

**“In order that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled”**. This is Saint Matthew’s favorite thing to say. Our reading is only ten verses long and he says it 3 times! It shows up time and time again in his gospel and it betrays one of his purposes. So on this 5<sup>th</sup> day of Christmas, Matthew gives you a Christmas present as he teaches us how to read the bible—how to interpret the Old Testament. Matthew makes it very clear to us that everything in the Old Testament is fulfilled in Jesus and that all of the Old Testament points to Him. Like we said on Christmas Eve, if you are reading the Old Testament and not seeing Jesus, you are doing it wrong

Matthew makes it clear that in Christ, the Scriptures have been revealed. And the Gospel of Matthew, as the Church’s first catechism, teaches us how to read the Scriptures by what is called *typology*.

*Typology* is a pattern or a model of the Old Testament that is fulfilled in the New Testament. It is some person, event, or thing that is a shadow of the true substance that is to come in the NT.

For example it is no mistake that God’s people found salvation in the waters of creation or the flood, or the Red Sea or the Jordan as types of baptism

This is not an accident. The Old Testament is inspired by Christ, as He knew what was going to happen in the NT. And the New Testament events take place to fulfill what happened in the Old.

These *types* are how the Church has always read the OT. All the way back to the Apostles and Evangelists. Scripture interprets Scripture. The New Testament interprets the Old. It is the New Testament that sheds light upon the Old and it is the Old that gives meaning to the New. Sadly for the Gideon Society, you cannot have one without the other.

So what typology does Matthew teach us today as he speaks of what happened **in order to fulfill what was spoken by the prophets**. There are many. But we will look at a few.

First with Herod, we see types and shadows with the Pharaoh of Egypt who kills all the baby boys when Moses is born.

Then with Joseph we see types and shadows with his namesake, Joseph the Patriarch, in the Old Testament. Both Josephs had dreams and saved God's people by bringing them into Egypt.

Then with Jesus we see that he is called a Nazarene – Matthew says that the Holy Family went and lived in a city called Nazareth, not just because that is where Joseph wanted to live but so that **what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, that he would be called a Nazarene**

Here is one prophecy that the atheists and the wanna-be agnostics and the biblically illiterate of the world want to throw in our face to undermine the veracity and truth of the Scriptures by saying that there is no OT prophecy that says this. And they're right. This never shows up in the Old Testament. No prophet ever says that the messiah will come from Nazareth. But of course we don't let non-Christians try to interpret the bible, they have no right. With this prophecy, we are not looking for a direct citation. But rather a type. A way in which we read the scriptures as a whole and that is what Matthew gives us.

Being from Nazareth, a Nazarene, means that He will be held in contempt. And while the Scriptures never say that the Messiah will from Nazareth, they are very clear that the Messiah and His followers will be held in severe contempt.

To call someone a Nazarene would be like chiefs fans saying that this guy is a chargers fan, they're no good. Think of Nathaniel under the tree asking what good can come from Nazareth. The fact that He is a Nazarene is a point of contempt.

Or think of when Peter is hiding in the courtyard during Jesus' trial he is confronted snobbishly as one who is with that Nazarene (Matt 26:29)

Or as Pilate labels Jesus with contempt when he crucifies Him as Jesus, the Nazarene.

Even today Christians all over the world who are persecuted by Muslims are marked with the Arabic letter NUN marking them as those belonging to the Nazarene. Where at this moment, millions of Christians experiencing extreme persecution, thousands every year are detained and imprisoned and thousands more are martyred every year. So even today, this Nazarene, is sign of contempt.

So these numerous and multiple prophecies that Mathew is invoking are those which speak of Jesus suffering rejection and contempt for who He is and what He does. That the world will hold him and those who follow him in contempt that the world will never understand the Christian religion.

That is why when you strive to live a life of Christian holiness in this world, you will be looked down upon.

Even for something as simple as celebrating Christmas from December 24-January 6th instead of November 15 – December 25th, you're a weirdo.

That when you insist on biblical marriage, or the sanctity of life, you are maligned

Or when your college prof fails you because you hold to biblical sexuality

Or when you're seen as odd because you don't go to the strip club on a business trip

That is why when you do not live together before you're married, everyone looks at you like you have 3 heads.

Or when you don't bow down to the idols of our day and confess that there is only one God, one true religion, and one way to salvation, you will be held in contempt.

Or when our brothers and sisters all over the world are martyred for the name of Jesus.

Take heart as you have been maligned with Christ. You are of the Nazarene.

The other type that Matthew teaches us today is that Jesus is the nation of Israel reduced to one man where the Exodus is renewed. Matthew says that Jesus went into Egypt so that when He came out, it would **fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, Hosea, "Out of Egypt I called my son."**

The nation of Israel was supposed to be God's son. The one upon whom He conferred His benefits, His chosen people. This was the son whom God called out of Egypt in the Exodus. But like the prodigal son, they squandered their inheritance. They failed to achieve the purpose for which they were called out of Egypt.

So then out of Egypt God once again calls His true Son, Jesus. His only begotten son. Israel reduced to one who has been brought out Egypt so that the true exodus may take place.

The Exodus was THE salvific event in the OT. If you asked someone in the Old Testament where salvation was, they would say the Exodus.

It is in the Exodus that the Passover is instituted. It is in the Exodus, they were saved in the waters of the Red Sea, and it is the Exodus where they received the manna in the wilderness.

That old exodus truly was the salvific event of the old Testament...but it was just a type. But the true one takes place in Jesus.

As Matthew clearly tells us, Jesus IS the son who is called from Egypt and He initiates the true Exodus, the other one was a prototype. By all of this, Matthew is teaching us that the events in the life of Jesus constitutes the final end-times exodus of God's people that is being accomplished through Jesus. That in this newborn baby, your salvation is being accomplished.

Jesus is the true son of God. And in Him, by virtue of baptism, we are now sons by adoption. Now He comes out of Egypt that He might save us from bondage to sin. He reconstitutes what Israel once did so that we can benefit from what He does.

By saying that this was **to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt I called my son."** Matthew teaches us that the true exodus is about to take place. And that in Him, you also might be called a son of God and enjoy His

benefits. What other right would you have to call God *Our Father who art in heaven* unless you were somehow His son?

You have that right because **when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons... and if a son, then an heir.**

This means that all of the types that Jesus fulfills, He does do for you, so that you can receive adoption as sons and obtain the benefits that belong to Him.

That from the day of your baptism, when God looks at you, He sees Jesus, His Son.

You have been clothed with Christ and received sonship in the kingdom of God.

And as a son, you are an heir of this kingdom, your birthright is eternal life, and your heritage is this sacrament. You participate in the true Exodus. The true Exodus of Jesus, who by His death as the Passover lamb, leads you out of slavery to sin.

You have been called to holiness, do not make the same mistake that Israel did and squander your inheritance.

That now, having been brought out of this Egypt of slavery and sin, God has brought you, His son, through the waters of the Red Sea in baptism where He has drowned your foe and brought you into this place where you receive the manna come down from heaven and enjoy our Passover meal. So that of *you*

God can say, out of the Egypt of sin, out of death, out of sadness, I have called you, my son.

To Him be all ✝ Glory forever and ever. Amen.