

— Matthew 2.13-21 —
5th Sermon of Advent
Jesus and the New Exodus

Mat 2¹³ Now when the Magi 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." ¹⁴ When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, ¹⁵ 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." 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, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men. ¹⁷ Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying: ¹⁸ "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." ¹⁹ But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, ²⁰ 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." ²¹ Then he arose, took the young Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel.

► The theological meaning and significance of this passage is signaled to us thru the OT prophecy Matthew quotes in vs 15, Hosea _____.

► Even though Israel had been delivered thru the exodus from captivity to Pharaoh, she had almost immediately turned back to the _____ of Egypt. This would prove to be a _____ with Israel.

Josh 24¹⁴ "[F]ear the LORD, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River [Jordan] and in Egypt."

Acts 7⁴² "God ... gave them up to worship the host of heaven, as it is written in the book of the Prophets: 'Did you offer Me ... sacrifices during forty years in the wilderness, O house of Israel?' ⁴³ You also took up the tabernacle of Moloch, and the star of your god Remphan, images which you made to worship; And I will carry you away beyond Babylon.'" (quoting Amos 5.25-27)

► This trend was despite all the blessings God gave Israel:

- Binding himself to her in _____.
- Placing his _____ in her Tabernacle.

– Writing his _____ on her books.

– Structuring her _____.

– Teaching her his _____.

► This trend led to God disciplining Israel, giving her over to her own _____, which resulted in:

– erosion of blessings, including _____ and _____;

– increased threat and aggravation from _____;

– and ultimately, return to _____.

► By the time of Christ, there was widespread agreement that Israel was in captivity and needed a new _____, and that God had promised to provide the same thru the long-awaited Messiah. The question was:

– What is the true _____ of Israel's captivity?

– What kind of _____ is the Messiah going to provide?

– What is Israel going to _____ like on the other side?

► How did Jesus answer these three questions?

► **Answer 1:** The true nature of Israel's captivity is not political bondage to some human Pharaoh who rules by military might, but bondage of the very heart to the ultimate Pharaoh, _____, who rules by the power of sin and death.

2Tim 2²⁵ if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, ²⁶ and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.

► Matthew makes the same point in the way he applies Hosea 11.1: “When Israel was a child, I loved Him, and out of Egypt I called My son.”

— In Matthew’s new exodus story, who is the new Pharaoh, and who is the ultimate Pharaoh behind him?

Rev 12³ And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon ...⁴ ... And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born.⁵ She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up to God and His throne. ...⁹ [T]he great dragon was ... that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world

— Where is the new Egypt?

Rev 11⁸ ... the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified.

► **Answer 2:** In the new _____, the Messiah must deliver Israel from the ultimate Pharaoh who rules by the power of sin and death.

Luke 17²⁹ As He prayed, the appearance of His face was altered, and His robe became white and glistening.³⁰ And behold, two men talked with Him, who were Moses and Elijah,³¹ who appeared in glory and spoke of His decease [Gr., exodus] which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.

Heb 2¹⁴ Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil,¹⁵ and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage ...¹⁷ Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

Rom 8¹ There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.

Jer 31³³ “But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their

minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.”

Rev 12⁵ She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up to God and His throne ...⁷ And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought,⁸ but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer.⁹ So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.¹⁰ Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, “Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.

► **Answer 3:** In the new exodus, Israel is Jesus and all those, Jew and Gentile, who _____ in Him, just as in the old exodus, Israel was _____ and all those, Jew and Egyptian, who believed and followed him (Exo 12.37-38; 1Cor 10.1-3).

Exo 12³⁷ Then the children of Israel journeyed from Rameses to Succoth, about six hundred thousand men on foot, besides children.³⁸ A mixed multitude went up with them also

1Cor 10¹ Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea,² all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea,³ all ate the same spiritual food,⁴ and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ.