

# **Matthew 2:13-23**

## **“The King is Persecuted and Protected”**

### **Pastor Bruce Zachary**

Despite Herod’s attempt to destroy the newborn King, God is Sovereign, and the King is protected until He lays down His life at the cross for us. You can be encouraged that regardless of the attempts to destroy Christ and His gospel that the King is, and always will be, Sovereign [Matt. 16:18]. Despite the evil in the world, we are comforted that God is good, and that He has everything under control.

#### **Discussion Qs**

- 1. What type of issues in the world might cause believers to worry about the threat to Christ and His gospel?**
- 2. Why might God use “ordinary means” of departure and protection rather than miraculous?**
- 3. What are some of the issues that could cause someone to question whether God is good or Sovereign?**
- 4. How does your trust in the promises of Christ (and His return) bring comfort in difficult times?**

**“Jesus is our King” [prelude]**

**A. In January we focus on Bible learning:**

- 1. Why do you need to learn the Bible?**

**Ps. 119:105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.**

**[i. readingplan.calvarynexus.org](http://i.readingplan.calvarynexus.org)**

**Matthew 2:13-23**  
**“The King is Persecuted and Protected”**  
**Pastor Bruce Zachary**  
**Mobil Ave campus - 1st service**

## Intro

**Subject: The King is Persecuted and Protected**

**Object: Trust the Sovereign King**

### **A. The exile of the King [13-16] [The escape to Egypt]**

<sup>13</sup> 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.”

<sup>14</sup> When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, <sup>15</sup> 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. God warns of the attempt to destroy the Child [13]**

a. The angel appears to Joseph in a dream and warns him to flee to Egypt

i. Egypt was @175 miles away, a Roman province at time with a Jewish pop. of 1 mil

ii. Told to wait till further instructions

iii. Herod wanted to destroy the Child [cf. 2:8 professed desire to worship]

**b. Conflict between Dragon (Satan), Woman (Israel) and the Child (Messiah) [Rev.12]**

i. Effort to destroy Jesus is part of Satan’s attempt to destroy Messiah & the Jews

#### **2. God protects the Child in Egypt [14-15]**

a. Joseph was obedient, departs by stealth at night

*b. Why Egypt? Fulfill the prophecy [Hos. 11:1]*

i. Cf. Egypt is a picture of the world. Jesus goes to Egypt to deliver us from Egypt

ii. Jacob & 12 sons went to Egypt to flee famine, became a nation [Gen. 46]. Moses delivers from Egypt and gives the law, but Joshua brings into the Promised Land

### **B. The attempt to destroy the King [16-18] [The slaughter of the innocents]**

<sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying:<sup>18</sup> “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.

Herod exceedingly angry [16] (Greek means totally controlled by anger) that the wise men did not return to him re the Child’s whereabouts [2:12]. Herod orders the murder of all the boys under 2 in Bethlehem [16]

**1. What we need to know about the nature of God:** If God is good why would He allow the innocent children to be murdered? Or 6 million Jews during WW II, Christian martyrs today, why does God allow “bad” things to happen to “good” people?

**a. We can know that God is good, because He has given us His only Son:** (no greater demonstration of love). Because God is eternal and all knowing He sees the complete picture and our view is limited. God’s ways are higher than man’s [Is.55:9], and God is working all things together for the good for those who are His [Rom. 8:28]

i. Cf. the children go to heaven [2Sam. 12:13, Mt. 19:14]. Cf. too young to reject the gospel/

**b. We can know that God is Sovereign as seen by fulfilled prophecy:** If God is in control and good why would He allow this to happen?

**i. Prophecy fulfilled [17-18] Jer. 31:15** Ramah is 5 miles north of Jerusalem, site of Rachel’s tomb, and the center for Babylonian deportation [586 BC], Rachel’s mourning re conquest of Jerusalem, and fulfilled prophecy re the slaughter of the innocents.

ii. One-third of the Bible is predictive prophecy & the fulfillment demonstrates God’s Sovereignty. The prophetic fulfillment in each section shows that none of the events were a surprise to God.

**2. What we need to know about the nature of man:** The slaughter of the innocents was not God’s doing, but man’s actions.

**a. We can know that man’s nature is prone to evil:** The global presence of evil, and the fact that children don’t need to be taught to do wrong (lie, steal, covet, etc.) reveal man’s nature apart from the transforming work of God.

**b. When Christ is not King our fallen nature produces wickedness and death.**

i. The attempt to eliminate Jesus yields destruction

ii. *Transition:* We see the exile of the king, and the attempt to destroy the king and the messed up condition when Christ the king is not ruling in the land, but is there hope?

### **C. The return of the King [19-23] [The return to Nazareth]**

<sup>19</sup> Now when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, <sup>20</sup> 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.” <sup>21</sup> Then he arose, took the young Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel. <sup>22</sup> 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. <sup>23</sup> 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. God’s enemies perish but the Lord lives [19-20]**

God directed Joseph to return to Israel for those who sought to kill the Child were dead [4 times in 2 chapters God directed Joseph in a dream].

**2. The return of the King brings hope [21-23]** God directs Joseph to Galilee, and he dwelt at Nazareth [21-23]. Nazareth was an insignificant village. Nathaniel remarked, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth” [Jn. 1:46]. The connection to Nazareth is re scorn and humility of Messiah [Is. 53:2-3]

**a. The fulfillment of prophecies re the King’s 1<sup>st</sup> Coming bring comfort in difficult time and hope re the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming**

i. Cf. **Jer. 31:15** Rachel weeping, is followed by the promise of hope and restoration [**16-17**]. Israel was returned to the land (fulfilled). And followed by the Promise of a New Covenant [**31-34**] where God would forgive our sin through the appointed work of Jesus upon the cross. God’s plan to return and ultimately restore shall be fulfilled, and in the interim I can trust him even in difficult times.

**Conc.** If we recognize God as Sovereign and good we need to trust Him and His plans even in the midst of difficulties.

## **Matthew 2:13-23**

### **“The King is Persecuted and Protected”**

**Mark Chua**

### **Mobil Ave. campus - 2nd service (Youth Sunday)**

Subject: The king is persecuted and and protected

Object: Trust the Sovereign God

#### **1. The exile to Egypt (13-15)**

a. God instructs Joseph to stay in Egypt until He gives further instruction

b. Why Egypt?

i. Fleeing into Egypt fulfilled prophecy: Hosea 11:1; made 700 years ago

ii. Egypt was a place of refuge to the Jews; temple established within the region

iii. God had always planned how Jesus would be protected long before Herod sought to kill Him

c. We can trust God in the midst of difficulty

i. God sovereignly allowed His Son to go through difficulty

ii. Our difficulties don’t surprise God

- Romans 11:33: Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!

How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out!

d. Find rest in who God is, rather than in circumstance

## 2. The attempt to destroy the King (16-18)

### a. The Nature of Man:

i. Man innately desires to be king of his own life; desires control.

- “You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask.” James 4:2

- Temptation that in the Garden of Eden: “you will be like God” Genesis 3:5

ii. When Jesus isn’t treated as King, what results is wickedness and death

### b. The Nature of God:

i. God does not commit evil

- 1 John 1:5-”God is light, and in Him is no darkness”

ii. God is in control even in the midst of suffering

- Fulfilled prophecy: Jeremiah 31; made more than 500 years earlier

iii. God sovereignly weaves tragedy into a greater purpose

- Jesus suffered for a greater purpose

## 3. The Return to Nazareth (19-23)

### a. God’s enemies perish, but the Lord lives

i. Herod dies, but God is faithful in preserving Jesus Christ

### b. The coming of Christ brings hope

i. Jesus would do many of His miracles in the region of Galilee, where the city of Nazareth is located

ii. Nazarene: refers to rejection and reproach Christ would experience, and the humility He would display.

iii. Jeremiah 31: God tells Rachel to “weep no more” and promises that the Messiah would come

- Jesus fulfilled God’s promise by coming into the world, to die on the cross and rise again, to save us from our sins