



BEHOLD THE KING

MATTHEW

A different kind of kingdom -

A different kind of kingdom -

What were people to do in anticipation of that day?

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What would hasten the coming of the kingdom?

4 differing views:

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- Sadducees - **Accommodation**

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- Pharisees - **Separation**

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- Sadducees - Accommodation
- Pharisees - Separation
- Essenes - Seclusion
- Zealots - **Insurrection**

“Four different approaches — and yet they are bound by a common loathing for the gentiles, a deep-seated hatred or at least wariness for all those outside the covenant.

“And then comes Jesus, who refuses to walk in any of these paths.

“His way is startlingly different: it is the way of love and of suffering, love of enemies instead of their destruction; unconditional forgiveness instead of retaliation;

“readiness to suffer instead of using force;
blessing for peacemakers instead of hymns of
hate and revenge.”

Bartholemew and Goheen

“Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.”

1 Peter 4:12

Even in the midst of suffering and evil, two truths emerge from Matthew 2:13-23 that should fill our hearts with hope ...

1. Jesus is well **acquainted** with suffering and evil.

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- **suffering**

“For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

“Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”

Hebrews 4:15-16

1. Jesus is well acquainted with suffering and evil.

- suffering
- **evil**

“The gospel of Jesus the Messiah was born, then, in a land and at a time of trouble, tension, violence and fear. Banish all thoughts of peaceful Christmas scenes.

“There could only be one ruler in Judea. This was Herod’s passionate commitment.

“Already the bones of one wife, several sons, and multiple distant relatives cluttered the family tomb as the result of his conviction that each and every one of them was involved in a conspiracy to kill him.”

Russ Ramsey

“He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.”

Isaiah 53:3

“Before the Prince of Peace had learned to walk and talk, he was a homeless refugee with a price on his head.

“At the same time, in this passage and several others Matthew insists that we see in Jesus, even when things are at their darkest, the fulfillment of scripture.

“This is how Israel’s redeemer was to appear; this is how God would set about liberating his people, and bringing justice to the whole world.

“No point in arriving in comfort, when the world is in misery; no point having an easy life, when the world suffers violence and injustice!

“If he is to be Emmanuel, God-with-us, he must be with us where the pain is. That’s what this chapter is about.”

N.T. Wright

2. God is **working** his plan in the midst of suffering and evil.

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- He is working **proactively** - 3 dreams

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- He is working proactively - 3 dreams
- He is working **purposefully** -
3 fulfilled prophecies

“... out of Egypt I have called my son.”

Hosea 11:1b

“A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping. Rachel is weeping for her children; she refuses to be comforted for her children, because they are no more.”

Jeremiah 31:15

“And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, so that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, that he would be called a Nazarene.”

Matthew 2:23

“We are here taught that God has more than one way of preserving his own people.

“Sometimes he makes astonishing displays of his power; while at other times he employs dark coverings or shadows, from which feeble rays of it escape.

“This wonderful method of preserving the Son of God under the cross teaches us, that they act improperly who prescribe to God a fixed plan of action.

“Let us permit him to advance our salvation by a diversity of methods; and let us not refuse to be humbled, that he may more abundantly display his glory.

“Above all, let us never avoid the cross, by which the Son of God himself was trained from his earliest infancy.”

John Calvin

- **Comfort** - Jesus knows our hurts.

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- **Courage** - God still supernaturally reigns.

“God works in mysterious ways to work out his good purpose, but there is one thing he wants us to understand clearly.

“The struggle with evil and suffering in this fallen world is only temporary. For God has already won the decisive battle in this war, and his ultimate and complete victory is absolutely certain.

“And if the cross of Jesus Christ shows us that our God shares in our suffering, then the resurrection of Jesus Christ demonstrates that God’s triumph over evil is assured.”

William L. Kynes

- Comfort - Jesus knows our hurts.
- Courage - God still supernaturally reigns.
- **Confidence** - God will fulfill all of his prophecies.