

The Sovereign Purposes of God cont.

Matthew 2:19-23

Q: In what ways are the birth of Christ and that of Moses similar? Both came in with the threat of death and God's providence. Both were attempted to be killed by Satan's design, male children under a certain age. Both were adopted by someone else to be raised as their own (Pharaoh's daughter, Joseph).

Q: Read Exodus 4:19 alongside Verses 19-20. What do these verses say to us about Moses and Jesus?

Both the old and new covenant came with God's providential timing and with resistance. Moses was a type of Christ in many ways. Here things were reversed, Moses went back to Egypt after something he had done. Christ came out of Egypt after what someone else had done.

In Exodus chapter 24:1-8 we also see how Moses brought in the Old Covenant with blood, he was responsible for transmitting the law to the people and was the sole mediator between God and man. Jesus, as even the Samaritan woman at the well knew, came to explain everything about the law (Jn 4:25) and fulfill it (Matt 5:17). Jesus is our mediator (1 Tim 2:5, Heb 8:6, 9:15, 12:24) and the mediator of a new and better covenant. The new covenant came in with the shedding of blood (Heb 9:22) but blood far more worthy than what Moses offered in faith, Jesus' own blood (Heb 9:11-28)

Q: For Joseph this is his last major story of faith in scripture. What can we say about him? Faithful, Humble, a man who passed down his trade, even to his divine Son. He listened and obeyed every time, no questions asked. He was willing to be despised. He was willing to lose all and leave all for God. He was the perfect father for Jesus, for the Christ. He lived the words Jesus called us to (Luke 14:33).

Q: What about the statement "spoken of by the prophets, "He shall be called a Nazarene?" It is not found in any one particular Old Testament book. The use of plural prophets may denote that many prophets spoke toward this. There are three major thoughts one this. One, Nazarene could equate to being a despised person since Nazareth wasn't not thought well of (Jn 1:46). Two, the word branch has the same root (netzer) as Nazareth or Nazarene meaning "branch" which is prophetically what the messiah is called (Isaiah 4:2, 11:1-5). Three, the law of the Nazarite was for one set apart by a vow in Number 6, which of course Jesus was set apart before the world began. So, we are unclear at Matthew's meaning but we aren't without possible explanations.