



“Dragons, Kings & Kingdoms”

Matthew 2:13-23

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Head: Understanding the Bible

“And they have conquered [the dragon] by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death. Then the dragon became furious with the woman and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus.”

~Revelation 12:11,17

- 1) Read Matthew 2:13-15. What is Matthew saying about Jesus? How does Jesus fulfill Hosea 11:1, “Out of Egypt I called my son?”
- 2) Read Matthew 2:16-18. What is Matthew saying about Jesus? How does Jesus fulfill Jeremiah 31:15?
- 3) Read Matthew 2:19-23. What is Matthew saying about Jesus? How does Jesus fulfill the prophecies of being a Nazarene?
- 4) The backdrop for the fulfillment of Scripture is the “slaughter of the innocents.” What does Matthew want us to see about God and His care for His Son in the midst of this?
- 5) In light of the dragon of Revelation 12, whose to blame for horrific evil?

Heart: Using the Gospel on Our Affections

"...and in the gathering twilight they longed for home. A deep loneliness and sense of loss was on them"
~J.R.R. Tolkien, Fellowship of the Ring

- 5) Jesus is the fulfillment of God's care and love for His Son (Hosea 11 & Jeremiah 31). He is the fulfillment of Rachel's tears of grief. He is the fulfillment of the rejection prophecies of old. This is part of what theologians call the humiliation of the Son of God, to suffer all of the miseries of this life, something Jesus volunteered for before the creation of this world. Why would Jesus go through all of this hell and misery?
- 6) What do Rachel's tears and God's Fatherly love for His son tell us about the nature of God's love for us?

Hands: Applying the Gospel to Our Lives

*"My life goes on in endless song
above earth's lamentations,
I hear the real, though far-off hymn
that hails a new creation.*

*Through all the tumult and the strife
I hear it's music ringing,
It sounds an echo in my soul.
How can I keep from singing?"*

~Robert Lowry, "How Can I Keep From Singing?"

- 7) What makes you angry? What makes you irrationally angry? How do you put out the fire of your anger in light of the gospel?
- 8) God tells his people to stop weeping in Jer. 31:16. Why can God do that? How does the gospel help us weep and rejoice at the same time? Where do you struggle with this?
- 9) Take time to pray for those who weep. Pray that we would be used to show the unique hope that the gospel of Jesus Christ brings even in the worst situations to those inside and outside the faith.