

Matthew's
CHRISTMAS
STORY



unbeknownst to most theologians, there was a fourth wiseman, who was turned away for bringing a fruitcake.



Matthew 3:13-23

¹³ When they (Magi) had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him."

¹⁴ So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, ¹⁵ where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: "Out of Egypt I called my son."

¹⁶ When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi.

¹⁷ Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled: ¹⁸ "A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more." ¹⁹ After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt

²⁰ and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child's life are dead. ²¹ So he got up, took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. ²² But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning in Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there.

Having been warned in a dream, he withdrew to the district of Galilee, ²³ and he went and lived in a town called Nazareth. So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets, that he would be called a Nazarene.

Why Fulfilled Prophecy Matters:

FULFILL OLD TESTAMENT PROPHETIC PROMISES



Isaiah ch.60



Micah ch.5



Isaiah ch.7

Why Fulfilled Prophecy Matters:

We have many tools available to help us navigate life. We live in a world with no shortage of opinions about how to live. TedTalks, Books, PodCast, Friends, Family and Teachers. With all these ideas, opinions and people claiming to know the “truth”, who should we believe?

Why Fulfilled Prophecy Matters:

The Bible makes the audacious claim that it is a gift from God to help us ① Know who He is, ② what He has done for us and ③ what it means to follow Him. If these claims are true, then it is the supreme source of Truth! Fulfilled Prophecy is one more proof that the Bible is reliable in what it says! We can find insight about life from others, we can have powerful dreams or visions, but the final authority for determining how we live and what we tell others about life should always be firmly rooted in what the Bible says.

What's Herod got to lose?

Most of Herod's life work can be attributed to protecting his ① power, ② prestige and ③ his wealth. News of a possible rival King would threaten Herod's control over all the three.

What's Herod got to loose?

Most of us highly value the power of self determination. We live in a world that tells us that part of the recipe for happiness is to make the most of whatever you can control in this world. Having Jesus as King in our lives means that we place our choices and resources under his care and authority. That can be scary. But it makes perfect sense, if He knows more about life & ultimate peace and joy than I do.

Jesus is the gift to the world and He made his followers to be a gift too!

Jesus comes into the world in a time with many competing religious views and a huge amount of political strife. It's worth noting that Jesus didn't pick a winner from among the hotly contested religious factions and didn't even weight in on the best form of government. But it's undeniable that for the people that embraced him - he was the saving gift and a bright light in a dark time.

Jesus is the gift to the world and He made his followers to be a gift too!

*We face many of the same challenges in our world today. Christmas is a great reminder that we can still point people to the saving gift that Jesus is today. It's clear that Jesus created us to shine His light in the world where we live today.
(Matthew 5:14-16)*