

1. Matthew 2:15/Hosea 11:1 “Out of Egypt I called my son”

Original context: God looking back lovingly and in lament.

God speaks of Israel as his son “Out of Egypt” = Exodus
A relationship marked by love, patience, and heartbreak
over Israel, the beloved child, who proves unfaithful

What Matthew is doing: Matthew presents Jesus as Israel.

Israel to Egypt/returns Jesus to Egypt/returns

Where Israel failed, Jesus is faithful

Jesus does not just repeat Israel’s story; he fulfills/redeems
Egypt becomes the doorway to a new Exodus

2. Matthew 2:17–18/Jeremiah 31:15 “A voice is heard in Ramah... Rachel weeping for her children”

Original context: Grief during the Babylonian exile

Ramah was a gathering place for captives before exile near Rachel’s (wife of Jacob/Israel) traditional burial site

She is the nation’s mother, weeping for her lost children
Importantly, the lament is not the end, as immediately after is a promise of hope and return.

What Matthew is doing: Placing grief inside God’s redemption.
Matthew applies this lament to the slaughter of the children in Bethlehem where evil seems to prevail. But as in Jeremiah, human grief does not cancel God’s promises in Jesus Christ.

Matthew’s claim: Even this, not outside God’s redemptive love.

3. Matthew 2:23 “He will be called a Nazarene”

Original Context: No OT verse, but a pattern by the “prophets”

Matthew recognizes that Jesus’ settling in Nazareth fits the prophetic pattern of obscurity, quiet promise, and rejection already present in Scripture. In hindsight, he sees it as fitting that a place like Nazareth would be where God’s redemption advances from the margins rather than by power or prestige.

We may not recognize God’s activity while we are in the middle of it, but as the year unfolds and eventually as we look back, we can begin to ask: Where did God bring us through Egypt? Where did grief give way to hope? Where did something small and overlooked become the place where grace took root?

This relates back to the Sovereignty of God.

Sermon Notes 01-04-2026

“Essential Tenants”

It all begins with God. In a world that sees “*my choices*” as the things that really matters, the Apostle Paul says it’s God’s choices that really matter. I can choose God all I want but if God hasn’t chosen me then it gets us nowhere. This doesn’t invalidate the importance of the choices we make in the realm of faith but it orders them in importance. God’s choices, then our choices.

“*Do you sincerely receive and adopt the essential tenets of the Reformed Faith...*”

1. Sovereignty of God (It all begins with God)
2. The Authority of Scripture for the life of faith. “*Reformed and always reforming according to the Word of God.*” (Creeds etc).
3. Salvation by Grace alone through Faith (2:8 – even faith a gift)
4. The Priesthood of All Believers (The Pastor isn’t the boss. Ordinations as a Ruling Elder, Teaching Elder, and Deacons only differ in function not importance.)
5. The Lordship of Jesus Christ over the Whole of Life. (Private & Public, Thoughts, Words, Deeds, Mission & Stewardship)

FURTHER THOUGHTS Matthew 2:13-23 p. 1,498

“20/20 Hindsight”

Looking back on 2025/ Hindsight is...

This is also true of how God is working in our lives, and world.

Many times, what we are experiencing in any given moment, for good or ill, is not clear to us while we are in it. Only later, sometimes much later, do we begin to see how God was at work in those events, not only shaping who we have become, but revealing the larger story of God’s redemption of creation.

Matthew approaches fulfilled prophecy in much the same way. Along with other New Testament writers, he often re-reads Israel’s story through Jesus. Each “fulfilled” text originally belonged to a different historical context, and Matthew draws them together to show how God has been, and continues to be, faithfully at work to bring about his promised redemption, both in our individual lives and in the life of the whole creation.

*Prayerfully, openly engage in relationships
through Christ's love."*

CONTACT INFO

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PRAYER LIST

Donnie McKeehan, John Nimmon, Pam Nelson Stambaugh, Rev. Jim Richards, Catherine Bitner, Winnie Webber, Family of Ray Heckman, Jo Smith, Pastor Vern, Family of Heidi Hefflefinger. Sam & Barb Shenk. Bob Rhoades.

Prayer Persons: Pastor Vern & Elisabeth Gauthier
111 W Big Spring Ave, Newville PA 17241

Local Church: Doubling Gap- Don Snyder

Presbyterian: Camp Hill- Nancy Conklin

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2025 Financial statements will be mailed in January 2026.

Thank you all for the donations to the Mitten Tree. A total of **154 items** were delivered to the Salvation Army in Carlisle. Thanks again, Doris Mae Kennedy.

We packed **197** bags of cookies for the Truck Stop Ministry, thanks to all those who helped in any way.

We collected **\$495** for the Christmas Joy Offering.

January 2026

January 4th we will Ordain and Install for Session and Deacons.

After worship we will un-decorate the Church.

Jan 6th 6:30pm CLC

Jan. 7th 6:30pm Bible Study

Jan.8th 8am Men's Breakfast

Jan. 11th will be after Worship social time.

Jan.18th stay for a soup lunch. All welcome, see the sign up sheet. Thanks!