

Out of Egypt I called my Son!

Into Song: What Child is This by **Wakeup Starlight**

Prayer:

Lord, in this holy season of **prayer** and song and laughter, we praise you for the great wonders you have sent us: for shining star and angel's song, for infant's cry in lowly manger. We praise you for the Word made flesh in a little Child. We behold his glory, and are bathed in its radiance.

St Matthew 2:

[1] Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying,

[2] "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 assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.

[5] They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it is written by the prophet:

[6] `And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will govern my people Israel.'"

- Bethlehem
 - Literally means "House of Bread"

- Where the lambs were raised & offered as sacrifice in the Temple
- Where David, the "good shepherd" was raised, and was anointed King - 1 Sam. 16
- Herod - "King of the Jews"
 - NOT a Jewish son of David... instead an Edomite
 - Puppet King set up by the Roman Emperor Augustus in 37 BC
 - Ruled with an iron fist - Killed a wife, and 3 of his sons!
 - Spent lots of money on building projects
 - such as a complete renovation of the Temple
 - The Edomites were forceably converted to Judaism under [John Hyrcanus](#) (c. 125 BC)
- The Wise Men of the East
 - Persian Astrologers looking for a rising star
 - Possible familiar with the Prophecy of Daniel who was a captive in Babylon some 500 years before.
 - CCC 528: In the magi, representatives of the neighboring pagan religions, the Gospel sees the first-fruits of the nations, who welcome the good news of salvation through the Incarnation. The magi's coming to Jerusalem in order to pay homage to the king of the Jews shows that they seek in Israel, in the messianic light of the star of David, the one who will be king of the nations. Their coming means that pagans can discover Jesus and worship him as Son of God and Savior of the world only by turning towards the Jews and receiving from

them the messianic promise as contained in the Old Testament.

- The star & the Prophecy of Balaam: **Numbers 24:**
 - [17] I see him, but not now;
 - I behold him, but not nigh:
 - a star shall come forth out of Jacob,
 - and a scepter shall rise out of Israel;
 - it shall crush the forehead of Moab,
 - and break down all the sons of Sheth.
 -
 - [18] Edom shall be dispossessed,
 - Se'ir also, his enemies, shall be dispossessed,
 - while Israel does valiantly.

- This spelled "DOOM" for Harod and his Edomite family!

- "And You, O Bethlehem..."
 - A combined reference to:
 - Micha 5:2 - the rise of the Messianic King from Bethlehem
 - 2 Samuel 5:2 - the Kingship of the Messianic King over the 12 tribes!
 - Again this means "DOOM" for Harod!

[7] Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star appeared;

[8] and he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him bring me word, that I too may come and worship him."

[9] When they had heard the king they went their way; and lo, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came to rest over the place where the child was.

[10] When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy;

[11] and going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.

- The Gifts

- Similar to the Gentile Kingdoms bridging tribute to King Solomon in **1 Kings 4:21** *Solomon ruled over all the kingdoms from the Euphra'tes to the land of the Philistines and to the border of Egypt; they brought tribute and served Solomon all the days of his life.*

- Also evoking **Isaiah 60:**

- [3] And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.

- [4] Lift up your eyes round about, and see; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far,

- and your daughters shall be carried in the arms.

- [5] Then you shall see and be radiant, your heart shall thrill and rejoice;

- because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

- [6] A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Mid'ian and Ephah;

all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

- Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh:
 - St. Irenaeus "the gifts of the Magi signify the mystery of Christ incarnate. Gold, a symbol of royalty, represents the kingship of Jesus. Frankincense, used in worship of God, points to his divinity. Myrrh a burial ointment, signifies the humanity of Christ, especially in his passion and death.
 - Myrrh - also used as an oil to anoint Levitical Priests in the wilderness tabernacle in Exodus 30:23-33
- The Star stopped over Bethlehem & then entered the "house"
 - Seems to suggest a passing of time from the "manager" now to the "house".
 - Some scholars speculate that as much as 2 years could have passed.
 - **Frederick A. Larson - presenter of "The Star of Bethlehem" looks at the actual movements of the stars 2000 years ago and show how a particular celestial phenomenon occurred on a December 25th where a star seemed to actually stop right over Bethlehem! Link to on my website!**
- Notice how Mary is always connected to the child!
 - Again a reference to the Queen Mother - her son is the NEW Son of David... that makes her the NEW Bathsheba... the NEW Queen Mother!
- Was this child really God incarnate?

- The Magi worshiped him!

[12] And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

[13] Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there till I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him."

[14] And he rose and took the child and his mother by night, and departed to Egypt,

[15] and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt have I called my son."

[16] Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, was in a furious rage, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time which he had ascertained from the wise men.

[17] Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah:

[18] "A voice was heard in Ramah,
wailing and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be consoled,
because they were no more."

[19] But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying,

[20] "Rise, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead."

[21] And he rose and took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel.

[22] But when he heard that Archelaus reigned over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee.

[23] And he went and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

- A NEW Moses!
 - Both were almost killed as infants by tyrant Kings who wanted to kill hebrew males
 - Both were saved by family members from this death sentence
 - Both found protection in Egypt
 - Both were called back to their birthplaces after their exiles
 - Both spent 40 days and nights fasting in the wilderness
 - Both bring God's Covenant law to His people
- He Shall be called a Nazarene
 - No where are these words found in the OT
 - Likely a play on word for Nazereth - or Netzer - Hewbrew word meaning Branch - from **Isaiah 11:**

[1] There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

[10] In that day the root of Jesse shall stand as an ensign to

the peoples; him shall the nations seek, and his dwellings shall be glorious.

[11] In that day the Lord will extend his hand yet a second time to recover the remnant which is left of his people, from Assyria, from Egypt, from Pathros, from Ethiopia, from Elam, from Shinar, from Hamath, and from the coastlands of the sea.

[12] He will raise an ensign for the nations, and will assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.

- In Christ - a TRUE branch from the stump of Jessie who will gather from the 4 corners of earth the people of God.... both Gentiles and Jews!
 - This is why we see both Magi & Shepherds here to worship & pay tribute!
 - Acts 2