

ADVENTure 2019

Exploring Faith — Encountering Christ

**St Peter's Church
Phibsboro**

www.tarsus.ie



Ense cadens. Solymo. Pompei Pului[us]
Augur Numen. Ait. Quae me conteg[it]
Urna Dabit.



**Ense cadens. Solymo. Pompei Pului[us]
Augur Numen. Ait. Quae me conteg[it]
Urna Dabit.**

**While Fulvius, augur of Pompey, was
falling by the sword in Jerusalem he
said: the urn that covers me shall bring
forth a god**



SEQUENCE

- ☐ **Egypt: flight**
- ☐ **Bethlehem: innocents**
- ☐ **Nazareth: return**
- ☐ **Matthew: Purpose**
- ☐ **Prayer**

Matthew 1-2

Genealogy 1:1-17

A.	Announcement to Joseph	1:18-25	Isaiah 7:14
B.	The Magi	2:1-12	Micah 5:1, 3 2Sam 5:2
C.	The Flight into Egypt	2:13-15	Hosea 11:1
D.	The Killing of Children	2:16-18	Jeremiah 31:15
E.	Return home (to Nazareth)	2:19-23	?Judges 13:5-7 ?Isaiah 11:1

Matthew 1-2

Genealogy 1:1-17

A. Announcement to Joseph 1:18-25 Isaiah 7:14

**B. The Magi 2:1-12 Micah 5:1, 3
2Sam 5:2**

C. The Flight into Egypt 2:13-15 Hosea 11:1

D. The Killing of Children 2:16-18 Jeremiah 31:15

**E. Return home
(to Nazareth) 2:19-23 ?Judges 13:5-7
?Isaiah 11:1**

Matt 2:13 Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." **14**

Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, **15** and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

Matt 2:16 When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. **17** Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

18 "A voice was heard in Ramah,
wailing and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be consoled,
because they are no more."

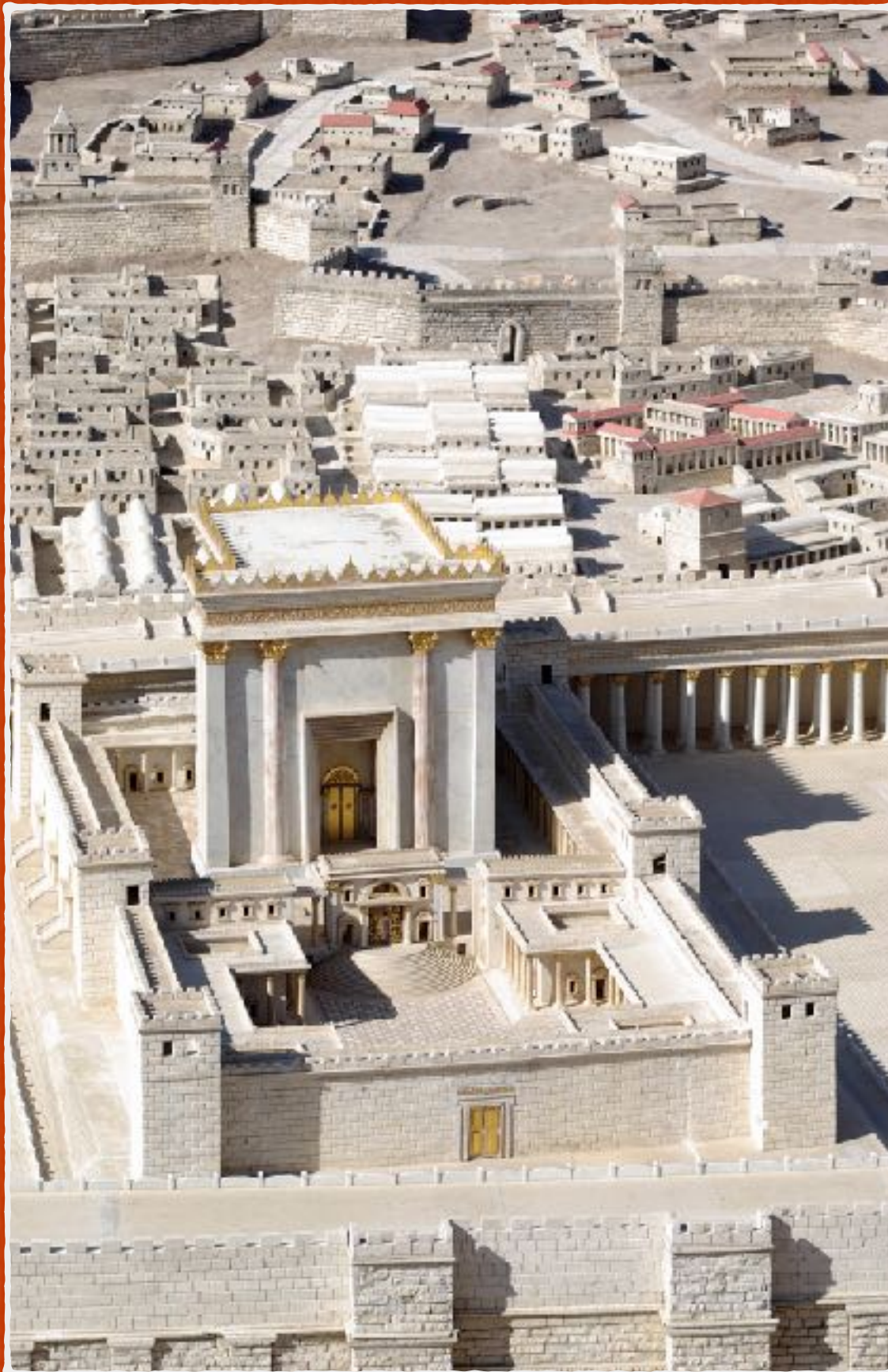
Matt 2:19 When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, **20** "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead." **21** Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. **22** But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. **23** There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazorean."

Who was Herod?

- ☐ **Herod the Great ruled Judea (with the support of Rome) from 37 BC. until he died in 4 BC.**
- ☐ **He was known for his extensive building projects (including the temple in Jerusalem).**
- ☐ **He was notorious for his cruelty and for his ruthlessness regarding the succession.**









Herod's Death

- ☐ A horrible disease (probably a cancer-like affection called Fournier's gangrene) made acute the problem of Herod's succession, and the result was factional strife in his family.
- ☐ Shortly before his death, Herod decided against his sons Aristobulus and Antipater, who were executed in 7 and 4 BC.
- ☐ The emperor Augustus joked that it was preferable to be Herod's pig (hus) than his son (huios) - a very insulting remark to any Jew.

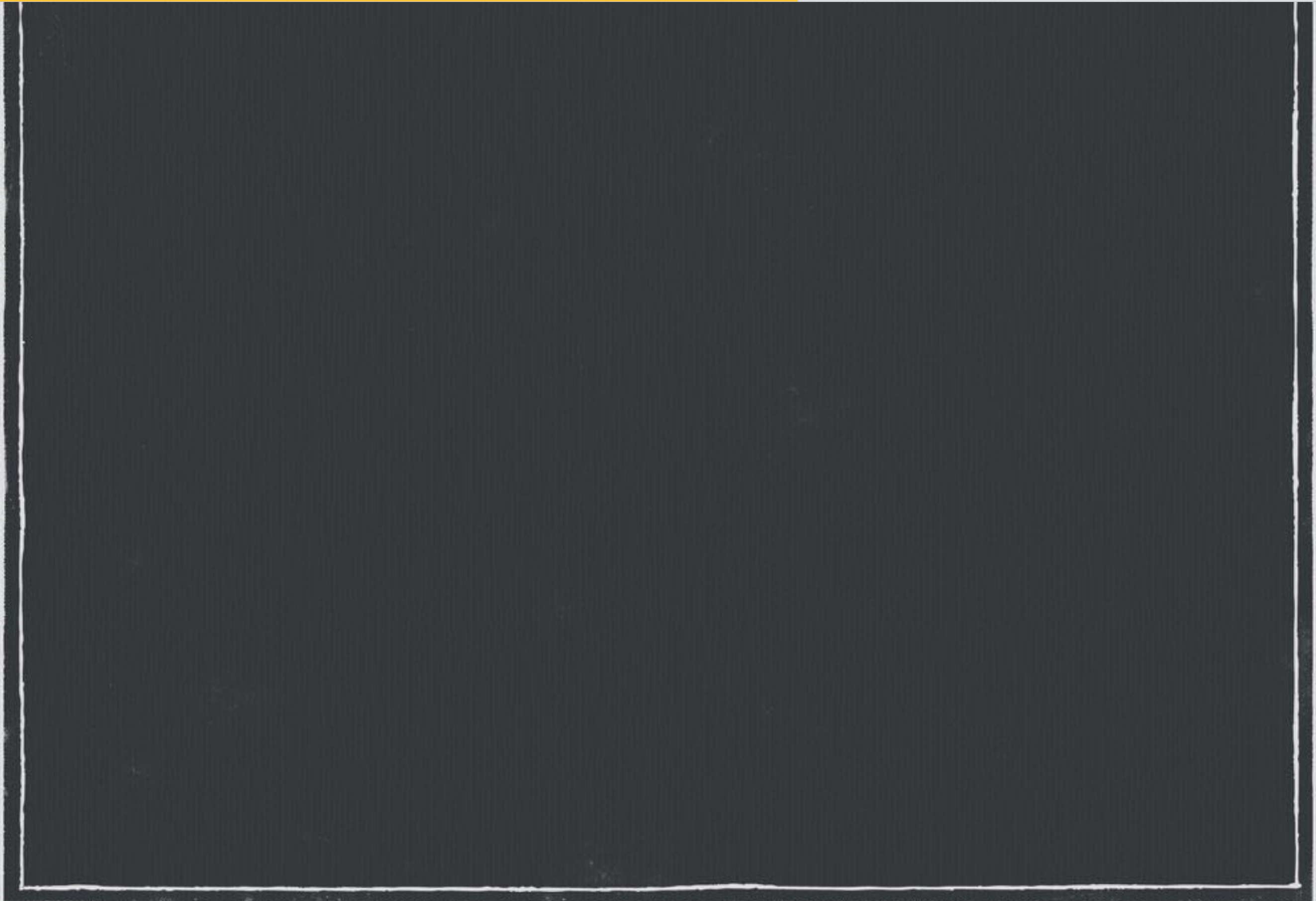
Herod's Death





Jesus

Moses



Jesus

Matt. 2:13 Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him."

Moses

Ex. 2:15 When Pharaoh heard of it, he sought to kill Moses. But Moses fled from Pharaoh. He settled in the land of Midian, and sat down by a well.



Jesus

Matt. 2:13 Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him."

Matt. 2:16 When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men.

Moses

Ex. 2:15 When Pharaoh heard of it, he sought to kill Moses. But Moses fled from Pharaoh. He settled in the land of Midian, and sat down by a well.

Ex. 1:22 Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, "Every boy that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every girl live."



Jesus

Matt. 2:13 Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him."

Matt. 2:16 When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men.

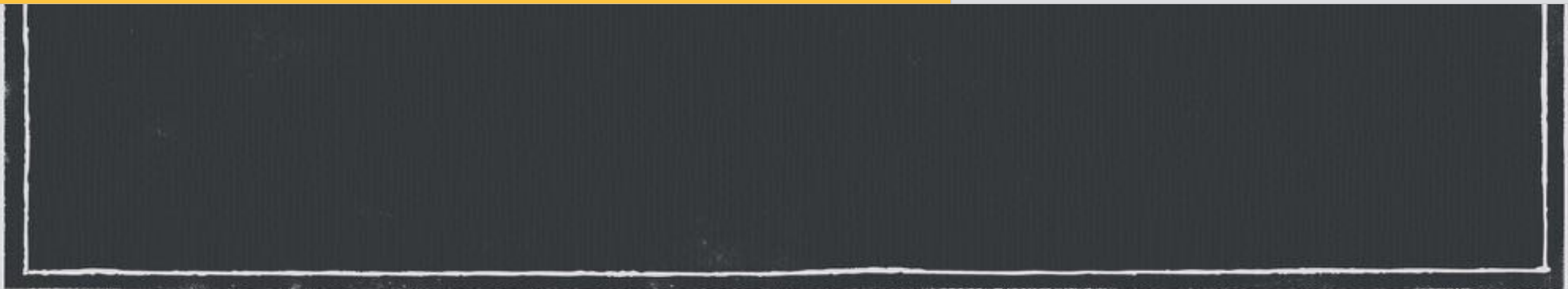
Matt. 2:19 When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said,

Moses

Ex. 2:15 When Pharaoh heard of it, he sought to kill Moses. But Moses fled from Pharaoh. He settled in the land of Midian, and sat down by a well.

Ex. 1:22 Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, "Every boy that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every girl live."

Ex. 2:23 After a long time the king of Egypt died. **Ex. 4:19a** The Lord said to Moses.



Jesus

Matt. 2:13 Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him."

Matt. 2:16 When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men.

Matt. 2:19 When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said,

Matt. 2:20 "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead." **21** Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel.

Moses

Ex. 2:15 When Pharaoh heard of it, he sought to kill Moses. But Moses fled from Pharaoh. He settled in the land of Midian, and sat down by a well.

Ex. 1:22 Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, "Every boy that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every girl live."

Ex. 2:23 After a long time the king of Egypt died. **Ex. 4:19a** The Lord said to Moses.

Ex. 4:19b "Go back to Egypt; for all those who were seeking your life are dead." **20** So Moses took his wife and his sons, put them on a donkey and went back to the land of Egypt.

Joseph's second dream

Matt 2:13 Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." **14** Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, **15** and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."



Joseph's second dream

- ☐ **It continues the Joseph theme from Genesis**
- ☐ **Dreaming**
- ☐ **Remaining until the death**
- ☐ **Hosea: there to "replicate" the Exodus itself**

Joseph's second dream

- ☐ **It continues the Moses theme from Exodus**
- ☐ **Threat at birth**
- ☐ **Relocation for safety**
- ☐ **The exodus is evoked using Hosea.**

Slaughter of the innocents

Matt 2:16 When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. **17** Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

18 "A voice was heard in Ramah,
wailing and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be consoled,
because they are no more."

Slaughter of the innocents

- ☐ **Direct evocation of Exodus 1**
- ☐ **The Exile and the Exodus were linked in Jewish religious imagination.**
- ☐ **Rachel: the wife of Jacob, the mother of the twelve sons of Jacob.**
- ☐ **Jeremiah: Rachel was long dead, of course.**
- ☐ **Matthew underlines darkness and tragedy.**

Return to the Holy Land

Matt 2:19 When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, **20** "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead." **21** Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. **22** But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. **23** There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazorean."

Return to the Holy Land

- ☐ **Direct evocation of Exodus 2 and 4.**
- ☐ **The intention seems to have been to return to Bethlehem, the city of David.**
- ☐ **But: no, they relocated to Nazareth, a town not mentioned in the Old Testament.**
- ☐ **Jesus of Nazareth, not Jesus of Bethlehem.**

Return to the Holy Land

- ☐ **Earlier, Matthew had combined two citations to make one.**
- ☐ **Here: the citation as such does not exist.**
- ☐ **Matthew knows this: prophets, in the plural.**
- ☐ **He seems to be combining a collection of references.**

Citations

The last quotation doesn't really exist as such in the OT.

Is. 4:3 Whoever is left in Zion and remains in Jerusalem
WILL BE CALLED holy,
everyone who has been recorded for life in Jerusalem.

Judg. 13:5 for you shall conceive and bear a son. No razor is to come on his head, for the boy shall be a **NAZIRITE** to God from birth. It is he who shall begin to deliver Israel from the hand of the Philistines.”

Judg. 13:7 but he said to me, ‘You shall conceive and bear a son. So then drink no wine or strong drink, and eat nothing unclean, for the boy shall be a **NAZIRITE** to God from birth to the day of his death.’”

Citations

Is. 11:1 A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch (**NEZER**) shall grow out of his roots

Gen. 49:26 The blessings of your father Joseph
are stronger than the blessings
of the eternal mountains,
the bounties of the everlasting hills;
may they be on the head of Joseph,
on the brow of him who was set apart (**NAZIR**)
from his brothers.

Purpose of Matthew 2:13-23

- ☐ **NB Moses symbolism.**
- ☐ **Jesus “recapitulates” the foundational experience of the Exodus, with an eye to the Exile.**
- ☐ **He accounts for Nazareth, which must have been a source of controversy, as we see in John’s Gospel.**

The big picture

THE PATTERN OF THE GENEALOGY

POSSESSION (David)

PROMISE (Abraham)

LONGING (Christ)

LOSS (Exile)

1700 bce

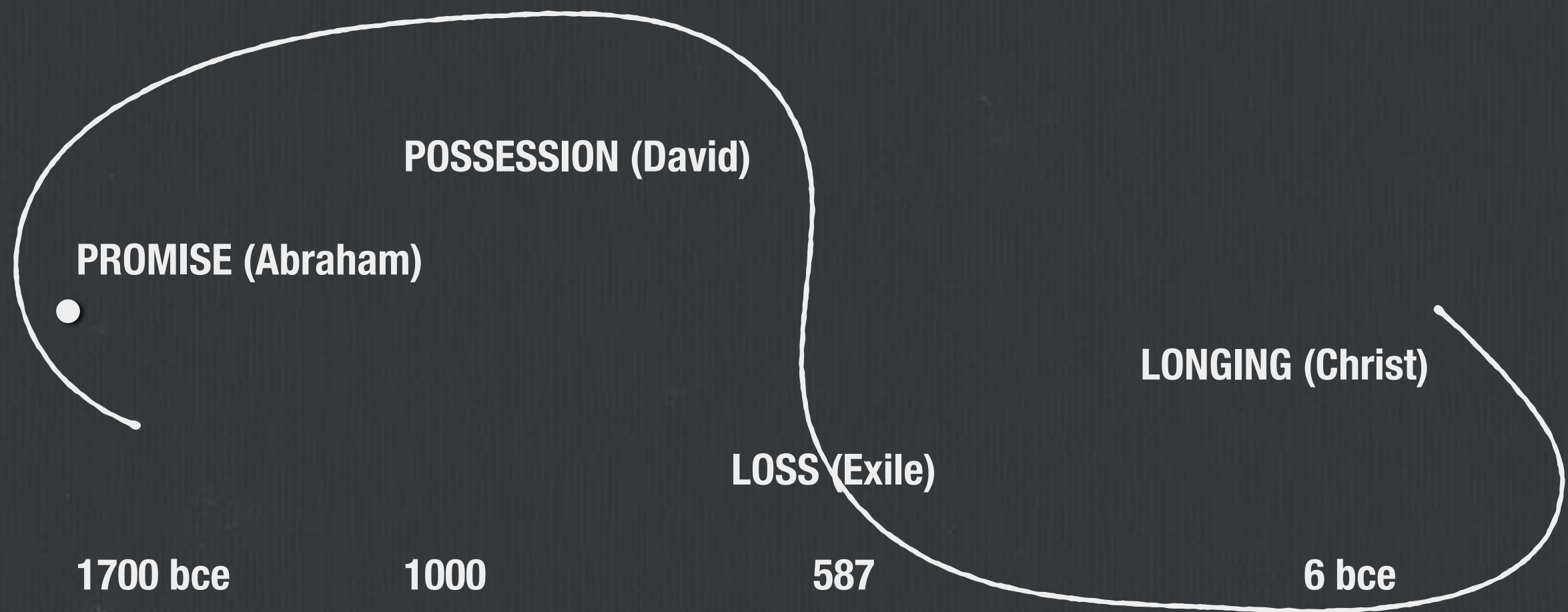
1000

587

6 bce

The big picture

THE PATTERN OF THE GENEALOGY



The big picture

WHO?

1:1-17

Abraham

David

Exile

Tamar

Rahab

Ruth

Bathsheba

Mary

ORIGIN

HOW?

1:18-25

Ishmael

Isaac

Samson

David (Is 7:14)

BIRTH

WHERE?

2:1-12

Moses

Baalam

Kings

Camels

Jer 31 (Rachel)

EXILE

WHENCE?

2:13-22

Moses

Nazorean

Is 4:3; Judge 16:7;

Gen 49:26; Is 11:1

Remnant

Samson

Joseph

David

EXODUS

To summarise

- ☐ **All four gospels have "introduction".**
- ☐ **The purpose is to inform the reader fully about the identity of Jesus.**
- ☐ **Matthew and Luke do it by evoking Old Testament figures, types and narratives.**
- ☐ **Events in Mt 1-2 and Lk 1-2 are never ever referred to.**
- ☐ **There is some history but not much.**

Prayer

Loving God, guardian of our homes, when you entrusted your Son to the care of Mary and Joseph, you did not spare them the pains that touch the life of every family.

Teach us to rely on your word, that in our trials as in our joys we may be clothed in gentleness and patience and united in love.

Make us ever thankful for the blessings you give us through Jesus Christ, your Word made flesh, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, in the splendour of eternal light, God for ever and ever. Amen.



**Happy Christmas to
all**



merry
Christmas
and
happy new year