

**GOD'S PRESERVATION OF HIS SON,**  
**BY HIS WORD!**  
**MATTHEW CH2:13-23**

**ILLUSTRATION**

Two “RUBIK CUBES!” The formula is crucial.

**RE-CAP**

Ch1:1-17 - JESUS is the fulfilment of God's promises to both Abraham and David!

Ch1:18-27 - Joseph, the “RIGHTEOUS MAN!”

Ch2:1-12 - Getting JESUS' identity leads to worship!

Matthew reveals a formula for us to follow through these verses and to understand, a bit like the Rubik Cube.

**THE DREAMS! V13, V19, V22**

Matthew records 5 dreams for us:

Ch1:20 - Joseph is told what to do.

Ch2:12 - The Magi are told what to do.

Ch2:13 - Joseph is warned and told what to do.

Ch2:19 - Joseph is warned and told what to do.

Ch2:22 - Joseph is warned.

What do we know about Herod?

- He slaughtered the Jewish high-priestly kings that ruled before him
- He executed more than half the Sanhedrin
- He killed 300 court officers
- He executed his own wife, Mariamne, her mother Alexandra and his sons Aristobulus, Alexander, and Antipater
- Finally as he lay dying, he arranged for all the notable men of Jerusalem to be assembled in the hippodrome and had them killed the moment his own death was announced.
- A man of ruthless cruelty

So God warns Joseph and there is an urgency needed in the response to the warnings. V14, Joseph leaves with the child and mother in the night!

**THE FULFILMENT! V15, V17, V23**

In some cases “fulfil” indicates the way in which the events of Jesus' earthly life and ministry bring to actualisation predictive prophecy, like for example the virgin birth, in Isaiah Ch7:14 and Matthew Ch1:22-23. In other cases “fulfil” can indicate the way in which Jesus brings to its intended full meaning the entire Old Testament Scripture, such as his dramatic declaration in the Sermon on the Mount, “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets, I have not come to abolish them but to fulfil them” Ch5:17. In still other cases, Matthew uses the word “fulfil” to indicate the way in which Jesus' life and ministry corresponded typologically

(prefigured or symbolised in the Old Testament and now repeated) to certain aspects of Israel's history. Hosea Ch11:1 recounts how God faithfully brought Israel (his son) out of Egypt, but it is now used by Matthew to fulfil Scripture Ch2:15, referring to God's actual Son!

Matthew uses the term “fulfil/fulfilled” occurs 18 times in the Gospel – Ch1:22, Ch2:15, Ch2:17, Ch2:23, Ch3:15, Ch4:14, Ch5:17, Ch5:18, Ch8:17, Ch12:17, Ch13:14, Ch13:35, Ch21:4, Ch24:34, Ch26:54, Ch26:56, Ch27:9 and Ch27:35.

### **THE OBEDIENCE! V14, V21, V22**

V14 - So he got up, took the child and his mother.....

V21 - So he got up, took the child and his mother.....

V22 - He withdrew .....

Nowhere in the Old Testament is the word “Nazarene” to be found! It's that obscure! In Acts Ch24:5 the Christians are accused of being part of the “Nazarene sect”, meant as an insult, meant to be offensive! In Psalm 22:6 and Isaiah Ch53:3, God's chosen Son is to be despised. JESUS coming from Nazareth is an indication for us that he would be despised (John Ch1:46)

Joseph again becomes the intermediary who provides the safety and security of the child and mother. Joseph could have paid no attention to the dreams, but instead he chooses to be led by God, who is the God of “surprises” and shows tremendous faith and trust in God!

Matthew makes his Jewish readers aware that God always works through humans and history with a continuity and faithfulness, but in this case with “big surprises” also! Secondly, with the Genealogy and Magi, Matthew presents JESUS as the Saviour for both the Jews and Gentiles. Thirdly, Matthew reveals that as JESUS comes into the world, opposition comes, grows and will always be present in various cruel and ruthless ways!

### **APPLICATION**

So can JESUS really identify with us?

The genealogy had some of the most villainous villains of the Old Testament!

The genealogy had numerous “sexual scandals!”

There was a teenage pregnancy!

God's Son was born in a stable!

Hunted as a child, to be murdered!

Became a refugee!

Grew up in an obscure insignificant village, not mentioned in the Old Testament!

JESUS did not come into this world with the “pomp and ceremony” that usually accompanies the birth of royalty or the coming of a King, but was born, as the “despised servant” of the Lord!