

Matthew Lesson 5 ... 2/6/21

The Son of _____ and the Son of _____ was born of a virgin in the City _____. We discussed the prophecies in Micah describing the Tower of the _____ and the probability of the Messiah being born in that very area. Breaking onto the scene, angels announce the arrival of the new born King who would be wrapped in swaddling _____ and laid in a _____. How would this have told the shepherds where this child would be? _____

Finally, we discussed the wise men who about 500 years earlier would have been trained by _____ during the _____ captivity. We saw evidence that these wise men all these years later believed in the G-d of _____, because when they saw the young child, they _____.

Herod who was worried about keeping his power, asked the wise men, where this Christ was to be born.

Matthew 2:5 So they (the wise men) said to him, In Bethlehem of Judea, for this it is written by the prophet: 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.

1. What does Herod's question tell you about him?
2. What does the Wise Men's answer tell you about them and their training?

No doubt, Herod's conversation with the Wise Men created caution in their minds. And then,

Matthew 2:12 Then being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod. They departed for their own country another way.

3. Why might dreams be an especially good way to warn the wise men?

PROPHECIES CONFIRMED

Matthew 2:13 Now when they (*the Wise Men*) 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.

4. What were Herod's true motives?

** Can anyone prevent the will of the Lord? **

Isaiah 46:9c-12 I am G-d and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose calling a bird of prey from the east, the man of my counsel from a far country. I have spoken, and I will bring it to pass; I have purposed, and I will do it. Listen to me, you stubborn of heart, you who are far from righteousness:

5. What is confirmed about G-d from the Isaiah verses?

Heeding the warning of the angel, the family flees under cover of darkness to Egypt. Is darkness always a bad thing>.....

Hosea 11:1 When Israel *was* a child, I loved him, And out of Egypt I called My son.



6. How is Hosea unfolding more of the story for us?

Exodus 4:22 Then tell Pharaoh that this is what the LORD says: Israel is My firstborn son, and I told you to let My son go so that he may worship Me. But since you have refused to let him go, behold, I will kill your firstborn son!...

You can look at this verse in a couple of ways

1. Israel is the people who the Messiah came through. Without Israel, there would be no Messiah.
2. The Bible has many, many metaphors and similes. In this case, Israel is used as a representation of G-d's Son - Israel is "like" G-d's Son.

Psalm 2:2,4-7 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and against his Anointed, saying, Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us. He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision. Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury, saying, As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill. I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me, You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.

7. What is the evidence Psalm 2 gives showing that Yeshua is G-d's Son?

Matthew 2:16 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..... Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet saying:

Again we are seeing prophecy fulfilled.

Jeremiah 31: 15 Thus says the Lord: A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping. Rachel is weeping for her children; she refuses to be comforted for her children, because they are no more.

((Ramah means height or a lofty place. The root "room "- resh vav mem" means to be high up in a social, political or even physical state. It can also refer to fruit in the perfect ripeness ready to be eaten. But it allowed to go beyond this perfect ripeness, it can quickly spoil and become rotten and infested with maggots. It would have been understood in Matthew's time that when something becomes too high and exalted, it can become corrupt. Politics is probably the easiest was to get a picture of this process. A politician starts out wanting to be a public servant, but the taste of power may overwhelm him and he becomes part of the swamp - so to speak.

So Ramah started out a high place, but became a place of weeping and great suffering.))



It is said that Rachel was buried on the road to Bethlehem, so she could both weep for them and rejoice to see them return. Rachel wept as she died giving birth to Benjamin on the way to Bethlehem.

Rachel wept from the grave as she saw her "children" being taken captive to Babylon.

Rachel wept again as the children of Bethlehem are murdered.

8. Why is Ramah being mentioned in Jeremiah?

Rachel, the mother of Benjamin, died near this place and Ramah is in the territory allotted territory to Benjamin! Ramah actually means high or exalted, but became a place of rotteness.

Ramah was a place encapsulating the sufferings of the captives of Judah who were gathered there to be taken to Babylon. Jeremiah was imprisoned at Ramah. When the children of Israel told Samuel that they wanted a king like all the other nations, it was at Ramah! And what did asking for a king like all the other nations had, do to the heart of G-d?

Ramah portrays the sorrow of the loss of the children in Bethlehem; therefore, Matthew quotes Jeremiah!

Jeremiah 31: 15 Thus says the Lord: A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping. Rachel is weeping for her children; she refuses to be comforted for her children, because they are no more.

Does Matthew want his Jewish brethren to remember what has happened at Ramah and apply it to this day? The situation seemed bleak, but there was hope for salvation to come.

9. How is this comforting in our day?

Matthew 2:19-23 Now when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, 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. Then he arose, took the young Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel.

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. 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.

With Herod dead, it is now safe for the family to return, but not to the area where Archelaus was reigning. Archelaus was a son of Herod, and now ruled over the territory of Judea, Samaria and Idumea. He was as wicked as his father had been. The family, knowing this, returned to the Galil and lived in the town of Natzeret.

Their dwelling in Natzeret is yet another Messianic prophecy calling to memory:

**** What will His name be?**

**** Which prophets spoke this?**

Isaiah 11:1 There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, And a Branch shall grow out of his roots.

Now let's look at the Hebrew to see what we could never see in the English.

The Hebrew word for "rod" is Choter - chet, tet, resh
Choter can mean a rod or a sprout - a sprout that would grow out of a stump or stem of a tree for example. So notice that Matthew is still connecting Messiah with his family tree as he did with the genealogy.

The word sprout is from the root which can mean greenness as a striking color. It pictures the Noon or new life coming from the old stump ,Jesse, and this is a picture of the resurrection of the coming Messiah - He sprung back to life and He gives eternal life to those who follow Him.))

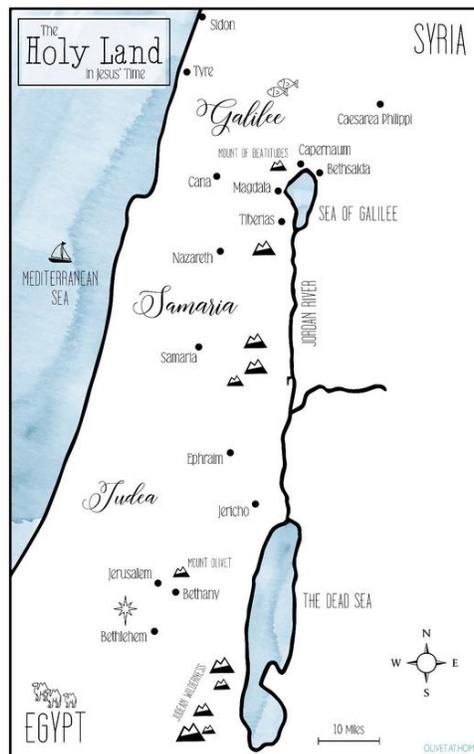
Notice in Isaiah, the Hebrew word for branch is "natzer" נָצַר or "branch" and of "natzeret" נְצִרֶת, - you see the same root.

Looking at each Hebrew letter in Natzer

Noon - Life

Tzadee - Righteousness / Hook

Resh - The Head who is the Messiah



Matthew tells us that his name is going to be the Nazarene - the Branch - the one from branch town. Isaiah foretold this and Zechariah is going to confirm it again. These are the prophets Matthew spoke of when he said, ... that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets.....

“The Nazarene” literally means the one who is the branch.

Zechariah 6:12 And you are to tell him that this is what the LORD of Hosts says: Here is a man whose name is the Branch, and He will branch out from His place and build the temple of the LORD. Yes, He will build the temple of the LORD; He will be clothed in splendor and will sit on His throne and rule. And He will be a priest on His throne, and there will be peaceful counsel between the two....

In Zechariah a synonym for 'branch' is given - **Tzemach has to do with being a branch and with growing and sprouting.** We see this in the words of Zechariah when he says - He will branch out from His place -

10. Can you find all the words or phrases that allude to the Messiah?
11. What high offices are being fulfilled by the "man whose name is the Branch"? Are there any other who has been both priest and king?
12. What does this mean that the Messiah is the tzemach?
13. The words, "He will branch out from His place," tell us what?

His influence is going to spread all over the world; it will not be contained.

Jeremiah 23:5 "Behold, *the* days are coming," says the LORD, "That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; A King shall reign and prosper, And execute judgment and righteousness in the earth.

14. There is an added detail to what this Branch of righteousness will do; what is it?
15. When will the Branch or righteousness execute judgment and righteousness in the earth?
16. Who were the prophets that Matthew wrote of?



**When people are concerned about keeping their power, what are some of the tactics they use to hold on to their position? Is this uncommon today?

**Ramah can mean high, or an exalted Place. how can a high place be taken to a place of mourning? Do you see that happening anywhere in our world?

**How would you explain to someone that Yeshua is the Branch and the Messiah?

**What would the stump in this picture represent? Why is it important that it is tied in with the Messiah's genealogy?