



Portion:

SCRIPTURES

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

Title:

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

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

(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
2. “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.” Revelation 3:5
3. “and Jesse begot David the king. David the king begot Solomon by her who had been the wife of **Uriah.**” Matthew 1:6 NKJV
4. “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

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

(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

HOMING INSTINCTS

2. Returning Home

A. What is our destination?

(1) 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

(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

(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

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

(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
2. "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

(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

(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
2. "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

(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

(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
- (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
 2. "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
 - (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

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
 - (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
 - (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

(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

(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
2. “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
- (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
 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
 4. “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
 5. “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
 6. “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
 7. “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
- (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*
- (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**
 2. "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
 3. "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
- (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*
 - (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*
 - (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

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

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
- (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

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
 2. "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

2. "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
- (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