



Christmas
through their eyes

Matthew 2:13-23



The things that Jesus did and that happened to him were predetermined components of an eternal design of God. This conviction reassures the reader of God's ultimate control over events, then and now.

David E. Garland

Matthew's Citations of the Old Testament

In order that

1:22; 2:14-15;

4:14-16; 12:17-21;

21:4-5

So that

8:17; 13:35

Then was fulfilled

2:17; 27:9-10

Other formulas all possess strong conjunctions suggesting divine purpose

2:5; 3:3; 11:10; 13:14-15; 26:31, 54-56

Then what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled: “They took the thirty pieces of silver, the price set on him by the people of Israel, and they used them to buy the potter’s field, as the Lord commanded me.”

Matthew 27:9-10

Matthew is reluctant to ascribe evil
to the purposes of God.



Mātthēw

1:1: Book of Genesis
1:1-17: son of Abraham
1:18-25: Joseph the dreamer
2:1-12: Maḡi
2:13-15: Herod kills children
2:14: Jesus rescued, flees
2:19-23: Jesus returns to Israel
3:1-12: John announces judgment
3:13-17: Jesus passes through waters
4:1-11: temptation in wilderness
4:18-22: Jesus calls disciples
Matthew 5-7

Old Testament

Genesis 2:4; 5:1

Genesis 12-26

Genesis 37

Nations to Eḡypt for Joseph; promise to Abe

Exodus 1-2: Pharaoh kills children

Exodus 2: Moses rescued, flees

Exodus 3-4: Moses returns to Eḡypt


Exodus 5-12: Moses/Aaron bring judgment

Exodus 16: exodus

Exodus 17-19: travel to Sinai

Exodus 18: Moses appoints rulers


Sinai and the giving of Torah



In the slaughter of innocents we see sinful people doing their thing and God working to redeem all things through the expression of obedient Israel, Jesus.

This is what the Lord says: “A voice is heard in Ramah, mourning and great weeping, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more.” This is what the Lord says: “Restrain your voice from weeping and your eyes from tears, for your work will be rewarded,” declares the Lord. “They will return from the land of the enemy. So there is hope for your descendants,” declares the Lord. “Your children will return to their own land.

Jeremiah 31:15-17



In the Bible, Bethlehem is a place of death, but through the death of God's Son, the place of death would become known as the place of life.






The real royal family was saved
through flight, not miracle.



...then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. Let no one on the housetop go down to take anything out of the house. Let no one in the field go back to get their cloak. How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers! Pray that your flight will not take place in winter or on the Sabbath.

Matthew 24:16-20



We see Christmas through the text when we...

... refuse to ascribe evil at work in our world
directly to the purpose of God.

... flex our hope muscle and take the wide view.

... surrender ourselves to God and flee from sin.

Christmas

Through Mary & Joseph's Eyes

