



Matthew: The King and His Kingdom

Series: The Manifesto of the King, Obedience, Wickedness, and the Sovereignty of God

Matthew 2:13-23

January 2, 2011

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ESV Matthew 2:13-23 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 until 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 I called my son." 16 Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, 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 that 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, weeping and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be comforted, because they are no more." 19 But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, 20 saying, "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 was reigning 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 lived in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled: "He shall be called a Nazarene."

-Pray

-Just as Pastor Nick has explained to us, Matthew has shown that Jesus is the true Messiah, He is the true king of the Davidic line and the fulfillment of God's promise to David that he would have an heir on the throne forever. He has set this up in the genealogy, the birth of Christ and in the visit of the wise men. And true to form, Matthew will show that the redemptive plan of God from eternity past finds its fulfillment in the person of Christ.

-Today we will focus on 13-23 and one of the first questions that come to my mind is why Egypt.

1 – Why Egypt (13):

ESV Matthew 2:13 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 until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him."

-First reason we ask this question is the distance. Herod knows this new, legitimate king is in Bethlehem which is only about 5 miles from his palace and Herod is only seeking to destroy the boys in Bethlehem and the surrounding areas but Egypt's border was about 75 miles from Bethlehem and another additional 100 miles or so would be added to get safely into Egypt. A 175 mile trip with a newborn on foot would be slow and difficult. Why so far? Why Egypt?

-It could be that Egypt was a natural place of safety for the young family to go. During the Greek rule of the intertestamental period, Alexander the Great had established a sanctuary for Jews in Alexandria and throughout the Roman rule this city was still considered a special place of safety and opportunity for Jews. The Jewish community in this area was large, as many as a million. The Jewish influence was large and this is actually where the Septuagint (the Greek translation of the Old Testament) was produced that was used heavily by the early church and quoted by many New Testament authors. So Egypt would be the first place that popped into the mind of a Jew that was fleeing to safety. This could be the reason why Joseph and his family went to Egypt.

-But Matthew gives us a clue as to one of the main reasons why the family went to Egypt. He says in verse 15 "This was to fulfill what the Lord has spoken by the prophet, Out of Egypt I called my son. This is very important here so note the reference to my son which is the first time that Matthew speaks of Jesus as God's son. Now Matthew quotes Hosea 11:1 here and the context of the Hosea passage is God's love for Israel and His deliverance of them from slavery in Egypt. The son that Hosea relates to is Israel, the people of God. But Matthew speaks of the son as Jesus and His flight into Egypt and thus relates Jesus as the center or the source of true Israel. Matthew sees the Hosea passage being fulfilled in Jesus and thus the outworking of God's divine plan is being accomplished in Him. What Matthew understood was

that Jesus is the ultimate embodiment of Israel, the one in whom is wrapped up the true character and destiny of the people of God. Matthew is looking back to the Exodus which took place around 1400 years before Jesus flight to Egypt. Matthew sees the importance of Jesus flight into Egypt and His subsequent return. Why is this important? The context of the Hosea passage is not only the deliverance of the people from Egypt but God's faithfulness to them in and beyond Egypt. And Matthew shows that Jesus' return from Egypt was pictured by Israel's calling from that same country many centuries earlier and thus, the Exodus was a type of Jesus' return from Egypt with Joseph and Mary in which we are to find hope. Just as God had once brought the people of Israel, His son, out of Egypt to be His chosen nation, He now is bringing out Jesus, His greater Son, to be the Messiah that was promised to deliver us. Had Israel perished in Egypt or in the wilderness or in any way, the Messiah could not Himself have come out of Egypt or even have been born. Just as God brought the nation of Israel out of Egypt to inaugurate His covenant with them, so again God is bringing the Messiah, who fulfills the hopes of Israel, out of Egypt as He is about to inaugurate His New Covenant by which we are saved by the death of Christ and His finished work on the cross. Oh church, the covenant people of God, rejoice and find hope in the faithfulness of our God to deliver His Son so that we may be delivered!

-So God tells Joseph in a dream to take the child and his mother and flee to Egypt which leads to the second thing we need to see today.

2 – The obedience of Joseph (14-15a).

ESV Matthew 2:14-15a 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.

-Remember what Matthew has already told us about Joseph. In 1:19 we are told that Joseph was a just man. This carries the meaning of a righteous man of faith, one that is serious about the holiness of God and we saw that he treated Mary with kindness and compassion. God had molded Joseph's heart into a heart of obedience and Joseph had seen the faithfulness of God to his family so far and so Joseph believed the Word of God so that when God spoke Joseph listened and obeyed.

-Just look at the examples of obedience from Joseph in the first 2 chapters of Matthew.

A – He took Mary as His wife.

God's command - ESV Matthew 1:18-23

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. 19 And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. 20 But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." 22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: 23 "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us).

Joseph's obedience - ESV Matthew 1:24-25 When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, 25 but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

-Joseph obeyed the message of God and took Mary as his wife. This obedience was not easy. You know what people had to be saying about his wife and this child and about their family--- the same things that would be said in our society today. Joseph knew the costs of obeying but was willing to pay them.

B – He was told to take the child and his mother to Egypt.

-God's command - ESV Matthew 2:13 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 until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him."

-Joseph's obedience - ESV Matthew 2:14 And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt

-Joseph once again obeyed. This obedience wasn't easy. He had to transport a child and his mother on a long journey and didn't know how long he was going to be there or if he would ever come back. Think about how you guys pack for a week's vacation and then think about what Joseph and Mary were dealing with here. This obedience was costly and demanded great faith and Joseph was willing to pay.

-And Joseph's obedience was immediate. Matthew tells us that Joseph took the child and his mother by night which seems to speak to Joseph obeying as soon as he woke from the dream. Joseph didn't have to do a cost-benefit analysis to determine if he was going to obey or not. He didn't use the scales to see if the benefits outweighed the costs to discern whether or not to obey. Sometimes that's the first thing we do. We want to know how much obedience is going to cost before we decide whether to be obedient or not. No! At least not for Joseph. Joseph trusted in God's Word and His faithfulness and nothing or nobody was going to deter him from obeying the Word of the Lord.

C – He was told to leave Egypt and return to the land of Israel.

-God's command - ESV Matthew 2:19-20 But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, 20 saying, "Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead."

-Joseph's obedience - ESV Matthew 2:21 And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel.

-Again we see the urgency in Joseph's obedience and the trust that the Lord knows best for him and his family. To Joseph there is not one thing about his life and family that he can't trust to

the Lord to take care of and that includes the life and safety of the Savior of the world who will save His people from their sins.

-And in verse 22 we get hints of Joseph's heart of obedience. We are told that Joseph was afraid and we get the sense that Joseph knows that this is bigger than him and it's not about him but about the Messiah being protected. It's as if Joseph is very sensitive to the leading of God and to the point of where he is anticipating the Word of God to be delivered to him. And God, once again, is faithful and warns him in a dream to change destinations.

-We see that Joseph's obedience was immediate and urgent and costly and from his heart because he knew that God was faithful and what God had done for him and his family. We said that Joseph was concerned about the holiness of God and for Joseph, obedience was the pathway for him to reflect that holiness. And it was obedience without exception. We know from Scripture that we are called to be holy as God is holy. And we know from Scripture that pursuing that holiness is crucial because Hebrews 12:14 says that without holiness no one will see the Lord. And obedience is the pathway to that holiness for the people of God. We see God put a huge importance on obedience in a huge way in the Old Testament. Obedience is how we experience the blessing of God. Look at this with me in Deuteronomy.

ESV Deuteronomy 28:1-6 "And if you faithfully obey the voice of the LORD your God, being careful to do all his commandments that I command you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth. 2 And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, if you obey the voice of the LORD your God. 3 Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the field. 4 Blessed shall be the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground and the fruit of your cattle, the increase of your herds and the young of your flock. 5 Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. 6 Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out.

-Now this is not the prosperity gospel---God doesn't promise that our obedience will bring material things. But...

-The enjoyment of God's blessing is dependent on our obedience

Likewise:

ESV Deuteronomy 28:15-19 "But if you will not obey the voice of the LORD your God or be careful to do all his commandments and his statutes that I command you today, then all these curses shall come upon you and overtake you. 16 Cursed shall you be in the city, and cursed shall you be in the field. 17 Cursed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. 18 Cursed shall be the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground, the increase of your herds and the young of your flock. 19 Cursed shall you be when you come in, and cursed shall you be when you go out.

-Do you see the importance of obedience? Now, we must make some observations here about obedience and the blessings and curses. We know for the believer that we can't use the word curse but we use the word discipline. We are not cursed by God because the curse for our sins have been placed upon the head of Jesus in our place. God's Word says that "Christ redeemed us from the curse by becoming a curse for us for it is written, Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree." So Jesus, by His atoning death in our place, has secured the blessing of God for us, every blessing that we will ever need He has obtained by His blood. But our enjoyment of those blessings are dependent on our obedience. The discipline of the Lord according to Hebrews is not fun but painful at the time and praise God that it leads to our repentance and renewed enjoyment of fellowship with God. What more blessing could we desire than the face of God to shine upon us. So our obedience is crucial to our enjoyment of the blessing of God and crucial to our pursuit of the holiness to which God has called us.

-But also, our obedience is to be from our heart. Obedience is a heart issue not a set of rules. Legalism IS NOT obedience. Obedience is not a spiritual show that we put on for man. Our obedience is to be from the heart and motivated by a deep love for Christ and what He has done in our place. The love of Christ is to be the driving force behind all that we do knowing that God loved us first in Christ and sent Him to be the propitiation for our sins. Our love for Christ due to His shed blood in our place and for our sins and to clothe us with His righteousness so that we can be in the presence of a holy God is to be the motivator of our hearts and the force behind our repentance and obedience. Consider the summary in Deut. 30 that speaks to just this.

ESV Deuteronomy 30:1-10 "And when all these things come upon you, the blessing and the curse, which I have set before you, and you call them to mind among all the nations where the

LORD your God has driven you, 2 and return to the LORD your God, you and your children, and obey his voice in all that I command you today, with all your heart and with all your soul, 3 then the LORD your God will restore your fortunes and have compassion on you, and he will gather you again from all the peoples where the LORD your God has scattered you. 4 If your outcasts are in the uttermost parts of heaven, from there the LORD your God will gather you, and from there he will take you. 5 And the LORD your God will bring you into the land that your fathers possessed, that you may possess it. And he will make you more prosperous and numerous than your fathers. 6 And the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your offspring, so that you will love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live. 7 9b) For the LORD will again take delight in prospering you, as he took delight in your fathers, 10 when you obey the voice of the LORD your God, to keep his commandments and his statutes that are written in this Book of the Law, when you turn to the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

-You see, obedience is truly a heart issue motivated by a deep love for Christ and what He has done in your place. So how about your obedience? Is your heart of obedience like Joseph's?

-For Joseph, his obedience was based on his love for God and his trust in God. And Matthew, being true to his purpose of his gospel, once again sets up a stark contrast between the righteous and the wicked which leads us to point number 3.

3 – Contrast of Joseph's obedience and Herod's depravity (16-18).

Mat 2:16-18 Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, 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 that 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, weeping and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be comforted, because they are no more."

-We have looked at Joseph and have seen a heart molded by the Word of God and a heart that desires to be obedient to God and understands God's faithfulness. Now Matthew gives us a picture of the heart of natural man that hates God and His Christ with a vengeance and seeks to be his own god. To get more understanding about Herod let's look into his background and his ancestors.

-Pastor Nick mentioned this briefly last week but I want you to see this clearly. From what we know, Herod was an Idumean. That is significant and here's why. Remember back in the Old Testament to the birth of Jacob and Esau. The struggle and birth of Jacob and Esau form the background to the prophesy of Genesis 25:23 when Rebekah asked of the Lord why the two were struggling within her and the Lord said that "two nations are in your womb and two peoples from within you shall be divided." We know the story of Jacob and Esau and the tension between the two, one chosen of God and the other a pagan. Esau's name has significance here too. His name means "hairy" because he was like a hairy garment all over (Gen 25:25) but Esau was also called Edom, which means red, because he came out red and he sold his birthright for some "red" stew. Esau showed his disregard for God's covenant promises by marrying Canaanite women and later the daughter of Ishmael. Esau settled in a region called Edom and his descendants were the Edomites. The Edomites, the descendants of Esau, were perpetual enemies of the Israelites, the descendants of Jacob and thus, we have two nations at odds---the people of God and pagans. In the 5th century BC the Edomites were forced to leave their territory and they moved to the area of southern Palestine and became known as---yep, you guessed it, the Idumeans. The Greek word for Edom is idumea. So we see the family line of Herod being from Esau and in a sense we see the enmity between Jacob and Esau continued in Herod's hatred of Jesus and his attempt to murder Him. The Edomites were never heard of again after the destruction of the temple in 70 AD which Obadiah predicted when he wrote that they would be "cut off forever" and "no survivor shall remain of the house of Esau."

-You see, the hatred of Herod toward Jesus and his threat of murder was no surprise to God. God knows men's hearts and He knew Herod's depraved heart. As Pastor Nick said, Herod had his favorite wife killed and some of his sons killed and wanted one member of each family in Jerusalem to be executed on the day of his death so that there would be real mourning in Jerusalem on the day of his death. And it was from a depraved heart like this that would come the thought that his power and his will could thwart the plan of God.

-We see Herod become furious when the wise men did not return (16). How could anyone not obey his commands? He was furious because he knew he did not have rightful claim to the throne and now the wise men would not give him the exact location of the Messiah child. He was only 5 miles away but couldn't exert any energy of his own to search for the true king. So the depraved heart that he had came up with a plan to murder all the male children in the region of Bethlehem who were two years old and under based on the information given to him by the wise men. As Nick said, Jesus was probable 6 months, a year or two years old. Herod

wanted to make sure by killing all the boys that he made sure he killed the true and rightful king sent by God as the Messiah. We see his depraved heart seek self-preservation with self-reliance and his own wisdom. Herod did not see his sin but was controlled by his emotions and hatred of Jesus and was enslaved by his sin which is characteristic of any depraved heart. You see, apart from the grace of God, we are all Herod, haters of God and His Christ. The hatred may not manifest itself in heinous murder but it is still there. If you are here today and don't know Christ, then you have a heart like Herod.

-But someone will inevitably ask "Why did this happen or why did God allow this to happen?" and by asking these questions the blame for Herod's sin and the sins of man is shifted to God and our sin becomes His fault. The Word of God is very clear here.

ESV James 1:13-15 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. 14 But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. 15 Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

-We are quick to blameshift and we even blame God for our sin or someone else's. We have no one to blame but ourselves for our sin. James says it is ludicrous that we blame God. Our sin comes from our own lustful evil desires which come from our sin nature. So we shouldn't be asking these questions of how could God allow this but what we should do is thank God for His preventing grace that it doesn't happen any more than it does because we are a sinful people. Natural man hates God and hates His people. Dietrich Bonhoeffer said this "the history of the people of God is all strewn with blood and tears...The rage of man is unfurled upon the elect of God...Our time has seen massacres equally shameless. The testimony of the evangelist is that God nonetheless pursues the purpose of salvation."

-So why did it happen? Matthew tells us that one reason was to fulfill prophecy. Look at verses 17-18 again.

Mat 2:17-18 Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: (18) "A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be comforted, because they are no more."

-Matthew quotes Jeremiah 31:15 here and the context of this passage speaks of Rachel weeping for her children as the Israelites went off into exile in Babylon and Rachel is taken symbolically as the mother of the nation and so she represents the mothers of the children who are going into exile. Matthew applies this Scripture and the grief of Rachel to the mother's in Bethlehem and their grief after Herod's men were through. The emphasis here is on the depths of mourning and grief and refusal to be comforted. Why the deep grief? Because they were no more. Nothing can alter the fact of the exile and nothing can alter the fact of the killings at Bethlehem. The grief remains and it seems as if there is no hope.

-And yet once again someone will think, "How could God let this happen---He doesn't understand." And to that person I would have to say at this point. God the Father understands very well what it means to experience the death of a child. His Son who was perfect, sinless and innocent had to die a cruel death that He did not deserve. This was a Son who the Father had enjoyed a glorious, loving face to face relationship with for all of eternity past. This was a Son who had a loving heart of obedience to the Father and perfectly obeyed His will and His law. He did not deserve to die. But it was God the Father who had to crush Him---The Father had to do it Himself and why---because of your sin and mine specifically. It was because of us and our sin that God had to turn His back on His only son and forsake Him. It was because of us that God had to curse Him---a curse that belonged to you and me. It was because of us that God had to pour His wrath out on His own Son and treat Him as if He had lived our sinful life. It was because of us that God had to treat Him as an enemy. To have us in His presence, the Father had to do this to His Son. It was us people who were the reason the Father had to kill His Son! Oh, church, God understands! See the Father's love for you! See the hope that we have because the Son of God was brought out of Egypt! We have hope in Christ and Christ alone. If you are placing your hope in anything else it is a dead hope---it is no hope at all.

-And we are told of this hope in the overall context of the passage in Jeremiah. Right after verse 15 that speaks of Rachel weeping verses 16-17 tell us:

Jer 31:16-17 Thus says the LORD: "Keep your voice from weeping, and your eyes from tears, for there is a reward for your work, declares the LORD, and they shall come back from the land of the enemy. (17) There is hope for your future, declares the LORD, and your children shall come back to their own country.

-Right after these verses in 31-34 Jeremiah unpacks the New Covenant which Christ inaugurated with His death. There was hope for the exiles in Babylon because they would return to their own land and there is hope for us because the Messiah escaped Herod's wrath and would return to His own land from Egypt and fulfill God's redemptive plan by shedding His blood on the cross. And perhaps Matthew is communicating to us that the true exile is over because the true king, the Messiah has returned from Egypt. This leads us to our last point.

4 – The Return to Nazareth (19-23).

Mat 2:19-23 But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, (20) saying, "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 was reigning 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 lived in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled: "He shall be called a Nazarene."

-What was told in verse 15, Out of Egypt I called my son, now comes to fruition in Christ as Joseph, being obedient once again, comes back to the land of Israel. (Recap this from the passage) He is told once again to take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel because those who sought to kill the child were dead. He rose took the child in obedience and went to the land of Israel. But Joseph heard that Archelaus was reigning, and he was well known for his cruelty also, and Joseph was fearful to go there. But we see the faithfulness of God once again to lead Joseph and His family to safety by redirecting him to the district of Galilee. They went and lived in Nazareth to fulfill, once again, what was spoken of by the prophets.

-I want to note just two things here.

1 – The sovereignty of God in the continuing of His redemptive plan. Over and over again we divine intervention in protecting the seed of the covenant. Five times we see this.

-Joseph to take Mary as his wife

-Warning the wise men not to return to Herod

-The flight to Egypt

-To go to the land of Israel

-To go to Galilee

-What can we glean from this? God is sovereign and His will and purposes will be accomplished and nothing, not the will of man or anything else, can stop the will of God and His redemptive plan in Christ. The boundaries of Israel did not confine the sovereignty of God as He appeared to Joseph even in Egypt and gave him direction. We, as the chosen people of God, should find great comfort and hope in this. Even every one of our days God knew before we were even formed. Our very existence, physically and spiritually, are a result of this truth that God is sovereign and His Word is trustworthy and true. Praise and worship God for it!

2 – Note the importance of the last prophesy

Mat 2:23 And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled: "He shall be called a Nazarene."

-Note that there is no specific Old Testament verse that says this but Matthew is calling on the testimony of the prophets as a whole. Some think that Nazarene has something to do with Nazirite because the words are similar. But maybe, just maybe, Matthew wants us to see that Jesus being called a Nazarene speaks to the fact that Jesus would be despised and rejected. Nazareth was a Podunk little town and not respected by people in the surrounding areas. Remember what Nathaniel said when Phillip told him that they had found the Messiah there. He said "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Maybe this is a term of derision that speaks to the fact that Jesus would be rejected and considered insignificant and despised with slurs such as this. Had He been known as Jesus of Bethlehem, the royal city, there would have been overtones of messianic majesty but Jesus the Nazarene carried with it overtones of contempt. Matthew has shown in the first two chapters the hostility that arose against the Christ child and maybe he is forshadowing the ministry and the death of Jesus by bringing our

attention to the fact that He is a Nazarene. Maybe we are to understand the prophets here as pointing to one who would be despised and rejected and we are to see Jesus as fulfilling this in having a connection with Nazareth. I want to leave you with the thought of the writing of the prophet Isaiah.

Isa 53:3-5 He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. (4) Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. (5) But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed.

-Pray

-Application and response: 2 great lessons

1 – God is sovereign---particularly in the details of the birth and life of Jesus the Messiah. These passages should be particularly personal to the child of God because our own salvation was preserved in these passages as we see the Savior of the World protected by the sovereignty of God as Jesus was brought out of Egypt so that He could accomplish the atonement for our sins on a cruel cross.

2 – We need to see the need to confess Jesus as our Lord and King and Savior rather than oppose Him as Herod did. Our submission to Him as King will manifest itself in our obedience.

-Walk down now.

And if you are here today and have rejected Christ then you are in disobedience.

-rejection of the gospel is disobedience to command of Jesus.

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