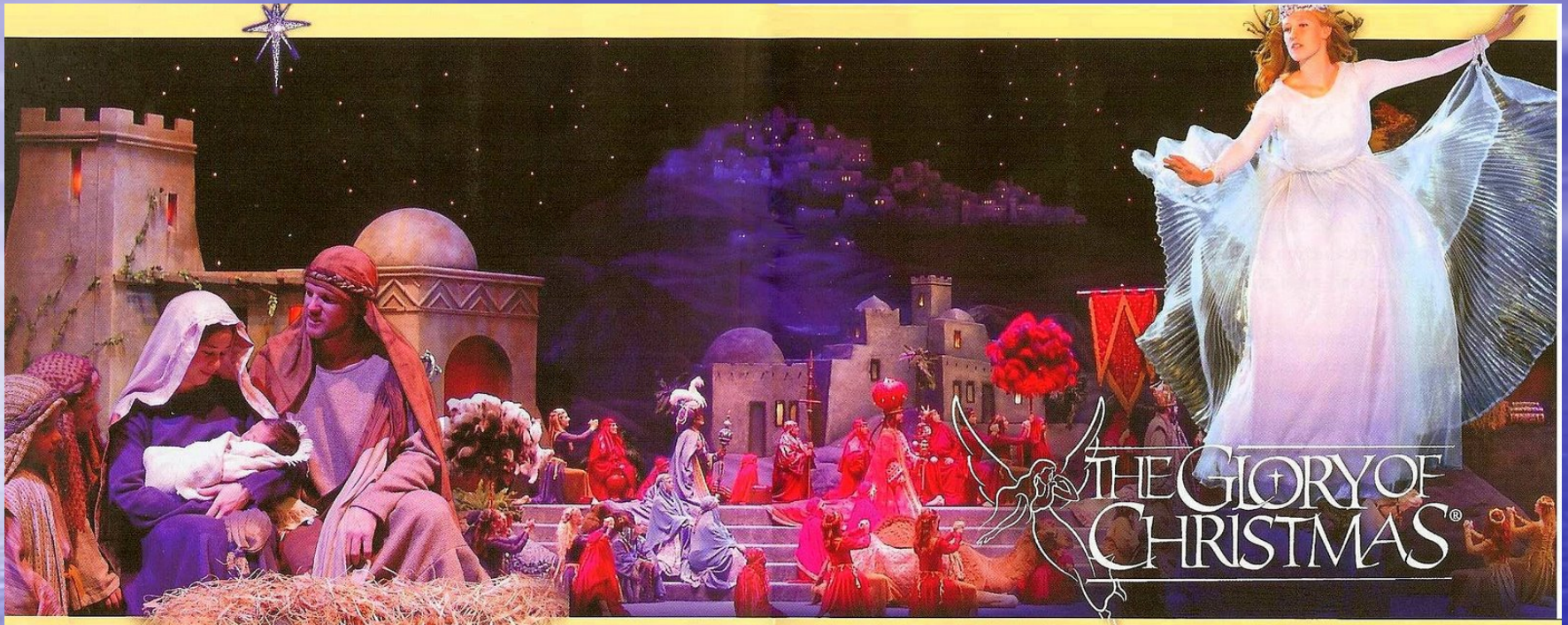


A MERRY CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION





Give a brief account of the Christmas Nativity story?

THE GOSPEL OF MARK

The beginning of the gospel about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in Isaiah the prophet:

"I will send my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way"—

"a voice of one calling in the desert,

'Prepare the way for the Lord,

make straight paths for him.' " And so John came, baptizing in the desert region and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. And this was his message: "After me will come one more powerful than I, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Mark 1:1-8 NIV

What does this tell us of the coming of Jesus?

THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

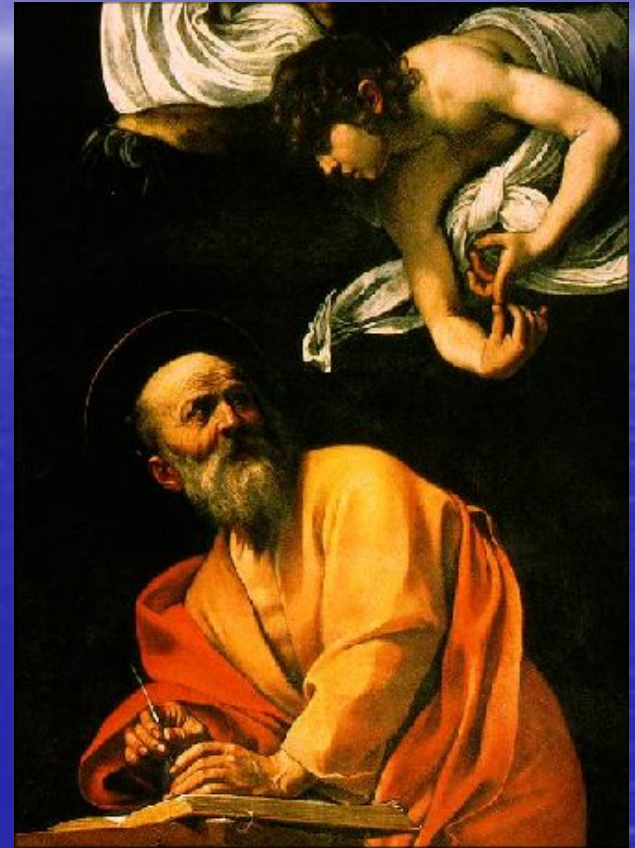
Written for Jewish audience

The major theme is convince readers of Jesus claim to be the King of the Jews and the Messiah.

Writing on two levels

Surface story

Rich in Jewish tradition with underlying agenda to proclaim message



The Genealogy of Jesus

Matthew 1:1-17

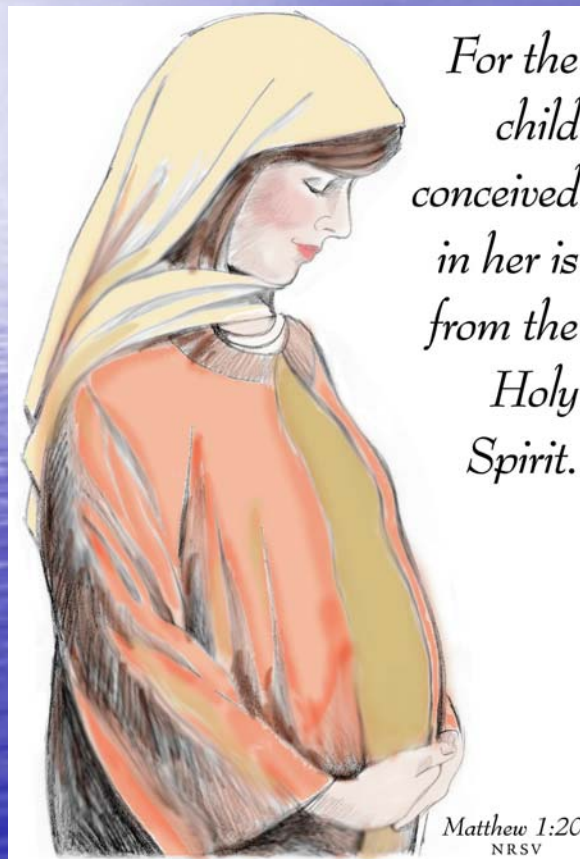
How does verse 1 set the theme of Matthew's Gospel?

When you read the genealogy of Jesus what surprises you?

What is the significance of verse 17?



Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.



- Establishes the tone of the Gospel in first words – Jesus the Messiah
- Mary was not a single woman but engaged to Joseph
- Shows God's intervention
- Establishes presence of Holy Spirit
- Establishes Jesus humanity and divinity

Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly.

Qualities of Joseph:

- Righteous
- Caring
- Obedient
- Quiet

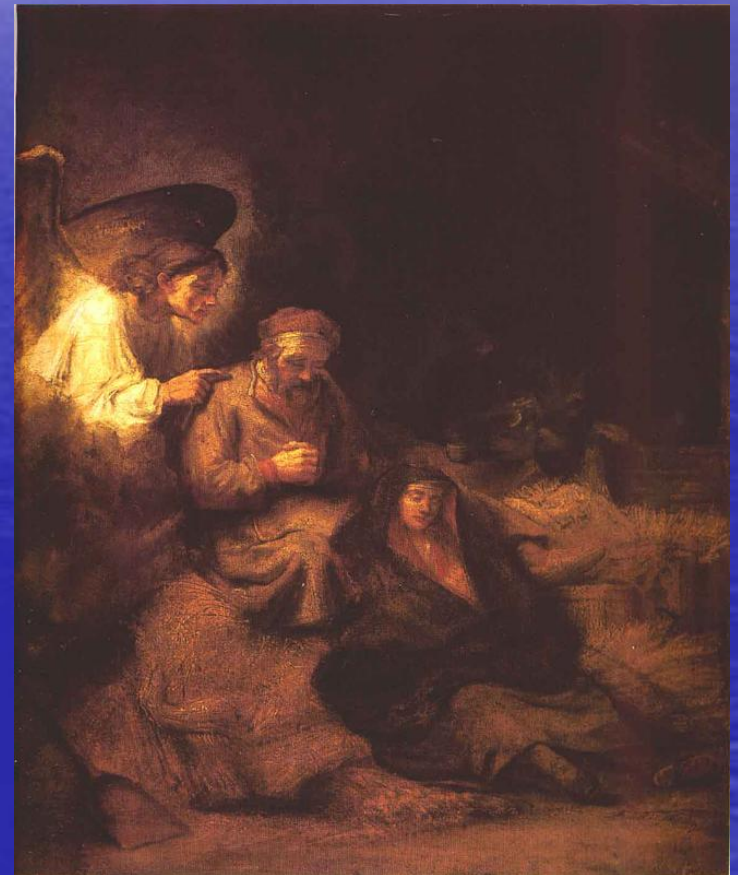
**GOD PRESENTS
OTHER OPTIONS**



But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.

Matthew shows us:

- God's intervention in human lives
- Place of dreams in God's revelations
- Joseph's lineage to David established
- Concept of Holy Spirit raised for second time



She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the prophet:

“Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.”

The **virgin** will be with **child** and will give birth to a son, and they will call him **Immanuel**.

Matthew 1:23



The first name - Ye-shua

- Joshua, Jesus
- Yahweh (God) saves
- Matthean proclamation of Jesus saving power and so his work
- Jesus manifested as being one with God

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Matthew 1:23

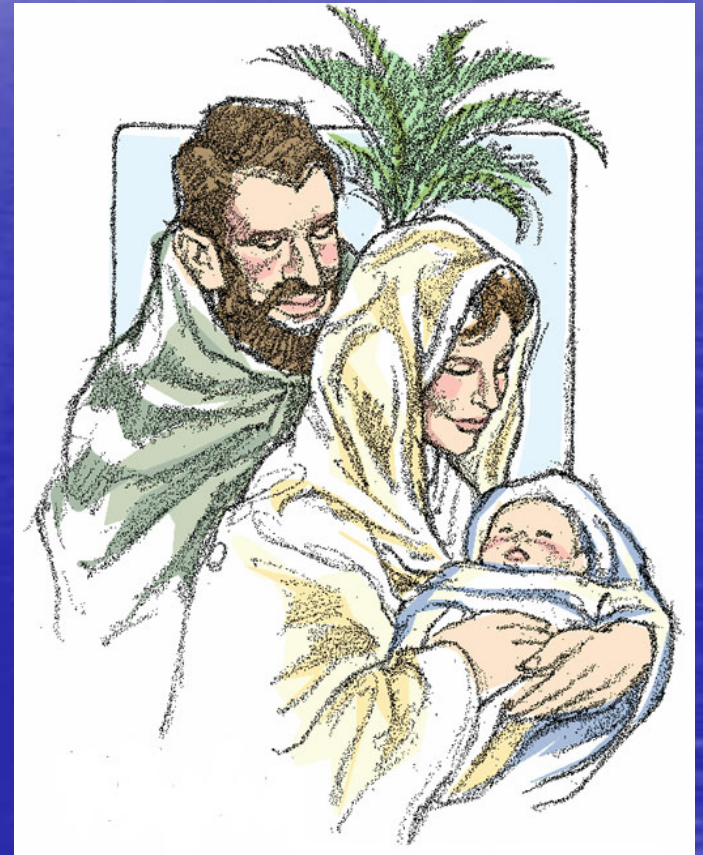


The second name - Emmanu-El

- God with us
- Matthew's use of Old Testament (Isaiah 7:14)
- Prophecy fulfilled
- Concept of virgin birth
- The initiative of human salvation is wholly God's

When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had born a son; and he named him Jesus.

- Inaction followed by action
- Joseph was obedient
- Joseph never speaks – “Quiet Joseph”
- Live together as normal family



GOD WITH US GOD SAVES

Chapter 1 [of Matthew] teaches the doctrine of God by telling the story of Jesus' beginnings. To know God is surely the single most important knowledge. The genius of Mathew's Gospel is that in almost every story it introduces readers, through Jesus, to humanity's most needed knowledge.

Fredrick Dale Bruner

Matthew Chapter 2

The Visit of the Magi

Matthew 2:1-12



Flight to Egypt and Return

Matthew 2:13-23



THE PRINCIPLE CHARACTERS

The Magi – Coming to worship

- Represent humanity under grace

Herod – Coming in rejection

- Represents humanity under the power of sin

The Child, Jesus – Coming for salvation

- Represents Immanu-El and God's salvation

The Visit of the Magi

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who was born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.”

When Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him in Bethlehem of Judea; for it has been written by the prophet;

And you Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.

BETHLEHEM

House of Bread

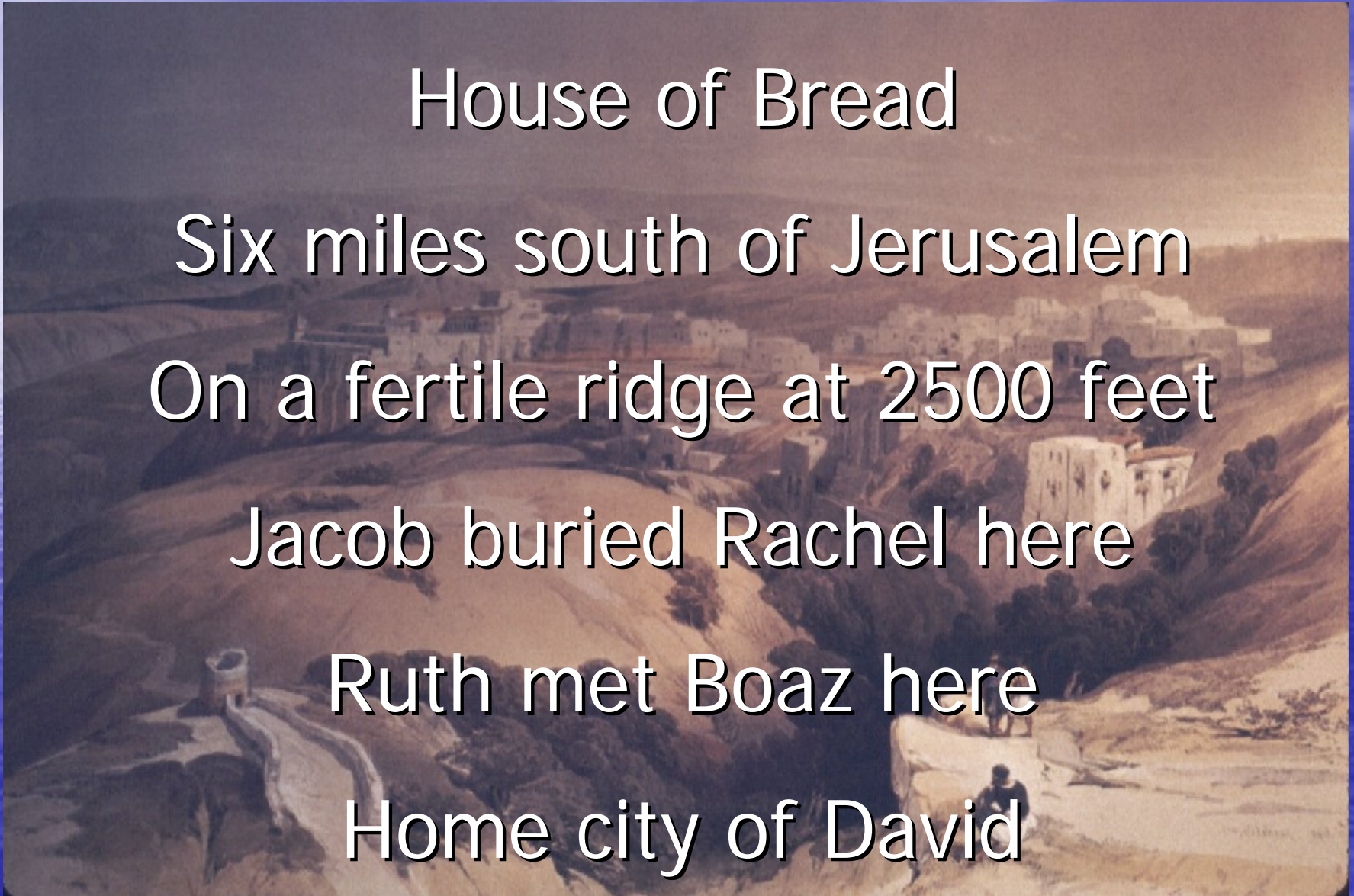
Six miles south of Jerusalem

On a fertile ridge at 2500 feet

Jacob buried Rachel here

Ruth met Boaz here

Home city of David



Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at the rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country, by another road.

Matthew 2:7-12 NRSV

THE MAGI

Humanity under the power of grace

✓ Magoi - Wise Men from the East

✓ Gentiles - followers of Zoroaster

✓ Astrologers

✓ Sought Christ through God's grace

✓ Worshipped Jesus - proskynesis



THE MAGI

Humanity under the power of grace

THE GIFTS

Gold – gift for a king

Frankincense – gift
for a priest

Myrrh – gift for the
dead



THE MAGI

Humanity under the power of grace

Why are the Magi significant in Matthew's Gospel?

How many Magi were there?

When did the Magi come to visit Jesus?



HEROD

Humanity under the power of sin

- *Appointed King by the Romans*
- *Half Jew - Half Idumaeian*
- *Displays man full of sin*
- *Rejects invitation to recognize Jesus*



Flight to Egypt and Return

Now after they had left, an Angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, 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.” Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been by the Lord through the prophet, *“Out of Egypt I have called my son.”*

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old and younger, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah”

“A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.”

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "*He will be called a Nazorean.*"

Matthew 2:19-23 NRSV

THE CHILD

Representative of Humanity

- ✚ Divine
- ✚ Human
- ✚ Royal
- ✚ Fugitive
- ✚ Nazarene



ESCAPE TO EGYPT AND RETURN TO NAZARETH

Jesus childhood mirrors that of Israel

- ✦ Jesus goes to Egypt
- ✦ Murder of first born
- ✦ Called out of Egypt
- ✦ Return to Israel



Jesus of Nazareth

King of the Jews

