

“The Messiah would be called out of Egypt”

There are probably no other persons in history whose life has raised as many questions as that of Jesus (Yeshua). His life, teaching, and deeds were of such a nature that his first disciples and closest followers were often baffled by him. But for Jesus himself, the Hebrew Scriptures were the key by which he understood his vocation as Israel's Messiah.

A clear example of this comes at the end of Luke's gospel. After Jesus was crucified, his followers were crushed. They had hoped that he would be the Messiah who would destroy the tyranny of Rome and restore the kingdom of Israel. **But their idea of the Messiah was not God's idea.** To his disappointed followers, Jesus said:

“How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?’ And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.” Luke 24:25-27

For Jesus, the idea that he had to first die, and then rise from the dead, made perfect sense—and was, in fact, necessary—as the fulfillment of what the prophets of the Hebrew Bible had said. This was how he understood himself, and he argued that this was the only way his followers could understand him.

But what does it mean to fulfill the Scriptures?

Often, the New Testament writers say that Jesus has fulfilled the Scriptures when something in his life is literally predicted by the prophets. For instance, the idea that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem. Other times, fulfillment is not about prediction but pattern. In his role as Israel's Messiah, Jesus fulfills the Scriptures when he relives Israel's story through his own life—when he suffers their pains, endures their hardships, and lives a life of perfect obedience to God's law.

Abraham – God makes a covenant with Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3)

The Lord had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you.

²“I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you;
I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.

³I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse;
and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”

**Isaac – He is the promised son of Abraham from God that proves God kept His promise.
Romans 4:18-24**

“Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, “So shall your offspring be.”¹⁹ Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead—since he was about a hundred years old—and that Sarah’s womb was also dead.²⁰ Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God,²¹ being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised.²² This is why “it was credited to him as righteousness.”²³ The words “it was credited to him” were written not for him alone,²⁴ but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness—for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead.”

Jacob (Israel) – Father of the 12 tribes of Israel

- His son, Joseph, was sold into slavery in Egypt by his own brothers.
- He became 2nd in command of the whole nation (next to Pharaoh)
- He saves his family from famine
- Israel, the nation, is birthed in Egypt.
- When Pharaoh began oppressing God’s chosen people, God delivered them.
- Moses is raised up from among the Israelites to lead them out of Egypt.
- This can be found in Exodus chapters 1-14.
- Israel, the nation, is called God’s “son” in scripture.
- This is the pattern with which Jesus lives his life.

Matthew 2:6-14

“But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.”

⁷ Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸ He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

⁹ After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was.¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹ On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

¹³ When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. “Get up,” he said, “take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.” ¹⁴ **So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, ¹⁵ where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: “Out of Egypt I called my son.”**

Hosea 11:1

“When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son.”

→ Matthew looked back and saw an analogical correspondence (“my house is so cold, it’s like a refrigerator”) between the history of the nation Israel and the history of the Messiah...the Hosea 11:1 quotation by Matthew is not an example of random exegesis on the part of a New Testament writer. On the contrary Matthew looked back and carefully drew analogies between the events of the nation’s history and the historical incidents in the life of Jesus.

→ In the gospel of Matthew, Jesus is cast as the true and faithful Israel. Matthew is retelling Israel’s well-known story, but he’s putting Jesus right in the middle as the main character in the story.

- Not only is Jesus the new Genesis, his life embodies the new Exodus. **What does THIS mean?**
Shortly after Jesus birth, he was rushed away to safety to avoid the wrath of a jealous king who had ordered all the young boys to be killed. Where else does this happen in the Bible? Exodus 1. Pharaoh fears the Hebrews and so he orders that every baby boy be thrown into the Nile. But Moses was spared because his mother hid him in a basket in the river. Likewise, Jesus was spared Herod’s decree because his mother hid him in Egypt.

→ Matthew clearly wants to portray Jesus as fulfilling Israel’s history and bringing it to a climax. Matthew didn’t think Hosea 11:1 was a direct prophecy about Jesus and his family going to Egypt.

But he did see something Messianic in Hosea’s words. Jesus would be the faithful Son called out of Egypt, filling up what was lacking in the first faithless son, Israel. From his genesis to his exodus to his baptism in the Jordan to his forty days in the wilderness, Jesus was identifying himself with the covenant people. He was the embodiment of Israel.

→ **Story of Foster’s birth in the car.**

→ **God delivers.**

→ **Psalm 144:1-2**

Praise be to the Lord my Rock,
who trains my hands for war,
my fingers for battle.

² He is my loving God and my fortress,
my stronghold and my deliverer,
my shield, in whom I take refuge,
who subdues peoples under me.

Psalm 105:23-38

Then Israel entered Egypt;
Jacob resided as a foreigner in the land of Ham.
²⁴ The Lord made his people very fruitful;
he made them too numerous for their foes,
²⁵ whose hearts he turned to hate his people,
to conspire against his servants.
²⁶ He sent Moses his servant,
and Aaron, whom he had chosen.
²⁷ They performed his signs among them,
his wonders in the land of Ham.
²⁸ He sent darkness and made the land dark—
for had they not rebelled against his words?
²⁹ He turned their waters into blood,
causing their fish to die.
³⁰ Their land teemed with frogs,
which went up into the bedrooms of their rulers.
³¹ He spoke, and there came swarms of flies,
and gnats throughout their country.
³² He turned their rain into hail,
with lightning throughout their land;
³³ he struck down their vines and fig trees
and shattered the trees of their country.
³⁴ He spoke, and the locusts came,
grasshoppers without number;
³⁵ they ate up every green thing in their land,
ate up the produce of their soil.
³⁶ Then he struck down all the firstborn in their land,
the first-fruits of all their manhood.
³⁷ He brought out Israel, laden with silver and gold,
and from among their tribes no one faltered.
³⁸ Egypt was glad when they left,
because dread of Israel had fallen on them.