

# Christmas is for Children NOT

Matthew, the R-Rated Nativity

1:18-2:23

# Nativity Play – The R-Rated version

- Suspected adultery
- Possible divorce
- Astrology
- Despotic king plotting the death of a rival
- Middle Eastern Family Fleeing oppression
- Infanticide
- Internal displacement of a vulnerable family

Women who  
love doing  
housework  
(in the nude)



The dog  
that can  
sniff out  
CANCER



## Children Traumatised by "Realistic" Nativity play!

### House-Prices in Freefall

PROPERTY PRICES have fallen sharply in the last night of 'knocking down' the market, with some areas seeing a fall in prices of up to 10 per cent, according to a leading estate agent.

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Four distinct Stories

# Matthew 1:18-25 – The decision



# Matthew 2:1-12 – The Visit





# Matthew 13-18 – The Escape





# Matthew 19-25 – The Return





# 4 stories, 3 elements

- God intervenes by giving a message in a dream
- Human obedience to the message of that dream
- Fulfilment of Scripture because of God's intervention and sometimes through the human obedience

# Matthew 1:18-25 – The decision



- Dream (1:20-21)
- Obedience (1:24-25)
- Fulfilment (1:22-23) Isaiah 7:14

# Matthew 2:1-12 – The Visit

- Dream (2:12)
- Obedience (2:12)
- Fulfilment (2:5-6)  
Micah 5:2,4





# Matthew 13-18 – The Escape



- Dream (2:13)
- Obedience (2:14)
- Fulfilment (2:15, 2:17,18) Hosea 11:1; Jeremiah 31:15



# Matthew 19-25 – The Return

- Dream (2:19,20,22)
- Obedience (2:21,23a)
- Fulfilment (2:23b) ??



# Who is this to be born King of the Jews?

- 1:2 – Son of Abraham and Son of David
- 1:20 – Conceived through Holy Spirit
- 1:21 – Saviour
- 1:23 – Immanuel, God with us
- 2:2 – King of the Jews
- 2:6 – Ruler and Shepherd of the people
- 2:11 – King, priest and sufferer
- 2:13 – Oppressed
- 2:23 – Poor (Nazarene)



# Two titles

Saviour      Immanuel

# Matthew 1:20-23

<sup>20</sup> But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will **save** his people from their sins.'

<sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had said through the prophet: <sup>23</sup> 'The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him **Immanuel**' (which means 'God with us').

# God as Saviour

- Help us, God our **Saviour**, for the glory of your name; deliver us and forgive our sins for your name's sake (Psalm 79:9).
- Israel, put your hope in the LORD, for with the LORD is unfailing love and with him is full redemption. He himself will redeem Israel from all their sins (Psalm 130:7-8).



# How was God our Saviour?

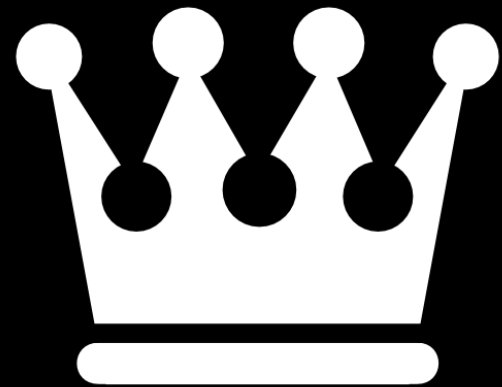
Key: Gifts of the Magi  
(Matthew 2:11)



Frankincense for priesthood

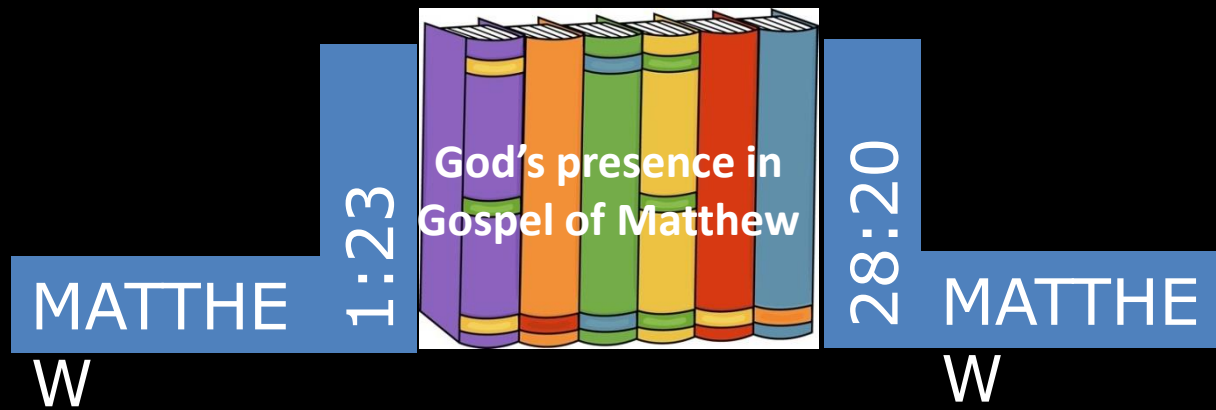


Myrrh for death



Gold for kingship

# Immanuel, God with us



‘And they will call him Immanuel’ (which means  
‘God with us’) (Matthew 1:23)

*and*

‘I am with you always, to the very end of the  
age’ (Matthew 28:20)

# God with us

God has intervened in human history not by sending a prophet with a message, not by writing a book and giving it to us, but he has intervened in human history by coming bodily to earth and by becoming one of us

# How did God choose to “be with us”?

- Close to danger (less than 1 hour from Jerusalem)
- Vulnerable to violence
- Refugee
- Displaced





# So what?

- God comes to save us in a vulnerable state
- Safety is not the normal state for Christians
- Obedience is the correct reaction to God's message