Matthew 1:21

The Visits of the Wise Men

The Flight to Egypt

Herod Kills the Children

wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them the time when the star had appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.” And they went and found the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.

Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, was furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that the angel had fixed.

Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that the angel had fixed.

Matthew 3:16

The Return to Nazareth

John the Baptist Prepares the Way

The Baptism of Jesus

he had ascertained from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah:

“ ‘A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be comforted, because they are no more.’ ”

But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt. Saying, “Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child’s life are dead.” And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, so that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, that he would be called a Nazarene.

In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, and all Jerusalem with him; he also lived in the deserts. And he came into all the region around the Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As it is written in the book of the prophets, ‘The voice of one crying in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.” ’

Now John wore a garment of camel’s hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, ‘You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.’

15 I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 16 His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. And when
Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him. And behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. And the tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” But he answered, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you, and on their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.’”

Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’” Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to him, “All these will I give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” Then Jesus said to him, “Be gone, Satan! For it is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.’”

Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

Now when he heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee.

And leaving Nazareth he went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

“The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, 
the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—
the people dwelling in darkness
have seen a great light, 
and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, 
on them a light has dawned.”

From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

Jesus began his ministry.
all is accomplished. 38Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commands and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. 39For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

Anger 40You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.’ 41But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be liable to the hell of fire. 42So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, 43leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

Lust 44Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison. 45True, I say to you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

Divorce 46It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ 47But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on account of fornication, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

Oaths 48Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.’ 49But I say to you, let your ‘Yes’ be ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No’ be ‘No.’ Anything more than this comes from evil.

Retaliation 50You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ 51But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. 52And if anyone wishes to take your cloak, let him have your cloak as well. 53And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. 54Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you.

Love Your Enemies 55You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ 56But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 57so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. 58For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? 59And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? 60You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

61Beware of practicing your righteousness before others in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.

Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. 62But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. 64But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. 65Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. 66Pray then like this:

The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father in heaven, 67hallowed be your name. 68Your kingdom come, 69your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. 70Give us this day our daily bread, 71and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. 72And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 73But if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. 75But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, 76that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Giving to the Needy

Fasting