randomly marked one of them with a red X - then they were mixed thoroughly and spread over the entire state of Texas (twice the size of Arizona). The whole state would be covered in silver dollars about two feet deep. Then we blindfold a person, set them down anywhere in Texas, and tell them to walk as far as they want and dig as deep into the coins as they want to and pick one out
 - 3. The chance of them picking the right coin on the first try is about 1 in 10^{17} .
 - a. That is the same kind of odds as one man accidentally fulfilling just eight prophecies.
 - b. Jesus fulfilled over 300

III. The Importance of Fulfilled Prophecy

- a. God has a plan
 - i. Every fulfilled prophecy about Jesus reveals a promise kept by God Himself
 - 1. "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."
 - 2. Paul says Jesus came "according to the Scriptures" - 1 Cor - "Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures."
 - a. Hundreds of years, multiple authors, different cultures all speaking of the same plan.
- b. God is fulfilling that plan and will see it through to completion
 - i. God is sovereign over history, not reacting to it
 - 1. God isn't predicting history, He is guiding it - directing it - to accomplish His purposes
 - 2. ***Isaiah 46: 9 Remember the former things of old, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, 10 Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things that are not yet done, Saying, 'My counsel shall stand, And I will do all My pleasure,'***
 - 3. Peter in Acts 2 - "*this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.*"
 - 4. Jesus knew His life, death, and resurrection were part of God's plan
 - a. Matthew 5 - "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them."
 - b. Matthew 26 - "The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed!"
- c. It's not only that God has a plan and is faithfully bringing it to pass

- i. What matters just as much is God’s purpose behind the plan. His heart, His motivation.
 - 1. Put another way – It’s not simply that God promised Jesus’ would come, or that He arrived exactly as God said He would; it’s the “why” the purpose behind His coming, His death, and His resurrection, just as it was written.
- ii. And that brings us to the second thing Matthew is doing throughout His gospel

IV. Jesus the Better Moses

- a. Read this again and think about echoes of the Old Testament
 - i. ***Mat 2:13 Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, “Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him.” 14 When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, 15 and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, “Out of Egypt I called My Son.”***
 - 1. Escaping to Egypt, massacre of the infants, Jesus is miraculously saved
 - 2. Does any of that sound familiar?
 - 3. Right from the beginning Matthew is tying Jesus’ story Moses’
 - a. Delivered from Tyranny and Threat
 - b. Called out of Egypt to begin their ministry
 - ii. Similarities won’t end there
 - 1. Wilderness Experience and Temptation
 - 2. Sermon on the Mount and Moses receiving the law on Mount Sinai
 - 3. God’s authority demonstrated through miracles
 - 4. Moses even appears with Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration
- b. Again, the question is why?
 - i. Goes back to Jesus’ words in Matthew 5 - “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.”
 - 1. Matthew reveals to His audience that Jesus as the ultimate fulfillment of God’s promises, not just a new Moses but one who surpasses Moses in authority, power, ability to save
 - a. Moses was a deliverer and lawgiver – the mediator of the Old Covenant
 - b. Jesus is the great deliverer and life giver – the mediator of the New Covenant
 - i. Luke 22 - ‘This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.’”
 - ii. Matthew 26 - “for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.”
 - c. ***1 Cor 3:4 And we have such trust through Christ toward God. 5 Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God, 6 who also made us sufficient as ministers of the new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.***
 - ii. Not only does all the fulfilled prophecy about the Messiah reveal that God has a plan and that He is fulfilling that plan

1. But it reveals the purpose of that plan – to completely and thoroughly save mankind from their sins – to do something that we cannot do on our own
 2. Jesus was not plan B – Isaiah 53 speaks of the nature of His suffering
 3. ***Jer 31: 31 “Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah— 32 not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the Lord. 33 But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. 34 No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.”***
 4. Luke 24 - “And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.”
 5. Peter writes in 1st Peter “Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully... It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you...”
- iii. God’s plan is to rescue His people
- c. Conclusion
- i. Fulfilled prophecy shows God is sovereign – He has a plan and He is faithfully bringing that plan to completion
 1. Census drives you to Bethlehem
 2. A murderous king drives you to Egypt
 3. Things feel out of control, God is in control
 - ii. Fulfilled prophecy shows God’s heart is to save
 1. “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”
 2. And when He does, He saves completely