

RESPONDING TO THE KING: WORSHIP & WRATH PART 2 Matthew 2:13-23

In the infinite wisdom of the Lord of all the earth, each event falls with exact precision into its proper place in the unfolding of His divine plan. Nothing, however small, however strange, occurs without His ordering or without its particular fitness for its place in the working out of His purpose; and the end of all shall be the manifestation of His glory, and the accumulation of His praise.

-B.B. Warfield

I. A Son out of Egypt

a. The Story

b. The Significance

II. A Cry out of Ramah

a. The Story

b. The Significance

III. A Messiah out of Galilee

a. The Story

b. The Significance

Getting to Know You

1. How many different cities have you lived in during your life?

Into the Bible

2. Matthew knew that his Jewish audience would be familiar with the story of the exodus, so when he said, “out of Egypt I called my Son,” their minds would go to a passage like Psalm 105, a reflection on how God brought Israel out of Egypt. Read through that Psalm. What are some elements of God’s work in freeing Israel from slavery that are appropriate when we think of his work of salvation through Jesus Christ?

3. Joseph’s decision to eventually go back to Nazareth took them back to a small town where Mary’s pregnancy had already caused controversy? Why do you think God sent them there? Read the parallel account in Luke 2:39-40. Luke completely skips over the trip to Egypt. What might account for that difference between the accounts? Think about the different audiences for these two gospels.

Application

4. In the nativity accounts in Matthew and Luke, announcements came to individuals from God in a variety of different ways—to Mary, Zacharias, and the shepherds by angelic visitors; to Joseph always in a dream; to the wise men by a star and in their dreams. Why didn't God speak to them all in the same way? Do you believe God know you well enough to know what you will hear and respond to when He speaks to you? How do you test that it is God who is speaking?

5. Herod's paranoia about threats to his reign, coupled with his rage about being tricked by the wise men, prompted his slaughter of male infants in the region of Bethlehem. Read Psalm 2 and Job 42:2. How can we apply God's promises of protection for His own to our lives today?

For Families

6. The flight into Egypt seems to have taken place with little warning time to prepare. Ask your children what two things they would most want to take with them if they had to leave home quickly to live somewhere else. What do our choices in situations like this say about what we value most?