

Episode #1052 Christmas 2024 3: The Prophesied Salvation

I. The birth of Christ was a miraculous event that prepared the way for all that He would accomplish in His death, burial, and resurrection. At this time of year we remember that birth and the glorious salvation that God gave us as a result.

II. The Jewish audience who originally read the Old Testament quotations in the Christmas story would have immediately been able to call to mind the passages that were referred to. They would have known the context and what the passage was saying. We often do not have that level of knowledge of the Old Testament, however, so we need to review these passages and see what they were all about. Today we will be doing this with the quotations in the story of Christ's birth.

III. Matthew 2:15 quoting Hosea 11:1.

- A. Matthew 2:13-15. Joseph must flee to Egypt to escape Herod's jealous wrath.
- B. Hosea 11:1. Originally spoken of Israel, now typified in the Lord Jesus Christ. Another example of a "filling full" of this prophecy.
- C. Hosea 11:2-7. He reviews His history with them. They are always returning to Egypt for help, but in this case this will be to no avail.
- D. Hosea 11:8-11. The LORD yet has compassion on them. Israel will yet return from Assyria, Egypt, and all the places they have been scattered. They come trembling.
- E. Note: unlike earlier, this is a future return from Egypt.
- F. Note: this does not at all describe the Lord's family's return.

IV. Matthew 2:18 quoting Jeremiah 31:15 (15-40)

- A. Matthew 2:16-18. The destruction of children by Herod.
- B. Jeremiah 31:15. Originally speaking of the destruction of Israel by their enemies Assyria and Babylon. They weep for dead children.
- C. Jeremiah 31:16-17. It is clear that the children shall be brought back to their mothers. How, when they are dead? Clearly indicating resurrection!
- D. Jeremiah 31:18-20. Like in Hosea, the LORD will yet have compassion on the scattered people of Israel.
- E. Jeremiah 31:21. The ones who return are the same ones who were carried captive, and so are told to make landmarks they will recognize. Even death and thousands of years will not stop this return!
- F. Jeremiah 31:22-26. After all his prophecies of doom, this glorious promise was sweet to Jeremiah.
- G. Jeremiah 31:27-37. After proclaiming the New Covenant (31-34,) the LORD indicates the surety of this. It shall come to pass, as surely as the LORD's word is trustworthy.

V. We see in this portion again that a second, greater meaning follows from some of these prophecies. More than just Israel coming out of Egypt and out of captivity, the Lord Himself and His family came from exile in Egypt. Even in the sad prophecy of weeping over destroyed children, there is the glorious hope of a glorious return even from death. Yes, this world will yet be saved from the sad results of sin and death. And this salvation will all come about due to the prophesied Savior!