

INTRODUCTION: In our passage this morning Matthew emphasizes the providence of God in prophecy and in history demonstrating that He is the Supreme Mover in the affairs of humanity. "It is comforting to know that in the history of redemption everything proceeds according to God's eternal plan. Hence salvation rests upon a firm foundation." *WILLIAM HENDRIKSEN - The Gospel According To Matthew*. It must be remembered however that our eternal destiny rests upon our response to this One Who acts in sovereign self-determination. The obedience of Joseph and of the Magi leads to infinite blessing; the rebellion of Herod leads to everlasting destruction. The Christ Child in his humble home proves more powerful than King Herod on his throne. Jesus will live and grow and all who are His; Herod will rot and die along with all who follow his example of rejecting the One Who was born rightful King - the sovereign LORD of all Creation.

A. THE _____ TO EGYPT - vvs. 13-16

1. The _____ Warning

2. The _____ Instructions

3. The _____ Obedience

4. The _____ Fulfillment

B. THE _____ IN BETHLEHEM - vvs. 17-18

1. Herod's _____

2. Herod's _____

3. Rachel's _____

C. THE _____ IN NAZARETH - vvs. 19-23