

Sermon Notes: God's Great Covenant Faithfulness

Matthew 2:1-11

Text: 2:1 *1 Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, 2 saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him." 3 When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. 4 And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 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.' " 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." 9 When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. 10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. 11 And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.*

Take Away: *Matthew 2:1-11 depicts a great turning upside down of the story of Exodus. While the melody of the story is the same, the key has changed. This leads to the climatic point that the coming of Christ is both a great fulfillment of God's covenant promises as well as a great reversal of sinful man's expectations.*

I. A Reversal of the Confrontation of Pharaoh: *(References: Judges 3:9; John 1:9-11)*

II. A Reversal of the Exodus from Egypt: *(References: Peter Leithart "Matthew Through New Eyes"; Exodus 29:44-46; John 1:14; Isaiah 60:2-3, 6)*

III. A Reversal of Jerusalem and Bethlehem: (References: Micah 3:1-3; James 5:1-6)

Questions for the Table:

1. What are three of the ways Matthew reverses the story of Exodus in this text?
2. How is Herod a type or *like* Pharaoh from the Exodus?
3. What is the significance of the Magi following the star?
4. Read chapter 4 of *The Lion, the Witch, and Wardrobe*. Are there similarities between the Witch's lie to Edmund at the end of the chapter and Herod's lie to the Magi? Are Herod and the White Witch similar?
5. How is the gospel *a great reversal*?
6. Why is Christmas actually a very *political* holiday?