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## 02.19.2020

### Update from last week:

- Talked about Luke, Zechariah and the Priesthood.
- Zechariah was a priest, therefore John, his son, was a priest.
- Zechariah was serving in the temple during his 2 week service.
  - o The priests doing their service rotated through the various priestly duties.
  - o Zechariah goes in to do his duty, and sees Gabriel, the messenger of God.
  - o Gabriel is mentioned 2 times in Daniel, and 2 times in Luke.
  - o Gabriel – “God is my strength”
  - o Zechariah – “God remembers”
  - o Elisabeth – “The oath of God”
- Remember, 400 years have elapsed from the end of Malachi to Gabriel speaking to Zechariah.
- God speaking to them is a reminder that He keeps His promises.
- Luke 1:72-73 (CSB) – <sup>72</sup> *He has dealt mercifully with our fathers and remembered his holy covenant* <sup>73</sup> *the oath that he swore to our father Abraham. He has given us the privilege,*

### Gabriel speaks to Mary:

- “Blameless” – doesn’t mean perfect. It means that they are following the Torah & customs. When they sin, they know what sacrifice they should make to be in a right relationship with God.
- **Matthew 1:18-21 (CSB)**  
<sup>18</sup> *The birth of Jesus Christ came about this way: After his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, it was discovered before they came together that she was pregnant from the Holy Spirit.* <sup>19</sup> *So her husband Joseph, being a righteous man, and not wanting to disgrace her publicly, decided to divorce her secretly.* <sup>20</sup> *But after he had considered these things, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, don’t be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because what has been conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.* <sup>21</sup> *She will give birth to a son, and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”*
- Jesus – (Hebrew – Yeshua)
  - o Yeshua means “salvation”

- Remember, we're looking for "callbacks" to the OT.
- Look at Genesis 37
  - o Joseph is a picture of Christ
  - o Disowned by his family,
  - o They didn't believe in him
  - o Convicted of a crime he didn't commit
  - o Through all of that God raises him up, sitting at the right hand of pharaoh
  - o God saves his people through Joseph.
- Matthew 1:23 – quoting Isaiah 7:14,
- Matthew 28:20 – "I am with you always."
- Matthew bookends his gospel reminding us that Jesus will always be with us.
- Matthew 2:1-6 – Matthew is about to pit two kingdoms against each other
  - o 2:1 – "King Herod"
  - o 2:2 – "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews?"
- So how did the wise men from the east even know to look for a star for the coming Jewish Messiah?
  - o They take a 6-month trip from the east, most likely Babylon, could also be from Persia.
  - o These men were likely disciples of Daniel:
    - Daniel 2:12 (CSB) – <sup>12</sup> *Because of this, the king became violently angry and gave orders to destroy all the wise men of Babylon.*
    - Daniel 2:48 (CSB) – <sup>48</sup> *Then the king promoted Daniel and gave him many generous gifts. He made him ruler over the entire province of Babylon and chief governor over all the wise men of Babylon.*
    - What would Daniel have taught the wise men? The Word of God!
    - Numbers 24:17 (CSB) – <sup>17</sup> *I see him, but not now; I perceive him, but not near. A star will come from Jacob, and a scepter will arise from Israel. He will smash the forehead of Moab and strike down all the Shethites.*
  - o The reason the wise men came to Israel following a star is because from Daniel on down, these men had been discipling and training each other.

## - Herod's Kingdom – Empire of Power

- Herod's wealth was staggering.
- He became wealthy from the spice trade.
- He spent his wealth on building cities and monuments to his greatness.
- He destroyed his plans because he wanted to be known as a "Master builder"
- He's also extremely paranoid, hence the giant palaces and fortresses on top of mountains.
- He builds three things that people remember him for:
  - Masada – a giant fortress city built on a plateau, decked out with all the nicest building materials
  - The Temple Mount – is considered one of the great wonders of the ancient world. He wasn't a follower of God, but he wanted to be remembered.
  - Herodium – A palace / fortress on top of a mountain. When he built it, there was no mountain. He built a mountain first, to then build a palace / fortress on top of it. Built adjacent to Bethlehem.

## - Jesus's Kingdom – A kingdom of Shalom (Peace)

- When God Himself enters the world, he doesn't make a grand entrance to royal fanfare. Golden invitations weren't sent out. No kings or queens were present at His birth.
- God, the creator of everything, comes to a stable. When God comes to the world, he comes to a poor peasant family, disgraced because they were pregnant before marriage, in a stable with stinky farm animals.
- What it shows us is that God is a God of humility. He comes lowly, and insignificantly.
- This is why God opposes pride so much; it's not in His nature.
- James 4:6 (CSB) – <sup>6</sup>But he gives greater grace. Therefore he says: **God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.**
- **Matthew 2:5-6**

- Bethlehem – from the words “beit” or “beth” and “lekem” meaning “house of bread”
  - Bethlehem – “Bread Factory”
  - Bethlehem is also where all the lambs were raised for sacrifice at the Temple of Jerusalem.
  - Bethlehem; where the lamb of God is born; where the bread of life comes into the world.
- Luke 2:7
- It’s no accident that God sent His Son to be born in a bread factory; to provide not only for our physical need, but most importantly our spiritual need.
- The Jews believed the messiah would provide sustenance and food for them.
- Psalm 72:16-17 (CSB) – *<sup>16</sup> May there be plenty of grain in the land; may it wave on the tops of the mountains. May its crops be like Lebanon. May people flourish in the cities like the grass of the field. <sup>17</sup> May his name endure forever; as long as the sun shines, may his fame increase. May all nations be blessed by him and call him blessed.*
- John 6:12-14 (CSB) – *<sup>12</sup> When they were full, he told his disciples, “Collect the leftovers so that nothing is wasted.” <sup>13</sup> So they collected them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces from the five barley loaves that were left over by those who had eaten. <sup>14</sup> When the people saw the sign he had done, they said, “This truly is the Prophet who is to come into the world.”*
- John 6:35 (CSB) – *<sup>35</sup> “I am the bread of life,” Jesus told them. “No one who comes to me will ever be hungry, and no one who believes in me will ever be thirsty again.*

- **Significance of the Gifts brought by the wise men**

- Gold – Gift given to a King
- Frankincense (incense) – Gift given to a priest to burn in the temple
- Myrrh – Gift given and used for burial. (John 19:38-40; see also Luke 24:1)
- The gifts combined to show that Jesus was a King, that He was a Priest, and that He would die.

- Isaiah 60:6 (CSB) – <sup>6</sup> *Caravans of camels will cover your land— young camels of Midian and Ephah— all of them will come from Sheba. They will carry gold and frankincense and proclaim the praises of the LORD.*
- Psalm 72:15 (CSB) – <sup>15</sup> *May he live long! May gold from Sheba be given to him. May prayer be offered for him continually, and may he be blessed all day long.*
- John 19:38-40 (CSB) – <sup>38</sup> *After this, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus—but secretly because of his fear of the Jews—asked Pilate that he might remove Jesus’s body. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and took his body away. <sup>39</sup> Nicodemus (who had previously come to him at night) also came, bringing a mixture of about seventy-five pounds of myrrh and aloes. <sup>40</sup> They took Jesus’s body and wrapped it in linen cloths with the fragrant spices, according to the burial custom of the Jews.*
- Luke 24:1 (CSB) – *On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came to the tomb, bringing the spices they had prepared.*