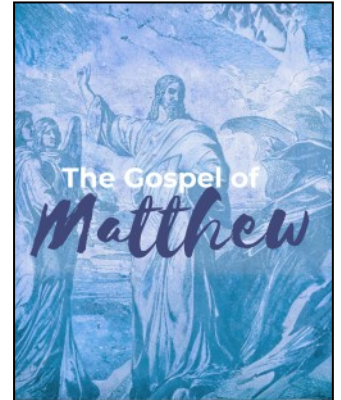


Pastor Jake Magee

May 24, 2026



The Geography of a King Matthew 2:13-23

1. King of Bethlehem: *Who He Is*

"They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet" ~ Vs.5

2. King of Egypt: *What He Does*

"This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt I called my son." ~ Vs.15

3. King of Ramah: *How He Does It*

"Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah" ~ Vss.17&18

4. King of Nazareth: *What It Does to Us*

"And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, so that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled." ~ Vs.23

Small Group Discussion Guide

The Geography of a King

Matthew 2:13–23

Getting Started

Read Matthew 2:13–23 and pray.

When people today try to prove greatness, what kinds of places, achievements, or associations do they point to? Why do humans naturally connect greatness with prestigious places, powerful cities, and successful people?

Digging Deeper

1. In this passage, Matthew connects Jesus to four different places: Bethlehem, Egypt, Ramah, and Nazareth. What was each place historically known for? How does each location shape our understanding of the kind of King Jesus is?
2. On Sunday, we heard that ancient kings often proved their greatness by listing the places they conquered or ruled over. How is Jesus' "geography" different from the kings of the world? Why is that surprising?
3. Read verses 13–15. Matthew says Jesus going to Egypt fulfills Hosea 11:1. Do some research on what is Hosea originally talking about? How does Matthew apply the passage to Jesus? What does this teach us about typology and biblical fulfillment?
4. On Sunday, we heard that Egypt becomes more than just a place in Scripture—it becomes a picture of slavery, bondage, and exile from God. What passages or examples in Scripture support that idea? (See Exod. 1:13–14; John 8:34; Rev. 11:8; Hosea 8:13; 9:3.)
5. The sermon suggested that "every false king eventually becomes Pharaoh." Explain. What are some modern "Egypt" people can become enslaved to spiritually?

6. Read verses 16–18. Matthew connects Herod’s slaughter of the children to Jeremiah 31:15. What originally happened at Ramah in Jeremiah’s day (Jer.40:1)? Why would Ramah become associated with sorrow and exile?

7. On Sunday, we heard the phrase: “Every tear tells the story of exile.” Discuss that statement. In what ways do grief, sorrow, fear, and loss remind us that the world is not the way it was meant to be?

8. One of the major themes from Sunday was that: “Many sons died so one Son could live, so later one Son would die so many sons could live.” How do you see that irony developing in this passage? How does it point forward to the cross?

9. Read verses 19–23. Nazareth was a small, obscure, and unimpressive town. Read John 1:46. What does Nathanael’s response reveal about Nazareth’s reputation?

10. Jesus spent nearly 90% of His earthly life in obscurity. Why do you think people struggle with the idea that Jesus lived an ordinary, unnoticed life for so long?

11. Jesus became “The King of Nobodies.” What does that mean? How does Jesus’ association with Nazareth encourage ordinary, overlooked, or discouraged people? Read Romans 8:16–17 and Revelation 1:5–6. On Sunday, we heard: “The King became a peasant to make peasants kings.” What do these passages teach about the future identity and inheritance of believers?

Making It Real

Matthew shows us a King who willingly entered slavery, sorrow, and obscurity in order to rescue His people. Which area stands out to you because of your personal history?

Resources:

www.blueletterbible.org
www.biblehub.com
www.preceptaustin.org