



Portion:

Title:

SCRIPTURES

- Matthew 1-2
- I Corinthians 2:11-14
- Matthew 13:10-17

BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR

- Genealogy Matters
- Homing Instincts
- A Part in Prophecy

They had reached the edge of the river. On the other side lived all the promises of the Father. All they had to do is step in and cross over. In your mind, no doubt, this imagery paints the Israelites at the bank of the Jordan looking over at the promised land. Yet, for Christians there's more, so much more. Crossing over means finding rest, and rest means you have come to live in such a place that faith, and I mean complete faith, has become the blood that flows in your arteries and veins. Your faith is the lifeblood that is pushed around by your every heartbeat.

In Christian vernacular rest means Christlike perfection, and perfection means that the kingdom of heaven has become the pulse bounding from your beating heart. In other words, God's heartbeat has become your heartbeat. And nowhere is the heartbeat of God better felt than in the Gospel narrative of Matthew—reading it is as

if you are pressed against God's bosom. I "fear" the Gospels! They are His Holy Ground! Dare we step on that soil with dirty feet. Dare we echo His words with unclean lips. Cross over, yes, take a strong stand on the land He has promised, but do so with reverence, awe and extreme gratitude, for such privilege would be unimaginable, had He not synchronized our hearts with His.

Dare you step over? The best way to keep your heartbeat synchronized with God's is to listen and obey, regardless of what you hear. Dare you go to that place? It's scary, but maybe it's okay, for a while, to feel like a wounded bird, flying in circles, searching for a perch on which to land, knowing you won't find one just yet, at least not now.

This comes to mind if we stay with the imagery of our wounded bird—imagine a homing pigeon. They are locked onto from where they came and they are trained to return, to end up at their origin, no matter how far the journey—no matter how long it takes. You were crafted in God's image and you are being trained to return to that image, no matter how far the journey—no matter how long it takes. What does that training look like? Listen for His voice; it's calling you home! And, obey immediately, or your journey will take so much longer than necessary, and might even end in tragedy.

The early chapters of Matthew demonstrate this perfectly. Joseph was pressed into God's bosom, locked onto His voice; and

had he not been or had he not obeyed immediately, history altering tragedies would have ensued at each stage of his instruction.

Everything, and I mean everything hinges on your ears to hear God's heart and your willingness to obey—and I mean everything! So, home in, even if you have to fly in circles for a while!

PROPHETIC SEED:

“Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, **was minded to put her away secretly.** But while he thought about these things, **behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream,** saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to **take to you Mary your wife,** for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.” {24} “**Then Joseph,** being aroused from sleep, **did as the angel of the Lord commanded him** and took to him his wife, and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name Jesus.”
Matthew 1:19-20; 24-25 NKJV

PROPHETIC FRUIT:

“But blessed are your eyes for they see, **and your ears for they hear;** for assuredly, I say to you that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see it, **and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.**” Matthew 13:16-17 NKJV

Let's Set the Scene: Portion in a blurb

Introduction to Matthew

Matthew's purpose is to show that God has kept His ancient promises to Israel through the life, death and resurrection of Y'shua (Jesus) the Messiah. The long-expected kingdom of heaven is now coming to earth. Matthew begins by highlighting that Y'shua was born the son of David, Israel's most famous king, and the son of Abraham, Israel's founding patriarch. Y'shua is the true Israelite and God's promised Messiah.

In a sense, Y'shua relives the story of Israel by—going down into the Jordan River, facing temptation in the wilderness, gathering twelve disciples as twelve new tribes, and ascending a mountain to deliver a new Torah.

Just as the Torah had five books, Matthew assembles his Gospel into five separate discourses. Each of the discourses has parallel passages in the Gospels of Mark and Luke. It is fascinating to compare the five discourses to the five books of the Moses (the Pentateuch), each successively corresponding to one book of the Torah (with some variations not relevant to this broader introduction). Each discourse is marked, as it comes to a close in similar fashion, "when Jesus had finished..."

The first discourse: The Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5–7)

- The first of Y’shua’s great sermons.
- The central tenets of who and what is a Christian.
- Invitation into the “Kingdom of Heaven” (God’s kingdom).
- **Ends with:** *“And so it was, **when Jesus had ended these sayings**, that the people were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.”* Matthew 7:28-29 NKJV
- **Torah Scroll (Genesis):**
 - The Beginning of the story.
 - The central tenets of who and what is mankind.
 - Invitation to live in God’s garden.

The second discourse: The Mission Discourse (Matthew 10)

- Provides instructions to the Twelve Apostles to go...
- This commission will prepare you for the greater commission.
- **Ends with:** *“Now it came to pass, **when Jesus finished commanding** His twelve disciples, that He departed from there to teach and to preach in their cities.”* Matthew 11:1 NKJV
- **Torah Scroll (Exodus):**
 - You are leaving this place and being sent on a journey!
 - This journey will test you and prepare you to enter the promised land.

The third discourse: The Parabolic Discourse (Matthew 13:1-52)

- A Royal Priesthood's role in understanding God's heart and the Kingdom of Heaven.
- We are called to discern the mysteries of the kingdom and to bear exponential fruit.
- We are called to discern counterfeits and how they are separated from the real.
- We are anointed to understand how God's word spreads, to appreciate its immeasurable value, and how we must amalgamate both what is old and what is new to really understand the kingdom.
- **Ends with:** *"Now it came to pass, **when Jesus had finished these parables**, that He departed from there."* Matthew 13:53 NKJV
- **Torah Scroll (Leviticus):**
 - Instructions, guidelines and job description for the Priesthood of God.
 - The critical details of the Word of God.
 - These are not just laws—this is the heart of God.

The fourth discourse: The Discourse on the Church (Matthew 18)

- Go find His lost sheep, the extreme violence of unforgiveness and the power of unrestricted forgiveness.

- The anticipation of a future community of followers, and the leadership role of His disciples.
- **Ends with:** *“Now it came to pass, **when Jesus had finished these sayings**, that He departed from Galilee and came to the region of Judea beyond the Jordan.”* Matthew 19:1 NKJV
- **Torah Scroll (Numbers):**
 - The anticipation of leaving this place to survey a new land.
 - The consequences for not believing (the violence of unforgiveness).
 - The blessing for believing (power of unrestricted forgiveness)

The fifth discourse: The Discourse on End Times (Matthew (23-25))

- It can be viewed a few ways, one is to include only Matthew 24-25 (called the Olivet Discourse because Matthew 24 was delivered on the Mount of Olives).
- The other to include Matthew 23 where the teaching starts in the Temple, but then continues on the Mount of Olives.
- Warnings about hypocrisy, disobedience and lack of preparation.
- Preparing for and entering the Christian promised land.
- You must be prepared and the blowback when you are not.
- **Ends with:** *“Now it came to pass, **when Jesus had finished all these sayings**, that He said to His disciples, “You know that after*

two days is the Passover, and the Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified.”” Matthew 26:1-2 NKJV

- **Torah Scroll (Deuteronomy):**

- You are ready to cross into the promised land.
- Warned about hypocrisy, disobedience and lack of preparation.

The Discourse on Woes (Matthew 23) I personally favor this view.

- After His rebuke of the hypocrites of the day, Y’shua moves from the Temple to the Mount of Olives.
- If we view His teaching as contiguous, then we can include chapter 23 in the End Times Discourse.
- **Ends with:** *“Then Jesus went out **and departed from the temple**, and His disciples came up [to the Mt. of Olives] to show Him the buildings of the temple.” Matthew 24:1 NKJV*

The Gospel of Matthew concludes by showing how Y’shua brought about redemption for His people. As in the story of Israel’s Exodus, Passover marks the deliverance of God’s people. The First Passover showed us the purpose of the lamb’s blood (death), the imagery of unleavened bread (burial), and the release of God’s firstborn into freedom (firstfruits of resurrection). Y’shua shed His blood as the Passover Lamb ([See Christ as our Passover](#)), is buried as the bread of life, and is then raised from the dead on the feast of

Firstfruits, the firstborn of all creation. At the beginning of the book, Y'shua is given the name Immanuel—"God with us." At the end, He sends His followers into the world with a promise—"Surely I am with you always."

Matthew 1

The Genealogy of Y'shua

1. The genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham is where we begin.
 - (a) Clearly from the start, Matthew confirms the line of promise—from Abraham through second-born Isaac (not Ishmael) and then through second-born Jacob (not Esau)—to Judah, because Messiah comes from the kingly line (even though Jacob had eleven other sons).
 - (b) King David (from the line of Judah) was the "second-born" King of Israel (Saul from Benjamin was first).
 - (c) Messiah was to be from the line of Judah which meant He had to descend from David if He was to be our "Royal High Priest."
2. Something very special to notice in verse 6...
 - (a) "*David the king begot Solomon **by her** who had been the wife of Uriah.*" (Matthew 1:6)

- (b) Matthew does not name Bathsheba in the genealogy of Christ, but instead names her murdered husband Uriah.
 - (c) More on this later, but no doubt this is a prophetic fulfillment of the Law of the Levirate Marriage (Deuteronomy 25:5-10)
3. Forty-two generations are then named from Abraham to Y'shua.
- (a) From Abraham to David are fourteen generations.
 - (b) From David until the captivity in Babylon are fourteen generations.
 - (c) From the captivity in Babylon until the Christ are fourteen generations.
4. What is most curious is that you can only count thirteen generations from Shealtiel to Y'shua. (There are so many scholarly perspectives on why this is, and why there are differences between Matthew's genealogy and Luke's, as well as many other variances in other genealogies listed throughout the Holy Bible.)
5. I want to give you my take on the matter (this is just food for thought from things I have studied over the years—Dr. Jeff)
- (a) In Matthew 1:16, **if Joseph** (who is the 12th generation from Shealtiel) is the “husband of Mary”, then he falls in the same generation as Mary (making her also the 12th generation).
 - (b) That would make Y'shua the 13th generation.

- (c) But, if the Joseph inserted here is the “father of Mary”, it makes him the 12th generation, which makes Mary the 13th generation and Y’shua the 14th generation.
- (d) Special Note: this would mean that Matthew is bringing us through Mary’s line and Luke through Joseph’s (her husband and as Luke says, the “**supposed** father of Y’shua.” This is the opposite approach of most scholars. Keep in mind that no explanation of this variation is definitive, so what I offer here is just another perspective.
- (e) An ancient Hebrew (not Greek) manuscript of Matthew indicates precisely that the “Joseph” mentioned in Matthew is her father, not her husband! It says... “*Joseph, the father of Mary...*”
- (f) Also—see the Genealogy in Luke 3:23-38 to compare how Luke seems to give the line through the “supposed father”. (Maybe, just maybe, Matthew is NOT running the genealogy through Mary’s husband, but through Mary’s father and then Mary.)
- (g) Matthew does specifically name four women in his choice of genealogy, and alludes to a fifth, which is unheard of in biblical genealogies, which always go through the fathers.
(See: [My Redeemer Lives](#))

6. Two Joseph’s (Matthew & Luke)

- (a) **Matthew:** “Eliud begot Eleazar, **Eleazar** begot Matthan, and **Matthan begot Jacob**. {16} **And Jacob begot Joseph** the **husband of Mary** [*says “Joseph the father of Mary” in Hebrew manuscripts*], of whom was born Jesus who is called Christ.” Matthew 1:15-16
- (b) **Luke:** “Now Jesus Himself began His ministry at about thirty years of age, being (as was supposed) **the son of Joseph** [*supposed? because this is referring to Mary’s husband Joseph, His earthly father, but NOT His true father.*], the son of **Heli**, {24} the son of **Matthat**, the son of **Levi**, the son of **Melchi**, the son of Janna, the son of Joseph,” Luke 3:23-24

7. Y’shua’s Genealogy (Food for thought—NOT definitive):

- (a) **Mary’s line from Matthew:** Eleazar—Matthan—Jacob—Joseph (Mary’s Father)—Y’shua!
- (b) **Joseph’s line from Luke:** Levi—Matthat—Heli—Joseph—(Mary’s Husband)—Y’shua!

The Birth of Y’shua

8. Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows:

- (a) Mary was betrothed (to be married) to Joseph (the stage of marriage before cohabitation and consummation).
- (b) She became pregnant out of wedlock, by the Holy Spirit.

- (c) Joseph, her husband (husband because betrothal is as binding as marriage), was going to divorce her (betrothal needs a divorce to dissolve) but privately without exposing her, to protect her life and that of the child's. (*This is the first time Joseph preserves the life of Christ.*)
- (d) Before he could act on what he thought, an angel appeared to him and informed him that Mary, his wife, was not unfaithful, but had been conceived by the Holy Spirit (again, even though only in the betrothal stage, she is considered his wife).
- (e) Remember, the controversy is that they are betrothed (bound together), but not yet married; they had not finalized the marriage with the wedding ceremony that ends in consummation and cohabitation—which is why it would have be controversial that she was already pregnant.
- (f) Note: the angel addressed Joseph as “son of David,” so we know he is of the line of Judah. (Luke 2:4 says: “...he was of the house and lineage of David.”)

9. The angel says...

- (a) You are having a Son.
- (b) Name Him Jesus (Y'shua).
- (c) He will save His people from their sins.

(d) He will fulfill this prophecy (from Isaiah 7:14): *“Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,”* which is translated, *“God with us.”*

10. Joseph does everything the angel commanded him:

(a) He completes the marriage, but still does NOT consummate until Y’shua, her firstborn, is born.

(b) They named Him Y’shua.

Matthew 2

The Wise Men from the East

11. After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in the days of Herod the king [Herod the Great (circa 74 to 4 B.C.)], wise men came to Jerusalem seeking the one born as the “King of the Jews”.

12. They followed [The Star](#) in the East and wanted to worship Him.

(a) *“The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork.”* Psalms 19:1 NKJV

13. Herod was jealous of “another king” and all of Jerusalem knew how he felt about it!

14. He assembled the “chief priests and scribes (teachers of the law)” to figure out where the Christ was supposed to be born.

15. They consulted the prophecy from Micah 5:2: *“In Bethlehem of the land of Judah, are not the least among the rulers of Judah;*

For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.”

16. Herod secretly called in the wise men to determine when the star that inspired their journey first appeared (so he could calculate the age-range of the child).
17. He sends them to find “the young Child” and to report back his location, so that “he too could go worship Him.” (See: Y’shua is no longer a newborn baby by this time, as is depicted in all the birth-of-Christ depictions that show the wise men bringing gifts to the manger!)
18. The wise men departed and continued to follow the star until they found the young Child.
19. When they had come into “the house”, they fell down and worshiped Him and presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. (They found Y’shua in a house; He is NO LONGER a Babe lying in a manger as He was when the shepherds found Him in Luke 2:4-20.)
20. Then, God warned the wise men in a dream that they should not return to Herod. Instead, they returned to their own country.

Into Egypt

21. Then an angel warned Joseph in a dream to flee to Egypt, and to stay there until further notice, because Herod was going to seek to kill the young child.
22. Joseph immediately departed for Egypt with his family until the death of Herod. *(This is the second time Joseph preserved the life of Christ.)*
23. This fulfilled the prophecy in Hosea 11:1, saying, "Out of Egypt I called My Son."

Massacre of the Innocents

24. When Herod realized he was deceived by the wise men, he put to death all the male children, from two years old and under, in the region where Y'shua was born.
25. He knew from the timing of the wise men that Y'shua would not have been older than two years old.
 - (a) [Herod the Great](#) was a monster. He also executed one of his wives, and three of his children.
26. The word spoken by Jeremiah the prophet (Jeremiah 31:15) was fulfilled by Herod's actions: *"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."*

Home in Nazareth

27. After Herod died, the angel appeared in a dream to Joseph again and told him it was now safe to return to Israel, so he did.
28. Archelaus, Herod's son was now ruling over Judea, so Joseph was afraid to go there. (*Could be a third time Joseph preserved the life of Christ.*)
29. God told him in a dream to settle, instead, in Galilee in a city called Nazareth, and yet another prophecy was fulfilled, "He shall be called a Nazarene."
- (a) This time it was not one specific prophecy, but the prophetic idea that the Messiah would be a man who was "despised and rejected." (As in Psalms 22:6-7 and Isaiah 53:2-3)
 - (b) A Nazarene is a reference to a person who is "despised and rejected."
 - (c) Galilee was looked down upon by Judeans, and Nazareth of Galilee was especially despised.
 - (d) "He shall be called a Nazarene" is something akin to "He shall be despised and mocked by His own people."
 - (e) There are other prophetic possibilities as well, but that might be a matter for a different time.

GENEALOGY MATTERS

1. Matters of Genealogy (see: [My Redeemer Lives](#))

A. A Missing Name

(1) The Uriah Story

(a) Why does Matthew insert Uriah's name in the Genealogy of Christ, instead of Bathsheba?

1. "and Jesse begot David the king. David the king begot Solomon by her **who had been the wife of Uriah.**" Matthew 1:6 NKJV

a) Clearly, Matthew has no issue with women being named in the genealogy. (He named four others: Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, and Mary)

b) The answer lies in what would have happened to Uriah had Matthew not done that!

c) His name would have been lost to history.

(b) King David's Unrighteousness: (Read II Samuel 11-12)

1. The story of Bathsheba is rooted in lust, rape and infidelity.

2. Bathsheba was the wife of Uriah the Hittite, one of King David's trusted military officers.

3. David spotted Bathsheba bathing from the roof of his palace.

4. Why was he in his palace? Because he was in the wrong place at the wrong time; he should have been away at war!
5. Instead, David was where he shouldn't have been, allowing his eyes to linger and his heart to follow.
6. David gets Bathsheba pregnant and has her husband murdered to cover up the affair.
7. The firstborn baby of their union dies as a consequence of God's judgment on their illicit relationship.
8. Bathsheba is certainly a victim here; given the times and the culture in which she lived. Bathsheba almost certainly had no power to refuse the advances of an absolute monarch.
9. Bathsheba becomes one of David's wives and later gives birth to Solomon, David's chosen heir and direct ancestor of Christ.
10. David is the most significant name in the genealogy of Y'shua, and the deliberate exclusion of Bathsheba (**referred to instead as the wife of Uriah**), indicates David's role in upholding the Law of the Levirate Marriage. He redeemed Uriah by ensuring that his name would not be blotted out of history!

(2) Law of the Levirate Marriage (Read Deuteronomy 25:5-10)

(a) Preserving a Name

1. “If brothers dwell together, and **one of them dies and has no son**, the widow of the dead man shall not be married to a stranger outside the family; **her husband’s brother shall go in** to her, take her as his wife, and perform the duty of a husband’s brother to her. **And it shall be that the firstborn son which she bears will succeed to the name of his dead brother, that his name may not be blotted out of Israel.”**

Deuteronomy 25:5-6 NKJV

- a) Uriah was murdered (by David’s actions) before he could have a son who would preserve his name.
- b) So, God used the King of Israel, that same David, to preserve Uriah’s name forever!
 - 1) **Why?** “He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and **I [the Messiah, the son David]** will not **blot out his name from the Book of Life**; but I **will confess his name before My Father** and before His angels.” Rev. 3:5
 - 2) **How?** “and Jesse begot David the king. David the king **begot Solomon by** her who had been the wife of **Uriah.**” Matthew 1:6 NKJV

- c) Yahweh used the Royal Bloodline of king David, and bloodline of the Messiah, in which to insert Uriah's name FOREVER, so it would NOT be blotted out, but instead be remembered into eternity, **as part of the Royal Line of Judah, and the Messiah Himself!**
- d) You see, the father's house must be mentioned by name in the ancestry...
 - 1) "Then Moses and Aaron took these men **who had been mentioned by name**, and they assembled all the congregation together on the first day of the second month; **and they recited their ancestry by families, by their fathers' houses**, according to the number of names, from twenty years old and above, each one individually." Numbers 1:17-18 NKJV
- e) Can you Imagine, Uriah the Hittite, as the "father" who is named in the Royal bloodline of Y'shua?!

B. The Tale of Two Josephs

- (1) Joseph who?
 - (a) Husband or Father?
 - 1. **Matthew:** "Eliud begot Eleazar, **Eleazar** begot Matthan, and **Matthan begot Jacob.** {16} **And Jacob**

begot **Joseph** the **husband of Mary** [says “Joseph the father of Mary” in Hebrew manuscripts], of whom was born Jesus who is called Christ.” Matthew 1:15-16

2. **Luke:** “Now Jesus Himself began His ministry at about thirty years of age, being (as was supposed) **the son of Joseph** [supposed? because this is referring to Mary’s husband Joseph, His earthly father, but NOT His true father.], the son of **Heli**, {24} the son of **Matthat**, the son of **Levi**, the son of **Melchi**, the son of Janna, the son of Joseph,” Luke 3:23-24
 - a) An ancient Hebrew (not Greek) manuscript of Matthew indicates that the “Joseph” mentioned in Matthew is her father, not her husband! It says... “*Joseph, the father of Mary...*”
 - b) Maybe Matthew is NOT running the genealogy through Mary’s husband, but through Mary’s father and then Mary.
 - c) Matthew does specifically name four women (as noted) and alludes to a fifth, whereas biblical genealogies always go through the father. (See: [My Redeemer Lives](#))

- d) Also—see the Genealogy in Luke 3:23-38 to compare how Luke seems to give the line through the “supposed father.”
- e) See “The Genealogy of Y’shua” in the introduction above, starting on page 9 for more details.

(2) How many generations?

(a) The numbers don’t add up!

1. “So all the generations from Abraham to David are **fourteen** generations, from David until the captivity in Babylon are **fourteen** generations, and **from the captivity in Babylon until the Christ are fourteen generations.**” Matthew 1:17 NKJV

- a) If you count the generations from Babylon to Christ in Matthew 1:12-16, you can only count **thirteen**.
- b) See Point 4 on page 10: “What is most curious...” for an explanation about the “missing generation.”

HOMING INSTINCTS

2. Returning Home

A. What is our destination?

(1) Homing pigeon

- (a) An animal's ability to return to a place or territory after traveling a distance away from it.
- (b) The strong homing instinct of a pigeon, trained to fly home from a great distance and bred for long-distance.

(2) The home you are returning to...

(a) The Image of God (see: [The Image of God](#))

1. "So God created man **in His own image**; in the image of God He **created him**; male and female He **created them**." Genesis 1:27 NKJV

- a) This may be one of the top five most important concepts in the entirety of the Holy Bible, and maybe it is THE most important, relative to the times in which we live.
- b) We were created in God's image and all that it means to return to that image is critical to understand in the times in which we live.
- c) Please see [The Image of God](#) to grasp the magnitude of this topic (short version with notes, only 30 min.).

d) For the purpose of today's teaching, you must grasp this one idea: mankind was created in the image of God, was corrupted with sin, and is being restored to the image of God (at the restoration of all things with the revealing of the sons of God—See Romans 8:18-25)

(b) What does that image look like?

1. "Now when He was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He answered them and said, **"The kingdom of God does not come with observation;** nor will they say, 'See here!' or 'See there!' For indeed, **the kingdom of God is within you.**" Luke 17:20-21 NKJV

a) The Kingdom is within you! When John the Baptist came preaching, his message was to *"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!"* (see Matthew 3:1-2) Visualize this: He was pointing outward, at Christ, and telling us that we must return (home) to Yahweh (that is actually what it means to repent). And this is what it looks—the fullness of God manifesting in man, (the kingdom of God within you), look's like Christ!

b) When Christ emerged from the wilderness, He went to Capernaum (another fulfillment of Prophecy—see Matthew 4:14-16 & Isaiah 9:1-2). He too began to preach, *“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”* (Matthew 4:17) This time, He was pointing inward, at Himself. He is the epitome of the kingdom of God manifesting within man—the image of God—the home to which we must return.

(c) Do you have ears to hear?

1. “Then He turned to His disciples and said privately, **“Blessed are** the eyes which see the things you see; for I tell you that **many prophets and kings have desired** to see what you see, and have not seen it, and **to hear what you hear**, and have not heard it.””

Luke 10:23-24 NKJV

- a) Up until that time in history, no one could understand such ideas.
- b) The kingdom you so long for is not an earthly kingdom. It is not restored by defeating the Romans (enemies) and restoring Israel to power (glory).

- c) It is restored as mankind returns to the image of God, when God fully manifests in man and he looks like Jesus!
- d) Many who came before wished they could grasp this and could not—but you can; you should; YOU MUST!
- e) How? You must have ears to hear and a heart to obey!

B. Ears to hear and a heart to obey!

(1) Subject: Joseph's has a decision to make!

(a) Crises: Pregnancy out of wedlock—what if Joseph did not hear and obey the voice of God?

1. “Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was **betrothed** to Joseph, **before they came together** , she was **found with child** of the Holy Spirit. Then Joseph her **husband** , **being a just man** , and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to **put her away secretly** .” Matthew 1:18-19 NKJV

a) Mary was betrothed (to be married) to Joseph (the stage of marriage before cohabitation and consummation).

- b) She became pregnant out of wedlock, by the Holy Spirit.
- c) Joseph, her husband (husband because betrothal is as binding as marriage), was going to divorce her (betrothal needs a divorce to dissolve) but privately without exposing her, to protect her life and that of the child's.
- d) ****This is the first time Joseph preserves the life of Christ!*
- e) Before he could act on what he thought, an angel appeared to him and informed him that Mary, his wife, was not unfaithful, but had been conceived by the Holy Spirit (again, even though only in the betrothal stage, she is considered his wife).
- f) Remember, the controversy is that they are betrothed (bound together), but not yet married; they had not finalized the marriage with the wedding ceremony that ends in consummation and cohabitation—which is why it would have been controversial that she was already pregnant and why her life and the life of her child were in grave danger! What if Joseph had chosen not to listen to the voice of God?

(b) Angel #1

1. “But **while he thought** about these things, behold, **an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream**, saying, “Joseph, son of David, **do not be afraid** to take to you Mary your wife, for **that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit**. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.” So all this was done **that it might be fulfilled** which was **spoken by the Lord through the prophet**, saying: “Behold, **the virgin** shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us.”” Matthew 1:20-23 NKJV

- a) The voice of God comes from an angel.
- b) Are you dreaming? Are you Listening? Joseph listens!
- c) Is that not the first step in every process with God? Hear His voice and know His heart on the matter before you do ANYTHING! *“But while Joseph thought about these things, behold...”*
- d) Joseph, being a just man (v. 19)...
 - 1) “But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, **add to your faith virtue**, to virtue

knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love." II Peter 1:5-7 NKJV

- e) Joseph add to your faith Virtue! You must know what God wants before you can know what you should do!
- f) More on the prophecy later...

(c) Joseph's virtuous response...

1. "Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, **did as the angel of the Lord commanded him** and **took to him his wife**, and **did not know her** till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name Jesus." Matthew 1:24-25 NKJV

- a) Joseph heard God's voice and obeyed!
- b) Instead of divorcing Mary, he marries her.
- c) Instead of consummating, he let's her give birth as a virgin!
- d) *Joseph preserves the life of Christ!*

(2) Subject: Herod's plot to murder Christ!

(a) Angel #2

1. "Now when they 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.””

Matthew 2:13 NKJV

- a) The voice of God speaks again!
- b) Escape to Egypt!
- c) Why? A life depends on it!
- d) How often do you delay or disobey the voice of Lord? How often might your dull ears and hard heart result in serious ramifications?
- e) How long must Joseph stay in Egypt? As long as it takes! Do what God spoke to you to do, and keep doing it!
 - 1) “But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, **to self-control perseverance**, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love.” II Peter 1:5-7 NKJV

(b) Joseph’s virtuous response...

1. “**When he arose**, he took the young Child and His mother by night and **departed for Egypt**, 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.””

Matthew 2:14-15 NKJV

- a) Joseph obeys at once—a delay could cost Y’shua His life.
- b) How long does he stay in Egypt? Until Herod dies!
- c) Why else is Egypt so critical—to fulfill prophecy. More on that later...
- d) *Joseph preserves the life of Christ a second time!*

(3) Subject: Time to go home!

(a) Angel #3

- 1. “Now when Herod was dead, behold, **an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph** in Egypt, 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.”” Matthew 2:19-20 NKJV

- a) Joseph, it is safe to go back to Israel.
- b) Those looking to kill Y’shua are dead!

(b) Joseph’s virtuous response...

- 1. “Then **he arose, took** the young Child and His mother, and **came into the land of Israel.**” Matthew 2:21 NKJV

- a) Immediately he packs his family and goes!

b) He arrives in Israel, now what?

(4) Subject: Don't go there—go here!

(a) Angel #4

1. “But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea instead of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being **warned by God in a dream, he turned aside into the region of Galilee.**” Matthew 2:22 NKJV

a) Joseph had concerns about returning to Judea as Herod's son was ruler.

b) God speaks to Joseph yet again in a dream (this time it does not say the communicator was from an angel, but we might assume so).

c) Don't go to Judea, but instead into the region in Galilee.

d) This reminds me of that moment of the Exodus when God changed directions in an instant, and the people had to make that life and death decision to obey or not to obey.

1) “Then it came to pass, when Pharaoh had let the people go, that **God did not lead them by way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near;** for God said, “Lest perhaps the people

change their minds when they see war, and return to Egypt.” **So God led the people around by way of the wilderness of the Red Sea.** And the children of Israel went up in orderly ranks out of the land of Egypt.” Exodus 13:17-18 NKJV

- e) The people obeyed and went the other way. It landed them with their backs against the sea, hemmed in on all sides.
- f) And that is precisely what Yahweh used to destroy the entire Egyptian army!
- g) Obedience is a matter life and death!

(b) Joseph’s virtuous response...

1. “**And he came and dwelt** in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, “He shall be called a Nazarene.”” Matthew 2:23 NKJV

- a) The family settles in Nazareth in the Galilee region, and yet another prophecy is fulfilled. More on that later!
- b) *We might even think that Joseph preserved the life of Christ a third time!*

- c) The big take away is this: Every time God spoke, Joseph heard and obeyed. And his virtuous approach to life saved the life of Christ.
- d) There are two voices we can listen to (two spirits):
 - 1. The voice/Spirit of God (His voice!)
 - 2. The voice/Spirit of man (Your voice!)

C. Two Voices Two Spirits

- (1) To which are you listening? To which are you obeying?
 - (a) The **Two Spirits** are contrary to one another!
 - 1. “I say then: **Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.** For **the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh;** and **these are contrary to one another,** so that you do not do the things that you wish. But **if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.**” Galatians 5:16-18 NKJV
 - a) There are two spirits—one that you came with which animates your carnal nature, and one that you gained when you became born again!
 - b) You must recognize that when you received the Holy Spirit, it DID NOT REPLACE your human spirit, instead the Holy Spirit came alongside it!

- c) You must **CHOOSE** to walk by the the Spirit of God and not by the spirit of man!
 - d) When you do, you cannot be condemned by iniquity (sin, lawlessness) because you are both empowered to obey God’s law (See: [Pick a Vowel](#)), and covered by His blood when you make an error! That is what it means by, “if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.”
 - e) It DOES NOT mean the law does not apply to you! Remember, “Sin is lawlessness.” (I John 3:4)
 - f) It simply means you are empowered by the Holy Spirit to NOT fall short and if you do fall short, you don’t fall “under” its condemnation.
- (b) No better explanation of the **Two Spirits**:
1. “For **what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him?** Even so **no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.** Now **we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God,** that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. These things we also speak, not in words which man’s wisdom teaches but which **the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.**

But **the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God**, for they are **foolishness** to him; nor can he know them, because **they are spiritually discerned.**" I Corinthians 2:11-14 NKJV

- a) This is vitally important:
- 1) The things of a man are known by the spirit of man (the spirit he is born with).
 - 2) The things of God are only known by the Spirit of God.
 - 3) When we get born-again, we don't get another version of the spirit of man (the spirit of the world), we get access to the Spirit of God.
 - 4) Why? So the Holy Spirit will help us compare the things of man's spirit with the things of God's Spirit. (That is what we just read about in Galatians 5:16-18.)
 - 5) The man who is not born-again, cannot understand anything about the Spirit of God—it's absolute absurdity to him.
 - 6) The things of God can only be discerned by the spirit of God (which you then have access to when you become born-again!)

(c) Now, the most detailed explanation of **Two Spirits** ever written!

1. “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.** For **the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.** For what **the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh,** God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, that **the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.** For those who **live according to the flesh** set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who **live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.** For to be **carnally minded is death,** but to be **spiritually minded is life** and peace. Because **the carnal mind is enmity against God;** for it is **not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.** So then, **those who are in the flesh cannot please God.** But you are **not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you.** Now if anyone **does not have the**

Spirit of Christ, he is not His. And if Christ is in you, the **body is dead because of sin,** but **the Spirit is life because of righteousness.** But **if the Spirit** of Him who raised Jesus from the dead **dwells in you,** He who raised Christ from the dead will **also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit** who dwells in you." Romans 8:1-11 NKJV

- a) Paul and his details. You must make a choice!
 - 1) Walk in the flesh (man's spirit) = condemnation
 - 2) Walk in the God's Spirit = no condemnation
 - 3) The Spirit of life from Christ freed you from the death that comes when your only ability to obey God's law is in your flesh (man's spirit).
 - 4) Complete obedience to God's laws is impossible if all you have access to is the spirit of a man, because you are too weak in that condition.
 - 5) The righteous requirement of the law can only be achieved when you walk in the Spirit of God.
 - 6) If your flesh is animated only by man's spirit your mind focuses only on carnal things.
 - 7) But, if you are animated by the Holy Spirit, you will make Godly things a priority.
 - 8) Carnal mindedness is death.

- 9) Spiritual mindedness is life.
 - 10) The spirit of man is at enmity (in hatred) with God; it will not, it **cannot**, subject itself to God's laws, nor does it have any desire to do so.
 - 11) Those who only have access to the spirit of a man can't ever be pleasing to God.
 - 12) If you are truly born-again, you are not a prisoner to man's spirit; you have access to the Holy Spirit also.
 - 13) But at any given moment, you have to choose one or the other.
 - 14) Sin WILL kill you if you only have access to man's spirit.
 - 15) But if you have access to the Holy Spirit, righteousness will give you life
- (d) Here is the ever-present battle of the **Two Spirits**:
1. **"I find then a law**, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good. For **I delight in the law of God according to the inward man [the Spirit of God in me]**. But I see another law in my members, warring against **the law of my mind [the spirit of man in the]**, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members." Romans 7:21-23 NKJV

(a) Both spirits coexist—you must choose at every moment that which you will let animate you!

(2) **Two Spirits:** The Fruit of choosing the Spirit of God

(a) Practical application...

1. “But someone will say, “You have faith, and I have works.” **Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble! But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead? {24}** You see then that **a man is justified by works, and not by faith only.**” James 2:18-20, 24 NKJV

- a) Saying you believe is not enough—even demons say they believe and are petrified of God.
- b) You have to both believe and do things that demonstrate that you believe.
- c) Show me your faith and I will show my faith by works, otherwise your faith is just lip service and and is not real!
- d) No, works can’t save you, only the gift of faith can do that. But, you are saved so you can demonstrate your faith—that is called works!

- 1) “For by **grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works [The free gift of faith redeemed you, not good works.]**, lest anyone should boast. For **we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works**, which God prepared beforehand that **we should walk in them. [You were created by God and redeemed by God, for the purpose of living out those good works. That is what proves you really received redemption through the free gift of faith.]**” Ephesians 2:8-10 NKJV

A PART IN PROPHECY

3. How to play your part in prophecy?

A. Hear and do!

(1) Law: the statutes of Yahweh

(a) **Hear, O Israel**

1. “**Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one!**
You shall **love the Lord** your God with all your heart,
with all your soul, and with all your strength.”

Deuteronomy 6:4-5 NKJV

2. “You shall not hate your brother in your heart. You shall **surely rebuke your neighbor, and not bear sin because of him.** You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but **you shall love your neighbor as yourself:** I am the Lord.” Leviticus 19:17-18 NKJV

- a) [Shama] (In Hebrew): to hear, listen to, obey
- b) You can’t just listen, you must do! Do what?
- c) Understand there is only ONE God and He is all in ONE. See [The Image of God](#) for details about understating the divine family (the Trinity).
- d) Love God: How? If you love Him you will obey Him! (John 14:15)
- e) Love your neighbor: How? If you love them you won’t stand by and do nothing while you watch them sin. You will rebuke them!

(2) Case Law: the statutes of Yahweh applied...

(a) Confirmed

- 1. “Then one of the **scribes** came, and having heard them reasoning together, perceiving that He had answered them well, asked Him, “**Which is the first commandment of all?**” Jesus answered him, “The first of all the commandments is: ‘**Hear, O Israel, the Lord**

our God, the Lord is one. And you **shall love the Lord** your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ This is the first commandment.” Mark 12:28-30 NKJV

a) Everything the Law said in Deuteronomy 6:4-5, hear and do!

b) Note: a **scribe** is a biblical law expert!

2. “And the second, like it, is this: ‘**You shall love your neighbor as yourself.**’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”” Mark 12:31 NKJV

a) Everything the Law said in Leviticus 19:17-18, hear and do!

3. “So **the scribe said** to Him, “**Well said, Teacher.** You have **spoken the truth**, for there is one God, and there is no other but He. And to love Him with all the heart, with all the understanding, with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love one’s neighbor as oneself, **is more than all the whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.**”” Mark 12:32-33 NKJV

a) The scribe affirms the proper understanding of the law—as truth.

b) Love for God and for one another are greater than any sacrifice—apply that love in your life!

1) “When Jesus heard that, He said to them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, **but those who are sick**. But go and learn what this means: ‘**I desire mercy and not sacrifice** [*from Hosea 6:6*].’ For I did not **come to call** the righteous, but sinners, to repentance **[How does He call them? He loves the sick unto repentance. Love is greater than any other sacrifice!]**.”” Matthew 9:12-13 NKJV

4. “Now when Jesus saw that he answered wisely, He said to him, “**You are not far from the kingdom of God.**” But after that no one dared question Him.”
Mark 12:34 NKJV

a) When you understand that the goal of the entire plan of Yahweh is love God with a whole heart (*Love: Deuteronomy 6:4-5*), and Love your neighbor completely as you love yourself (*Brotherly Love: Leviticus 19:17-18*), you are not far from the Kingdom of God!

b) Why? Because the kingdom of God is when God is fully manifesting in mankind, like it did in Y’shua!

It is when man manifests the divine nature, and that is what we are promised is available to us.

1) “by which have been given to us **exceedingly great and precious promises**, that through these you may be **partakers of the divine nature**, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.” II Peter 1:4 NKJV

c) And that divine nature is LOVE! Can you see it clearly now? “God is love.” (1 John 4:8, 16)

1) “But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, **to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love.**” II Peter 1:5-7 NKJV

B. Men taking part in God’s plans/prophecy (God’s human initiative partners)

(1) Joseph: heard and did!

(a) After Mary was found with child out of wedlock...

1. “So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was **spoken by the Lord through the prophet**, saying: *“Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a*

Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us.”” Matthew 1:22-23 NKJV

- a) And Isaiah 7:14 was fulfilled!
- (b) Joseph immediately departs for Egypt with his family until the death of Herod.
 1. “When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, 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.””**
Matthew 2:14-15 NKJV
 - a) And Hosea 11:1 was fulfilled!
 - (c) God told Joseph in a dream to settle, instead, in Galilee in a city called Nazareth, and yet another prophecy would be fulfilled, “He shall be called a Nazarene.”
 1. “And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might **be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, “He shall be called a Nazarene.””**
Matthew 2:23 NKJV
 - a) This time it was not one specific prophecy, but the prophetic idea that the Messiah would be a man who was “despised and rejected.” (as in Psalms 22:6-7 and Isaiah 53:2-3)

1) "But I am a worm, and no man; **A reproach of men, and despised by the people.** All those who see Me ridicule Me; They shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying," Psalms 22:6-7 NKJV

2) "For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, And as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; And when we see Him, There is no beauty that we should desire Him. **He is despised and rejected by men,** A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him." Isaiah 53:2-3 NKJV

b) A Nazarene is a reference to a person who is "despised and rejected."

c) Galilee was looked down upon by Judeans, and Nazareth of Galilee was especially despised.

d) "He shall be called a Nazarene" is something akin to "He shall be despised and mocked by His own people."

e) There are other prophetic possibilities as well, but that might be a matter for a different time.

(2) Others who participate in fulfilling prophecy!

(a) Herod's Massacre of the children...

1. *“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.”* Matthew 2:18 NKJV

a) And Jeremiah 31:15 was fulfilled!

(b) The Wise Men

1. *“So they said to him, *‘In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet: ‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.’ ”* Matthew 2:5-6 NKJV

a) Herod assembled the “chief priests and scribes (teachers of the law)” to figure out where the Christ was supposed to be born and they consulted the prophecy, thus fulfilling Micah 5:2.

(c) The Wise Men—The Star in the East

1. *“saying, “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? **For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.**” {9} When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, **the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came***

and stood over where the young Child was."

Matthew 2:2, 9 NKJV

- a) "The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork." Psalms 19:1 NKJV

C. The Wise Men

(1) See and do! Hear and do!

(a) See and do!

1. "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews?

For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him." Matthew 2:2 NKJV

a) They followed the star to Herod!

2. "When they heard the king, they departed; **and**

behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where

the young Child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. And when they had **come into the house, they saw the young Child** with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh." Matthew 2:9-11 NKJV

a) They followed the star until they found Y'shua!

(b) Here and do!

1. “Then, being **divinely warned in a dream** that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way.” Matthew 2:12 NKJV

a) They heard God’s voice (were Divinely Warned!) and returned home instead of reporting back to Herod.

b) It is likely they saved their own lives by hearing and obeying!

D. You: hear and do!

(1) A look ahead and what it means to listen and Obey

(a) Do or Don’t (Are you a Joseph or are you a fool?)

1. ““Therefore whoever **hears these sayings of Mine, and does them**, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. “But everyone who **hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them**, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.” And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings,

that **the people were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.**" Matthew 7:24-29 NKJV

a) Here and do: you are standing on a solid rock. No matter what challenges come, you will prevail.

b) Here and don't do: you are standing in quicksand and you are sinking fast.

c) Y'shua reveals Himself as an expert in the law above the biblical lawyers of the the day.

d) He is revealing treasures:

a) "Then He said to them, "Therefore **every scribe instructed concerning the kingdom of heaven [even the biblical lawyers of the day needed instruction about the kingdom of heaven]** is like a householder who brings out of his treasure things new and old."" Matthew 13:52 NKJV

(2) God wants to reveal His mysteries to you!

(a) Solving mysteries requires good hearing!

1. "And the disciples came and said to Him, "Why do You speak to them in parables?" He answered and said to them, "**Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven,** but to them it has not been given. **For whoever has, to him**

more will be given, and he will have abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him. Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. And in them the prophecy of **Isaiah is fulfilled [Isaiah 6:9-10]**, which says: *'Hearing you will hear and shall not understand, And seeing you will see and not perceive; For the hearts of this people have grown dull. **Their ears are** hard of hearing, And their eyes they have closed, Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them.'* But **blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear; for assuredly, I say to you that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear**, and did not hear it." Matthew 13:10-17 NKJV

- a) Joseph is hardly given any attention, but you must be able to hear and you must be willing obey, like Joseph, who literally saved the life of our blessed savior, if you wish to understand the mysteries of

the kingdom. Joseph just might be the “*Best Supporting Actor*” in the Bible.

- b) Are you hard of hearing as we see in the prophet Isaiah 6:9-10, referred to by Y’shua? If so, turn! Yes, there is that word again, turn back toward Yahweh. Return, repent—it is the only way home!
- c) And these were the Isaiah’s words just prior to the prophecy above, quoted by Y’shua.
 - 1) “Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying:
“Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?”
Then I said, “**Here am I! Send me.**”” Isaiah 6:8
NKJV
- d) Yes, Y’shua revealed that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see and hear what you hear.
- e) Maybe, just maybe, Y’shua’s words that “*it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven,*” has something to do with your willingness to hear, willingness to obey and willingness to say, “*Here am I! Send me.*”

(3) We have many mysteries to unfold in Matthew’s Gospel!

- (a) None greater than this one! Strap in!

1. **“Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season? Blessed is that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing.**

Assuredly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all his goods.” Matthew 24:45-47 NKJV

- a) “Blessed is that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing.”
- b) What servant? Do what?
- c) The one...willing to hear, willing to obey and willing to say, *“Here am I! Send me.”*

Summary: GENEALOGY MATTERS

1. Matters of Genealogy (see: [My Redeemer Lives](#))

A. A Missing Name

(1) The Uriah Story

- (a) Why does Matthew insert Uriah’s name in the Genealogy of Christ, instead of Bathsheba?

1. Clearly, Matthew has no issue with women being named in the genealogy. (He named four others: Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, and Mary)
2. The answer lies in what would have happened to Uriah had Matthew not done that!

3. His name would have be lost to history.
- (b) King David's Unrighteousness: (Read II Samuel 11-12)
1. The story of Bathsheba is rooted in lust, rape and infidelity.
 2. Bathsheba was the wife of Uriah the Hittite, one of King David's trusted military officers.
 3. David spotted Bathsheba bathing from the roof of his palace.
 4. Why was he in his palace? Because he was in the wrong place at the wrong time; he should have been away at war!
 5. Instead, David was where he shouldn't have been, allowing his eyes to linger and his heart to follow.
 6. David gets Bathsheba pregnant and has her husband murdered to cover up the affair.
 7. The firstborn baby of their union dies as a consequence of God's judgment on their illicit relationship.
 8. Bathsheba is certainly a victim here; given the times and the culture in which she lived. Bathsheba almost certainly had no power to refuse the advances of an absolute monarch.

9. Bathsheba becomes one of David's wives and later gives birth to Solomon, David's chosen heir and direct ancestor of Christ.
 10. David is the most significant name in the genealogy of Y'shua, and the deliberate exclusion of Bathsheba (**referred to instead as the wife of Uriah**), indicates David's role in upholding the Law of the Levirate Marriage. He redeemed Uriah by ensuring that his name would not be blotted out of history!
- (2) Law of the Levirate Marriage (Read Deuteronomy 25:5-10)
- (a) Preserving a Name
 1. Uriah was murdered (by David's actions) before he could have a son who would preserve his name.
 - a) So, God used the King of Israel, that same David, to preserve Uriah's name forever! How?
 - 1) Whose son is this? Whose name is being remembered, whose name is NOT BEING BLOTTED OUT!?
 - 2) Yahweh used the Royal Bloodline of king David, and bloodline of the Messiah, in which to insert Uriah's name FOREVER, so it would NOT be blotted out, but instead be remembered into

eternity, **as part of the Royal Line of Judah, and the Messiah Himself!**

- b) You see, the father's house must be mentioned by name in the ancestry...
 - 1) Can you Imagine, Uriah the Hittite, as the "father" who is named in the Royal bloodline of Y'shua?!

B. The Tale of Two Josephs

- (1) Joseph who?
 - (a) Husband or Father?
 - a) An ancient Hebrew (not Greek) manuscript of Matthew indicates that the "Joseph" mentioned in Matthew is her father, not her husband! It says... "*Joseph, the father of Mary...*"
 - b) Maybe Matthew is NOT running the genealogy through Mary's husband, but through Mary's father and then Mary.
 - c) Matthew does specifically name four women (as noted) and alludes to a fifth, whereas biblical genealogies always go through the father.
 - d) Also—see the Genealogy in Luke 3:23-38 to compare how Luke seems to give the line through the "supposed father."

- (2) How many generations?
 - (a) The numbers don't add up!
 - 1. If you count the generations from Babylon to Christ in Matthew 1:12-16, you can only count **thirteen**.

Summary: HOMING INSTINCTS

2. Returning Home

A. What is our destination?

- (1) Homing pigeon
 - (a) An animal's ability to return to a place or territory after traveling a distance away from it.
 - (b) The strong homing instinct of a pigeon, trained to fly home from a great distance and bred for long-distance.
- (2) The home you are returning to...
 - (a) The Image of God (see: [The Image of God](#))
 - 1. This may be one of the top five most important concepts in the entirety of the Holy Bible, and maybe it is THE most important, relative to the times in which we live.
 - 2. We were created in God's image and all that it means to return to that image is critical to understand in the times in which we live.

3. Please see [The Image of God](#) to grasp the magnitude of this topic (short version with notes, only 30 min.).
4. For the purpose of today's teaching, you must grasp this one idea: mankind was created in the image of God, was corrupted with sin, and is being restored to the image of God (at the restoration of all things with the revealing of the sons of God—See Romans 8:18-25)

(b) What does that image look like?

1. The Kingdom is within you! When John the Baptist came preaching, his message was to *“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!”* (see Matthew 3:1-2) Visualize this: He was pointing outward, at Christ, and telling us that we must return (home) to Yahweh (that is actually what it means to repent). And this is what it looks—the fullness of God manifesting in man, (the kingdom of God within you), look's like Christ!
2. When Christ emerged from the wilderness, He went to Capernaum (another fulfillment of Prophecy—see Matthew 4:14-16 & Isaiah 9:1-2). He too began to preach, *“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”* (Matthew 4:17) This time, He was pointing

inward, at Himself. He is the epitome of the kingdom of God manifesting within man—the image of God—the home to which we must return.

(c) Do you have ears to hear?

1. Up until that time in history, no one could understand such ideas.
2. The kingdom you so long for is not an earthly kingdom. It is not restored by defeating the Romans (enemies) and restoring Israel to power (glory).
3. It is restored as mankind returns to the image of God, when God fully manifests in man and he looks like Jesus!
4. Many who came before wished they could grasp this and could not—but you can; you should; **YOU MUST!**
5. How? You must have ears to hear and a heart to obey!

B. Ears to hear and a heart to obey!

(1) Subject: Joseph's has a decision to make!

- (a) Crises: Pregnancy out of wedlock—what if Joseph did not hear and obey the voice of God?

1. Mary was betrothed (to be married) to Joseph (the stage of marriage before cohabitation and consummation).
2. She became pregnant out of wedlock, by the Holy Spirit.
3. Joseph, her husband (husband because betrothal is as binding as marriage), was going to divorce her (betrothal needs a divorce to dissolve) but privately without exposing her, to protect her life and that of the child's.
4. ****This is the first time Joseph preserves the life of Christ!*
5. Before he could act on what he thought, an angel appeared to him and informed him that Mary, his wife, was not unfaithful, but had been conceived by the Holy Spirit (again, even though only in the betrothal stage, she is considered his wife).
6. Remember, the controversy is that they are betrothed (bound together), but not yet married; they had not finalized the marriage with the wedding ceremony that ends in consummation and cohabitation—which is why it would have been controversial that she was already pregnant and why her life and the life of her

child were in grave danger! What if Joseph had chosen not to listen to the voice of God?

(b) Angel #1

1. The voice of God comes from an angel.
2. Are you dreaming? Are you Listening? Joseph listens!
3. Is that not the first step in every process with God? Hear His voice and know His heart on the matter before you do ANYTHING! *“But while Joseph thought about these things, behold...”*
4. Joseph, being a just man (v. 19)...
5. Joseph add to your faith Virtue! You must know what God wants before you can know what you should do!

(c) Joseph’s virtuous response...

1. Joseph heard God’s voice and obeyed!
2. Instead of divorcing Mary, he marries her.
3. Instead of consummating, he let’s her give birth as a virgin!
4. *Joseph preserves the life of Christ!*

(2) Subject: Herod’s plot to murder Christ!

(a) Angel #2

1. The voice of God speaks again!
2. Escape to Egypt!

3. Why? A life depends on it!
4. How often do you delay or disobey the voice of Lord?
How often might your dull ears and hard heart result in serious ramifications?
5. How long must Joseph stay in Egypt? As long as it takes! Do what God spoke to you to do, and keep doing it!

(b) Joseph's virtuous response...

1. Joseph obeys at once—a delay could cost Y'shua His life.
2. How long does he stay in Egypt? Until Herod dies!
3. Why else is Egypt so critical—to fulfill prophecy.
More on that later...
4. *Joseph preserves the life of Christ a second time!*

(3) Subject: Time to go home!

(a) Angel #3

1. Joseph, it is safe to go back to Israel.
2. Those looking to kill Y'shua are dead!

(b) Joseph's virtuous response...

1. Immediately he packs his family and goes!
2. He arrives in Israel, now what?

(4) Subject: Don't go there—go here!

(a) Angel #4

1. Joseph had concerns about returning to Judea as Herod's son was ruler.
 2. God speaks to Joseph yet again in a dream (this time it does not say the communicator was from an angel, but we might assume so).
 3. Don't go to Judea, but instead into the region in Galilee.
 4. This reminds me of that moment of the Exodus when God changed directions in an instant, and the people had to make that life and death decision to obey or not to obey.
 5. The people obeyed and went the other way. It landed them with their backs against the sea, hemmed in on all sides.
 6. And that is precisely what Yahweh used to destroy the entire Egyptian army!
 7. Obedience is a matter life and death!
- (b) Joseph's virtuous response...
1. The family settles in Nazareth in the Galilee region, and yet another prophecy is fulfilled. More on that later!
 2. *We might even think that Joseph preserved the life of Christ a third time!*

3. The big take away is this: Every time God spoke, Joseph heard and obeyed. And his virtuous approach to life saved the life of Christ.
4. There are two voices we can listen to (two spirits): The voice/Spirit of God (His voice!) or The voice/Spirit of man (Your voice!)

C. Two Voices Two Spirits

- (1) To which are you listening? To which are you obeying?
 - (a) The **Two Spirits** are contrary to one another!
 1. There are two spirits—one that you came with, which animates your carnal nature, and one that you gained when you became born again!
 2. You must recognize that when you received the Holy Spirit, it DID NOT REPLACE your human spirit, instead the Holy Spirit came alongside it!
 3. You must **CHOOSE** to walk by the the Spirit of God and not by the spirit of man!
 4. When you do, you cannot be condemned by iniquity (sin, lawlessness) because you are both empowered to obey God's law (See: [Pick a Vowel](#)), and covered by His blood when you make an error! That is what it means by, "if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law."

5. It DOES NOT mean the law does not apply to you!
Remember, “Sin is lawlessness.” (I John 3:4)
 6. It simply means you are empowered by the Holy Spirit to NOT fall short and if you do fall short, you don’t fall “under” its condemnation.
- (b) No better explanation of the **Two Spirits**:
1. This is vitally important:
 - 1) The things of a man are known by the spirit of man (the spirit he is born with).
 - 2) The things of God are only known by the Spirit of God.
 - 3) When we get born-again, we don’t get another version of the spirit of man (the spirit of the world), we get access to the Spirit of God.
 - 4) Why? So the Holy Spirit will help us compare the things of man’s spirit with the things of God’s Spirit. (That is what we just read about in Galatians 5:16-18.)
 - 5) The man who is not born-gain, cannot understand anything about the Spirit of God—it’s absolute absurdity to him.

- 6) The things of God can only be discerned by the spirit of God (which you then have access to when you become born-again!)
- (c) Now, the most detailed explanation of **Two Spirits** ever written!
1. Paul and his details. You must make a choice!
 - 1) Walk in the flesh (man's spirit) = condemnation
 - 2) Walk in the God's Spirit = no condemnation
 - 3) The Spirit of life from Christ freed you from the death that comes when your only ability to obey God's law is in your flesh (man's spirit).
 - 4) Complete obedience to God's laws is impossible if all you have access to is the spirit of a man, because you are too weak in that condition.
 - 5) The righteous requirement of the law can only be achieved when you walk in the Spirit of God.
 - 6) If your flesh is animated only by man's spirit your mind focuses only on carnal things.
 - 7) But, if you are animated by the Holy Spirit, you will make Godly things a priority.
 - 8) Carnal mindedness is death.
 - 9) Spiritual mindedness is life.

- 10) The spirit of man is at enmity (in hatred) with God; it will not, it **cannot**, subject itself to God's laws, nor does it have any desire to do so.
 - 11) Those who only have access to the spirit of a man can't ever be pleasing to God.
 - 12) If you are truly born-again, you are not a prisoner to man's spirit; you have access to the Holy Spirit also.
 - 13) But at any given moment, you have to choose one or the other.
 - 14) Sin WILL kill you if you only have access to man's spirit.
 - 15) But if you have access to the Holy Spirit, righteousness will give you life
- (d) Here is the ever-present battle of the **Two Spirits**:
1. Both spirits coexist—you must choose at every moment that which you will let animate you!
- (2) **Two Spirits**: The Fruit of choosing the Spirit of God
- (a) Practical application...
1. Saying you believe is not enough—even demons say they believe and are petrified of God.
 2. You have to both believe and do things that demonstrate that you believe.

3. Show me your faith and I will show my faith by works, otherwise your faith is just lip service and is not real!
4. No, works can't save you, only the gift of faith can do that. But, you are saved so you can demonstrate your faith—that is called works!

Summary: A PART IN PROPHECY

3. How to play your part in prophecy?

A. Hear and do!

(1) Law: the statutes of Yahweh

(a) Hear, O Israel

1. [Shama] (In Hebrew): to hear, listen to, obey
2. You can't just listen, you must do! Do what?
3. Understand there is only ONE God and He is all in ONE. See [The Image of God](#) for details about understating the divine family (the Trinity).
4. Love God: How? If you love Him you will obey Him! (John 14:15)
5. Love your neighbor: How? If you love them you won't stand by and do nothing while you watch them sin. You will rebuke them!

(2) Case Law: the statutes of Yahweh applied...

(a) Confirmed

1. Everything the Law said in Deuteronomy 6:4-5, hear and do!
2. Note: a **scribe** is a biblical law expert!
3. Everything the Law said in Leviticus 19:17-18, hear and do!
4. The scribe affirms the proper understanding of the law—as truth.
5. Love for God and for one another are greater than any sacrifice—apply that love in your life!
6. **How does He call them? He loves the sick unto repentance. Love is greater than any other sacrifice!**
7. When you understand that the goal of the entire plan of Yahweh is love God with a whole heart (*Love: Deuteronomy 6:4-5*), and Love your neighbor completely as you love yourself (*Brotherly Love: Leviticus 19:17-18*), you are are not far from the Kingdom of God!
8. Why? Because the kingdom of God is when God is fully manifesting in mankind, like it did in Y'shua! It is when man manifests the divine nature, and that is what we are promised is available to us.

9. And that divine nature is LOVE! Can you see it clearly now? “God is love.” (1 John 4:8, 16)

B. Men taking part in God’s plans/prophecy (God’s human initiative partners)

- (1) Joseph: heard and did!
 - (a) After Mary was found with child out of wedlock...
 1. And Isaiah 7:14 was fulfilled!
 - (b) Joseph immediately departs for Egypt with his family until the death of Herod.
 1. And Hosea 11:1 was fulfilled!
 - (c) God told Joseph in a dream to settle, instead, in Galilee in a city called Nazareth, and yet another prophecy would be fulfilled, “He shall be called a Nazarene.”
 1. This time it was not one specific prophecy, but the prophetic idea that the Messiah would be a man who was “despised and rejected.” (as in Psalms 22:6-7 and Isaiah 53:2-3)
 2. A Nazarene is a reference to a person who is “despised and rejected.”
 3. Galilee was looked down upon by Judeans, and Nazareth of Galilee was especially despised.

4. "He shall be called a Nazarene" is something akin to "He shall be despised and mocked by His own people."
5. There are other prophetic possibilities as well, but that might be a matter for a different time.

(2) Others who participate in fulfilling prophecy!

(a) Herod's Massacre of the children...

1. And Jeremiah 31:15 was fulfilled!

(b) The Wise Men

1. Herod assembled the "chief priests and scribes (teachers of the law)" to figure out where the Christ was supposed to be born and they consulted the prophecy, thus fulfilling Micah 5:2.

(c) The Wise Men—The Star in the East

1. "The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork." Psalms 19:1 NKJV

C. The Wise Men

(1) See and do! Hear and do!

(a) See and do!

1. They followed the star until they found Y'shua!

(b) Here and do!

1. They heard God's voice (were Divinely Warned!) and returned home instead of reporting back to Herod.

2. It is likely they saved their own lives by hearing and obeying!

D. You: hear and do!

- (1) A look ahead and what it means to listen and Obey
 - (a) Do or Don't (Are you a Joseph or are you a fool?)
 1. Here and do: you are standing on a solid rock. No matter what challenges come, you will prevail.
 2. Here and don't do: you are standing in quicksand and you are sinking fast.
 3. Y'shua reveals Himself as an expert in the law above the biblical lawyers of the the day.
 4. He is revealing treasures: **even the biblical lawyers of the day needed instruction about the kingdom of heaven.**
- (2) God wants to reveal His mysteries to you!
 - (a) Solving mysteries requires good hearing!
 1. Joseph is hardly given any attention, but you must be able to hear and you must be willing obey, like Joseph, who literally saved the life of our blessed savior, if you wish to understand the mysteries of the kingdom. Joseph just might be the "*Best Supporting Actor*" in the Bible.

2. Are you hard of hearing as we see in the prophet Isaiah 6:9-10, referred to by Y'shua? If so, turn! Yes, there is that word again, turn back toward Yahweh. Return, repent—it is the only way home!
 3. And these were the Isaiah's words just prior to the prophecy above, quoted by Y'shua. **"Here am I! Send me."**
 4. Yes, Y'shua revealed that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see and hear what you hear.
 5. Maybe, just maybe, Y'shua's words that *"it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven,"* has something to do with your willingness to hear, willingness to obey and willingness to say, *"Here am I! Send me."*
- (3) We have many mysteries to unfold in Matthew's Gospel!
- (a) None greater than this one! Strap in!
 1. "Blessed is that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing."
 2. What servant? Doing what?
 3. The one...willing to hear, willing to obey and willing to say, *"Here am I! Send me."*

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

- 1. What is significant about the omission of Bathsheba's name from the genealogy of Christ in Matthew 1:6?**
 - A. Why might the insertion of her husband Uriah's name be related to the Law of the Levirate Marriage in Deuteronomy 25:5-10? (Hint: also read II Samuel 11-12)
- 2. Y'shua's words in Luke 17:20-21 reveal something vital about the kingdom of heaven:**
 - A. Describe what it might mean to you.
 - B. How might His words relate to the common admonition in Matthew 3:1-2 and Matthew 4:14?
 - C. Taking these ideas into consideration, now explain Luke 10:23-24.
- 3. Joseph plays a much bigger role in the birth of Christ than most people recognize...**
 - A. What is the crises and what does he decide to do in Matthew 1:18-19?
 - B. What revelation does he get in Matthew 1:20-23 and what action does he take in Matthew 1:24-25?
 - C. What is most critical about his willingness to hear and obey God?

4. In Matthew 2:13, again Joseph is confronted with the voice of God...

- A. What is he warned about and what does he do? (See Matthew 2:14-15)
- B. How might you relate his decision-making to II Peter 1:5-7?
- C. When Joseph is confronted by God a third time in Matthew 2:19-21, what is he told to do, and what does he do?
- D. In Matthew 2:22-23, Joseph diverts his destination, why?
- E. Again, what is most critical about his willingness to hear and obey God?

5. There are two spirits—one that you came with at birth, which animates your carnal nature, and one that you gained when you became born-again! (See: Galatians 5:16-18; I Corinthians 2:11-14; Romans 8:1-11)

- A. Write a comprehensive essay describing the characteristics and attributes of each spirit. Please extract as many details as possible.
- B. Why is it critical to recognize that one spirit DOES NOT replace the other?
- C. What is the ever-present battle according to Romans 7:21-23?
- D. What does it look like when you actually choose correctly? (See: James 2:18-24; Ephesians 2:8-10)

6. In Deuteronomy 6:4-5, the word “hear” means to hear, listen to, and obey. In other words, to hear and do!

- A. When we consider both Deuteronomy 6:4-5 and Leviticus 19:17-18, how do they relate to Y’shua’s encounter with the scribe in Mark 12:28-33?
- B. Why is it that we can relate loving God and loving your neighbor to hearing and obeying God? (Hint: John 14:15; I John 3:4)
- C. Why then does Y’shua tell the scribe that he is not far from the kingdom of God in Mark 12:34?
- D. How might that relate to the following scriptures? (Matthew 3:1-2; 4:14; II Peter 1:4-7; 1 John 4:8, 16)

7. Throughout Matthew 1-2, man plays a role in God’s plan...

- A. Please describe each incident and cite the scripture address of the prophecy being fulfilled.

8. Joseph’s decisions to hear and obey were critical to everything that came after...

- A. Relate his choices to Matthew 7:24-29; 13:10-17; 24:45-47.
- B. Isaiah 6:9-10 is a key piece of Matthew 13:10-17. How might Isaiah 6:8 relate even though it is not included in Y’shua’s reference? (Hint: Matthew 13:11)
- C. Help: Think, “your willingness to hear, willingness to obey and willingness to say.”