

Greetings, today our manna is Deut. 27-28:1-19; Psalm 119:1-24; Isaiah 54; Matthew 2.

June 22 – Melchizedek Devotional Perspective

[Note: **For teaching purposes only**, underlines, bold font, and highlight emphasis have been used in PDFs.]

Scripture Source: e-Sword TS2009 unless otherwise noted: <https://www.e-sword.net/>

Deuteronomy 27

Before we discuss Deuteronomy 27, let us get our bearings on the location of where the people would be arriving after crossing the Jordan into the promise land. To do so we will be going back to the days of Abraham.

Gen 12:5 And Abram took Sarai his wife and Lot his brother's son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the beings whom they had acquired in Haran, and they set out for **the land of Kena'an**. And they came to the land of Kena'an.

Gen 12:6 And Abram passed through the land to the **place of Shekem, as far as the terebinth tree of Moreh**. At that time the Kena'anites were in the land.

Gen 12:7 And יהוה appeared to Abram and said, "To your seed I give this land." And he built there a slaughter-place to יהוה, who had appeared to him.

Gen 15:13 And He said to Abram, "Know for certain that your seed are to be sojourners in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them, and they shall afflict them four hundred years.

Gen 15:14 "But the nation whom they serve I am going to judge, and afterward let them come out with great possessions.

Gen 15:15 "Now as for you, you are to go to your fathers in peace, you are to be buried at a good old age.

Gen 15:16 "**Then, in the fourth generation they shall return here**, for the crookedness of the Amorites is not yet complete."

Where would they return? **They would return to the land of Shekem [Shechem], the land of the Canaanites, by the oaks of Moreh.**

Shechem laid between the two mountains of Ebal and Gerizim. It formed a natural amphitheater. This was in the land of Canaan across the Jordan that the people would be crossing to enter the promise land. **This was the same place Abram had also built a slaughter place to YHWH**. Now over 400 years later Israel would actually be entering the land YHWH promised to Abraham.

There had been a 4 generational (or 400 years) waiting period for the iniquity of the Amorites to be complete or full. YHWH keeps His eye on the iniquity of each nation. When iniquity reaches the tipping point, He acts. Today, nations should be mindful of this! He is the ‘avenger of blood.’ (Deut. 19:6; Num. 35:19)



Mts. Gerizim and Ebal

Located between Mt. Gerizim (left) and Mt. Ebal (right) Shechem is preeminent in the biblical record, beginning with God's promise of the land to Abraham.

Later Jacob would return here with his family and settle shortly. During the Conquest, the twelve tribes gathered on these two hills to recite God's Law and the blessings and curses that accompanied obedience and disobedience.

In Deuteronomy 27, Moses is instructing the people what they were to do when they crossed over the Jordan and entered the land of Canaan. They were to set up large stones covered in plaster with the Words of this Torah [Law] written on them. The words were to be written clearly and plainly. This was to be done so they would enter the promise land flowing with milk and honey.

They were to set up the stones on Mt. Ebal and build a slaughter place to

YHWH, but they were not to use any iron tool on them. The altar was to be made with unhewn stone. They were then to offer to YHWH an ascending offering and slaughtered peace offerings.

Six tribes were to stand on Mt. Gerizim to bless the people and six tribes were to stand on Mt. Ebal to curse. The blessing and curses are recorded below. The Book of the Law brought curses if disobeyed; and blessings if obeyed.

Today, walking in covenant we are blessed. Does that mean we never mess up? No, but when we do, we repent and turn from that sin, and we are forgiven. We are saved by grace through faith.

Ephesians 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of YHWH: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Deu 27:1 And Mosheh, with the elders of Yisra'ël, commanded the people, saying, "Guard all the commands which I am commanding you today.

Deu 27:2 "And it shall be, on the day when you pass over the Yardēn to the land which יהוה your Elohim is giving you, that you shall set up for yourselves large stones, and plaster them with plaster,

Deu 27:3 and write on them all the Words of this Torah, when you have passed over, so that

you go into the land which יהוה your Elohim is giving you, 'a land flowing with milk and honey,' as יהוה Elohim of your fathers has spoken to you.

Deu 27:4 "And it shall be, when you have passed over the Yardĕn, that on Mount Ĕybal you set up these stones, which I command you today, and you shall plaster them with plaster,

Deu 27:5 and build a slaughter-place to יהוה your Elohim there, a slaughter-place of stones – do not use an iron *tool* on them.

Deu 27:6 "Build the slaughter-place of יהוה your Elohim with complete stones, and you shall offer ascending offerings on it to יהוה your Elohim,

Deu 27:7 and shall slaughter peace *offerings*, and eat there, and rejoice before יהוה your Elohim.

Deu 27:8 "And you shall write all the Words of this Torah on the stones – plainly and well."

Curses from Mount Ebal

Deu 27:9 And Mosheh and the priests, the Lĕwites, spoke to all Yisra'ĕl, saying, "Be silent and hear, O Yisra'ĕl: This day you have become the people of יהוה your Elohim,

Deu 27:10 and you shall obey the voice of יהוה your Elohim, and do His commands and His laws which I command you today."

Deu 27:11 And Mosheh commanded the people on that day, saying,

Deu 27:12 "These are to stand on Mount Gerizim to bless the people, when you have passed over the Yardĕn: Shim'on, and Lĕwi, and Yehudāh, and Yissasḵar, and Yosĕph, and Binyamin.

Deu 27:13 "And these are to stand on Mount Ĕybal to curse: Re'ubĕn, Gaḏ, and Ashĕr, and Zĕbulun, Dan, and Naphtali.

Deu 27:14 "And the Lĕwites shall speak with a loud voice and say to all the men of Yisra'ĕl:

Deu 27:15 Cursed is the man who makes a carved or molded image, an abomination to יהוה, the work of the hands of the craftsman, and sets it up in secret.' And all the people shall answer and say, 'Amĕn!'

Deu 27:16 Cursed is he who makes light of his father or his mother.' And all the people shall say, 'Amĕn!'

Deu 27:17 Cursed is he who moves his neighbor's boundary.' And all the people shall say, 'Amĕn!'

Deu 27:18 Cursed is he who misleads the blind in the way.' And all the people shall say, 'Amĕn!'

Deu 27:19 Cursed is he who twists the right-ruling of the stranger, the fatherless, and widow.' And all the people shall say, 'Amĕn!'

Deu 27:20 Cursed is he who lies with his father's wife, because he has uncovered his father's bed.' And all the people shall say, 'Amĕn!'

Deu 27:21 Cursed is he who lies with any beast.' And all the people shall say, 'Amĕn!'

Deu 27:22 Cursed is he who lies with his sister, the daughter of his father or the daughter of his mother.' And all the people shall say, 'Amĕn!'

Deu 27:23 Cursed is he who lies with his mother-in-law.' And all the people shall say, 'Amĕn!'

Deu 27:24 Cursed is he who strikes his neighbor secretly.' And all the people shall say, 'Amĕn!'

Deu 27:25 Cursed is he who takes a bribe to strike an innocent being.' And all the people shall say, 'Amĕn!'

Deu 27:26 Cursed is he who does not establish the Words of this Torah.' And all the people

shall say, 'Aměn!'

Deuteronomy 28:1-19

Deu 28:1 “And it shall be, if you diligently obey the voice of יהוה your Elohim, to guard to do all His commands which I command you today, that יהוה your Elohim shall set you high above all nations of the earth.

Deu 28:2 “And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, if you obey the voice of יהוה your Elohim:

Deu 28:3 “Blessed are you in the city, and blessed are you in the field.

Deu 28:4 “Blessed is the fruit of your body, and the fruit of your ground and the fruit of your livestock – the increase of your cattle and the offspring of your flocks.

Deu 28:5 “Blessed is your basket and your kneading bowl.

Deu 28:6 “Blessed are you when you come in, and blessed are you when you go out.

Deu 28:7 “יהוה causes your enemies who rise against you to be smitten before your face – they come out against you one way and flee before you seven ways.

Deu 28:8 “יהוה commands the blessing on you in your storehouses and in all to which you set your hand, and shall bless you in the land which יהוה your Elohim is giving you.

Deu 28:9 “יהוה does establish you as a set-apart people to Himself, as He has sworn to you, if you guard the commands of יהוה your Elohim and walk in His ways.

Deu 28:10 “And all peoples of the earth shall see that the Name of יהוה is called upon you, and they shall be afraid of you.

Deu 28:11 “And יהוה shall make you to have plenty of what is good, in the fruit of your body, in the fruit of your livestock, and in the fruit of your ground, in the land of which יהוה swore to your fathers to give you.

Deu 28:12 “יהוה opens to you His good treasure, the heavens, to give the rain to your land in its season, and to bless all the work of your hand. And you shall lend to many nations, but you do not borrow.

Deu 28:13 “And יהוה shall make you the head and not the tail. And you shall be only on top, and not be beneath, if you obey the commands of יהוה your Elohim, which I command you today, to guard and do.

Deu 28:14 “And do not turn aside from any of the Words which I am commanding you today, right or left, to go after other mighty ones to serve them.

Curses for Disobedience

Deu 28:15 “And it shall be, if you do not obey the voice of יהוה your Elohim, to guard to do all His commands and His laws which I command you today, that all these curses shall come upon you and overtake you:

Deu 28:16 “Cursed are you in the city, and cursed are you in the field.

Deu 28:17 “Cursed is your basket and your kneading bowl.

Deu 28:18 “Cursed is the fruit of your body and the fruit of your land, the increase of your cattle and the offspring of your flocks.

Deu 28:19 “Cursed are you when you come in, and cursed are you when you go out.

Psalm 119:1-24

The author of Psalm 119 is unknown and while some accredit it to David, others accredit it to Ezra. If it was Ezra, the key points below are very interesting.

TSK Cross-reference insights to Psalm 119: am 3560, B.C. 444 (Title), This Psalm, which was probably composed by Ezra, is another of the alphabetical Psalms. It consists of twenty-two parts, answering to the number of the Hebrew letters; every part being divided into eight verses, and each verse beginning with that letter which forms the title of the part; that is, the first part of eight verses with א, the second with ב, etc. It is an elegant, important, and useful composition; the chief subjects of which are the excellence of God's laws, and the happiness of those who observe them.

Since this Psalm was possibly composed by Ezra, let's look at who Ezra was. Excerpts from F.B. Myer states: Ezra was a Jew, sprung from the race of Aaron, and descended from the high priest who was slain at the capture of Jerusalem, 2Ki 25:18-21. Ezra, who was a great student of the holy writings, and a ready scribe in the Law of Moses. [Excerpt from Bible Hub]

All the Old Testament Scriptures (the Tanakh) from Exodus 24:12 forward into the Gospels, were lived out under the Book of the Law. It would be that way 'until' Yahusha would usher in the New Covenant under the Melchizedek Priesthood.

The Book of the Law was very welcomed and good in that it spared the very lives of the Israelites, after the sin of the golden calf at Mt. Sinai. However, as written in Deut. 27, it came with blessings and cursing. It was wonderful if everything was followed exactly without fail; but it was very deadly if not. The Book of the Law was without grace. It was imposed on the people, they either accepted it or they would die. The Book of the Law served as a tutor and stood as a witness against them for the sin of the golden calf. It would continue to stand until Yahusha would usher in the New Covenant, connecting us back to YHWH's promise given to Abraham; and allowing us by grace through faith to walk in Covenant Torah.

The Sacred Writings was Ezra's life. Ezra was a meticulous scribe and we know him as the one chosen to lead the Babylonian captives back to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple. The following excerpt was taken from TSK Cross-reference under '[Ezra – Book Comments]'. What an interesting background and a devout holy man.

'He appears to have made the Sacred Scriptures, during the captivity, his peculiar study; and, perhaps assisted by Nehemiah and the great synagogue, he corrected the errors which had crept into the Sacred Writings, through the negligence or mistake of transcribers; he collected all the books of which the Sacred Scriptures then consisted, disposed them in their proper order,

and settled the canon of Scriptures for his time; he occasionally added, under the dictation of the Holy Spirit, whatever appeared necessary for the purpose of illustrating, completing, or connecting them; he substituted the modern for the ancient names of some places, which had now become obsolete; and transcribed the whole of the Scriptures into the Chaldee character. He is said to have lived to the age of 120 years, and, according to Josephus, was buried in Jerusalem; but the Jews believe he died in Persia, in a second journey to Artaxerxes, where his tomb is shown in the city of Zamusa.' **TSK Cross-reference.**

Psalm 119 is the longest Psalm in the Bible as well as the longest chapter in the Bible. We will now take several days to enjoy Psalm 119.

Your Word Is a Lamp to My Feet

Psa 119:1 Aleph Blessed are the perfect in the way, Who walk in the Torah of יהוה!

Psa 119:2 Blessed are those who observe His witnesses, Who seek Him with all the heart!

Psa 119:3 Yes, they shall do no unrighteousness; They shall walk in His ways.

Psa 119:4 You have commanded us To guard Your orders diligently.

Psa 119:5 Oh, that my ways were established To guard Your laws!

Psa 119:6 Then I would not be ashamed, When I look into all Your commands.

Psa 119:7 I thank You with uprightness of heart, When I learn the right-rulings of Your righteousness.

Psa 119:8 I guard Your laws; Oh, do not leave me entirely!

Psa 119:9 Bét How would a young man cleanse his path? To guard it according to Your word.

Psa 119:10 I have sought You with all my heart; Let me not stray from Your commands!

Psa 119:11 I have treasured up Your word in my heart, That I might not sin against You.

Psa 119:12 Blessed are You, O יהוה! Teach me Your laws.

Psa 119:13 With my lips I have recounted All the right-rulings of Your mouth.

Psa 119:14 I have rejoiced in the way of Your witnesses, As over all riches.

Psa 119:15 I meditate on Your orders, And regard Your ways.

Psa 119:16 I delight^a myself in Your laws; I do not forget Your word. **Footnote: ^aSee also [Psa 119:24](#), [Psa 119:35](#), [Psa 119:47](#), [Psa 119:70](#), [Psa 119:77](#), [Psa 119:92](#), [Psa 119:143](#), [Psa 119:174](#), [Rom 7:22](#).**

Psa 119:17 Gimel Do good to Your servant, Let me live and I guard Your word.

Psa 119:18 Open my eyes, that I might see Wonders from Your Torah.

Psa 119:19 I am a sojourner in the earth; Do not hide Your commands from me.

Psa 119:20 My being is crushed with longing For Your right-rulings at all times.

Psa 119:21 You rebuked the proud, cursed ones, Who are straying from Your

commands.

Psa 119:22 Remove from me reproach and scorn, For I have observed Your witnesses.

Psa 119:23 Though princes sat, speaking against me, Your servant meditates on Your laws.

Psa 119:24 Your witnesses also are my delight, My counsellors.

Isaiah 54

Nothing can separate us from His love. Whatever trial or tribulation His people faced in the past or will face in the future, He makes a way for us where there seems to be no way! With that, we rejoice with them then, and we rejoice now.

Rom 8:37 But in all this we are more than overcomers through Him who loved us. 38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor messengers nor principalities nor powers, neither the present nor the future, 39 nor height nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of Elohim which is in Messiah **יהושע** our Master.

Isa 54:1 “Sing, O barren one, you who did not bear! Break forth into singing, and cry aloud, you who have not been in labor! For the children of the deserted one are more than the children of the married woman,” said **יהוה**.

Rev 7:9 After this I looked and saw a great crowd which no one was able to count, out of all nations and tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, dressed in white robes, and palm branches in their hands,

Rev 7:10 and crying out with a loud voice, saying, “Deliverance belongs to our Elohim who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!”

Isa 54:2 “Enlarge the place of your tent, and let them stretch out the curtains of your dwellings, spare not. Lengthen your cords, and strengthen your stakes.

Isa 54:3 “For you shall break forth to the right and to the left, and your seed inherit the nations, and make the deserted cities inhabited.

Eze 36:35 “And they shall say, ‘This land that was laid waste has become like the garden of Eden. And the wasted, the deserted, and the destroyed cities are now walled and inhabited.’

Eze 36:36 “Then the nations which are left all around you shall know that I, **יהוה**, have rebuilt the destroyed places and planted what was laid waste. I, **יהוה**, have spoken it, and I shall do it.”

Isa 54:4 “Do not fear, for you shall not be put to shame, nor hurt, you shall not be humiliated. For the shame of your youth you shall forget, and not remember the reproach of your widowhood any more.

1Pe 2:6 Because it is contained in the Scripture, “**See, I lay in Tsiyon a chief corner-stone, chosen, precious, and he who believes on Him shall by no means be put to shame.**”

[Isa 28:16.](#)

Isa 54:5 “For your Maker is your husband, יהוה of hosts is His Name, and the Set-apart One of Yisra’el is your Redeemer. He is called the Elohim of all the earth.

Isa 54:6 “For יהוה has called you like a woman forsaken and grieved in spirit, like a wife of youth when you were refused,” declares your Elohim.

Hos 2:14 “Therefore, see, I am alluring her, and shall lead her into the wilderness, and shall speak to her heart,

Hos 2:15 and give to her vineyards from there, and the Valley of Aḳor as a door of expectation. And there she shall respond as in the days of her youth, as in the day when she came up from the land of Mitsrayim.

Isa 54:7 “For a little while I have forsaken you, but with great compassion I shall gather you.

Isa 54:8 “In an overflow of wrath I hid My face from you for a moment, but with everlasting loving-commitment I shall have compassion on you,” said יהוה, **your Redeemer**.

Isa 54:9 “For this is the waters of Noaḥ to Me, in that I have sworn that the waters of Noaḥ would never again cover the earth, so have I sworn not to be wroth with you, nor to rebuke you.

Isa 54:10 “For though the mountains be removed and the hills be shaken, My loving-commitment is not removed from you, nor is My covenant of peace shaken,” said יהוה, who has compassion on you.

Rev 16:20 And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.

Isa 54:11 “O you afflicted one, tossed with storm, and not comforted, see, I am setting your stones in antimony, and shall lay your foundations with sapphires.

Isa 54:12 and shall make your battlements of rubies, your gates of crystal, and all your walls of precious stones,

Rev 21:18 And the structure of its wall was jasper. And the city was clean gold, like clear glass.

Rev 21:19 And the foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with all kinds of precious stones: the first foundation jasper, the second sapphire, the third agate, the fourth emerald,

Rev 21:20 the fifth sardonyx, the sixth ruby, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst.

Rev 21:21 And the twelve gates were twelve pearls – each one of the gates was a single pearl. And the street of the city was clean gold, like transparent glass.

Isa 54:13 and all your children taught by יהוה, and the peace of your children great.

Isa 54:14 “In righteousness you shall be established – far from oppression, for you shall not fear, and far from ruin, for it does not come near you.

Zep 3:13 “The remnant of Yisra’el shall do no unrighteousness and speak no falsehood,^c nor is a tongue of deceit found in their mouth. For they shall feed their flocks and lie down, with none to frighten them.” Footnote: ^cSee [Rev 14:5](#).

Zep 3:14 Shout for joy, O daughter of Tsiyon! Shout, O Yisra’el! Be glad and rejoice with all your

heart, O daughter of Yerushalayim!

Zep 3:15 יהוה has turned aside your judgments. He has faced your enemy. The Sovereign of Yisra'el, יהוה, is in your midst.^d No longer need you fear evil. Footnote: ^dSee [Zep 3:17](#).

Zep 3:16 In that day it shall be said to Yerushalayim, “Do not fear, Tsiyon, do not let your hands be weak.

Isa 54:15 “See, they shall indeed assemble, but not because of Me. Whoever shall assemble against you falls for your sake!”

Isa 54:16 “See, I Myself have created the blacksmith who blows the coals in the fire, who brings forth an instrument for his work. And I have created the waster to destroy.”

Isa 54:17 **“No weapon formed against you shall prosper, and every tongue which rises against you in judgment you shall prove wrong. This is the inheritance of the servants of יהוה, and their righteousness from Me,” declares יהוה.**

Rev 12:10 And I heard a loud voice saying in the heaven, “Now have come the deliverance and the power and the reign of our Elohim^b and the authority of His Messiah, for the accuser of our brothers, who accused them before our Elohim day and night, has been thrown down. Footnote: ^bSee [Rev 11:15](#).

Rev 12:11 “And they overcame him because of the Blood of the Lamb, and because of the Word of their witness, and they did not love their lives to the death.

Matthew 2

The Visit of the Wise Men

Mat 2:1 And יהושע having been born in Běyth Leḥem of Yehuḏah in the days of Herodes the sovereign, see, Magi from the east came to Yerushalayim,

Mat 2:2 saying, “Where is He who has been born Sovereign of the Yehuḏim? For we saw His star in the East and have come to do reverence to Him.”

The Magi mentioned here were ‘wise men’ or astronomers from the east. This would have been in the region of Babylon and later Medes-Persia. It is very possible that these Magi were acquainted with Daniel through his writings and prophecies yet to come. We see this concept in the below excerpt.

The prophet Daniel must have been assigned to this high office. Perhaps the fraternization of Daniel with the early Magi in Babylon helps to explain why those in the Magian profession expected a Jewish king to arrive near the end of the 1st century. This is the very thing that Daniel prophesied would happen. Recall that Daniel prophesied the rebuilding of Jerusalem after the Babylonians destroyed it in the 6th century B.C.E. He also said that 490 years would pass from a command to rebuild Jerusalem until a world-embracing messianic kingdom would emerge on the earth in the region of Palestine.

<http://www.askelm.com/star/star002.htm>

Yahusha was born in the days of Herod the Great. The Magian arrived in Jerusalem with much pomp. It is strongly supported that there were not just ‘three wise men’ but a whole caravan traveling together. They had also brought with them many valuables of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, which had very possibly been set aside for this prophetic event.

When they arrived, they asked a logical question: ‘Where is He who has been born Sovereign of the Yehudim?’ They probably were expecting a prompt simple answer. After all, they were just arriving and surely the local people were aware of such a great event. They go on to share that they had seen His star in the East and have come to do reverence to Him.

Mat 2:3 And Herodes the sovereign, having heard, was troubled, and all Yerushalayim with him.

Mat 2:4 And having gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born.

Mat 2:5 And they said to him, “**In Běyth Lehem of Yehudah**, for thus it has been written by the prophet,

Mat 2:6 ‘**But you, Běyth Lehem, in the land of Yehudah, you are by no means least among the rulers of Yehudah, for out of you shall come a Ruler who shall shepherd My people Yisra’ěl.**’ ” [Mic 5:2](#).

The Magian seeking news of where a ‘Sovereign of the Yehudim’ had been born, troubled King Herod greatly; after all He was king! So, the phishing begins. Herod gathers key officials and inquiries are made as to where the Messiah would be born. The chief priests and scribes answer and tell Herod the Messiah was to be born in Bethlehem based on Micah 5:2.

Mat 2:7 Then Herodes, having called the Magi secretly, learned exactly from them what time the star appeared.

Mat 2:8 And having sent them to Běyth Lehem, he said, “Go and search diligently for the Child, and when you have found Him, bring back word to me, so that I too might go and do reverence to Him.”

Mat 2:9 And having heard the sovereign, they went. And see, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, until it came and stood over where the Child was.

Mat 2:10 And seeing the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy.

These Magian were experiencing an astronomer's 'dream event.' This was a onetime prophetic astronomical event signifying the birth of the Messiah, and they were living it out! They heard what Herod had to say and they moved on. They continue to follow this astronomical star that led exactly to where the Child was located! Can you imagine the excitement! Not only had they been following this star on their entire journey from the east; not only had they been searching for this event for years; not only had they studied the writings and knew of the prophecies of Daniel; but now, they are seeing all that had been prophesied come to past! They were there! They not only saw the 'star' but most importantly they laid eyes on the Child, the Sovereign of the Yehudim!

Mat 2:11 And coming into the house, they saw the Child with Miryam His mother, and fell down and did reverence to Him, and opening their treasures, they presented to Him gifts of gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.

Mat 2:12 And having been warned in a dream that they should not return to Herodes, they departed for their own country by another way.

After giving their reverence to Him and their gifts, they are warned in a dream not to return to King Herod. Therefore, they return to their country another way.

On their return journey, we cannot imagine how elated and joyous they must have been. Surely, they were traveling on 'cloud nine' as we would say, all the way back to their country. This was an astronomical event of a lifetime and they got to see the divine beauty of it unfold!

The Flight to Egypt

Mat 2:13 And when they had left, see, a messenger of יהוה appeared to Yosëph in a dream, saying, "Arise, take the Child and His mother, and flee to Mitsrayim, and remain there until I bring you word, for Herodes is about to seek the Child to destroy Him."

Mat 2:14 And rising up, he took the Child and His mother by night and departed for Mitsrayim,

Mat 2:15 and remained there until the death of Herodes, to fill what was spoken by יהוה through the prophet, saying, "**Out of Mitsrayim I have called My Son.**" [Exo 4:22-23](#), [Hos 11:1](#), [Rev 21:7](#).

Not only did the Magian receive warning in a dream but so did Joseph. Joseph was to take the Child and Miryam and flee to Egypt and he did so immediately upon rising. They left in the cover of night and they would remain in Egypt until further word of the death of Herod.

It is believed that Yahusha was nearing 2 years of age by the time the Magian had arrived. The impression that Yahusha was an infant and that there were only three wisemen is incorrectly portrayed by nativity scenes.

Herod Kills the Children

Mat 2:16 Then Herodes, having seen that he was fooled by the Magi, was greatly enraged, and he sent forth and **slew all the male children in Běyth Lehem** and in all its borders, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had exactly learnt from the Magi.

Mat 2:17 Then was filled what was spoken by Yirmeyahu the prophet, saying,

Mat 2:18 **“A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and weeping, and great mourning – Raḥēl weeping for her children, refusing to be comforted, because they were no more.”** [Jer 31:15](#).

Herod was greatly enraged believing he had been fooled by the Magian; but better than that, Herod was circumvented by YHWH. Sadly, Herod does give the command to slay all male children in Bethlehem and in all its borders, from two years old and under, based on the time of when the Magian first spotted the ‘star.’ Thereby, fulfilling yet another prophesy in Jer. 31:15 ‘Rachel weeping for her children.’ Rachel was buried near Bethlehem – see following commentaries.

Ellicott’s Commentary: [Genesis 35:16](#)

And they journeyed from Bethel; and there was but a little way to come to Ephrath: and Rachel travailed, and she had hard labour.

(16) But a little way.—Heb., and there was still a “chibrath” of land to come to Ephrath. This word occurs four times in the Old Testament: here, in [Genesis 48:7](#), in [2Kings 5:19](#), and in [Amos 9:9](#), where it is used in the sense of a sieve. Many of the Rabbins, therefore, translate “in the spring-time,” because the earth is then riddled by the plough like a sieve; and the Targum and Vulgate adopt this rendering. The real meaning of the word is lost, but probably it was a measure of distance; and the Jewish interpreters generally think that it meant a mile, because Rachel’s traditional tomb was about that distance from Bethlehem.

Ephrath (the fruitful) and Beth-lehem (the house of bread) have virtually the same meaning, but the latter name would be given to the town only when its pastures had given place to arable lands, where corn was sown for bread.

David Guzik’s Commentary: [3. \(19-20\) The death and burial of Rachel.](#)

So, Rachel died and was buried on the way to Ephrath (that is, Bethlehem). And Jacob set a pillar on her grave, which is the pillar of Rachel’s grave to this day.

a. **Rachel died and was buried:** Rachel’s death was a tragic fulfillment of the curse Jacob himself pronounced on the one who stole the idols of Laban ([Genesis 31:32](#)).

i. In [Genesis 30:1](#), Rachel pleaded with Jacob, *Give me children, or else I die!* As it happened, both became true. She had children and she died as a result.

The Return to Nazareth

Mat 2:19 And Herodes having died, see, a messenger of יהוה appeared in a dream to Yosēph in Mitsrayim,

Mat 2:20 saying, “Arise, *and* take the Child and His mother, and go into the land of Yisra’ēl, for those seeking the life of the Child are dead.”

Mat 2:21 And rising up, he took the Child and His mother, and came into the land of Yisra’ēl.

Mat 2:22 But hearing that Archelaos was reigning over Yehudāh instead of his father Herodes, he was afraid to go there. **And having been warned in a dream, he departed to the parts of Galil,**

Mat 2:23 **and came and dwelt in a city called Natsareth – thus to fill what was spoken^a by the prophets, “He shall be called a Natsarene.”** Footnote: ^a*Spoken* (not written) by the prophets (plural).

Joseph later has another dream and is given a message to take the Child and Miryam back to the land of Israel, for those seeking the Child’s life were dead. Upon returning and hearing Archelaos [Herod’s son] was reigning over Judah, Joseph is again warned in a dream and settles in Galilee in a city called Nazareth; thus, fulfilling the prophecy that he would be called a Nazarene.

Yahusha fulfilled so many prophecies that it is indisputable as to His identity. He is the Messiah!

Shalom ~ Libby

Devotional Reading Plan Link: <http://www.mcheyne.info/calendar.pdf>