

Matthew's Christmas Narrative

from Tyndale's Cologne Fragment 1525

Verse numbers which were not part of the original are added for convenience.

The gospell of S. Mattheiu. The fyrst Chapter.

18 ¶ The byrthe of Christ was on this wyse/ when his mother Mary was married vnto Ioseph/
before they cam to dwell togeder/ she was founde with chylde by the holy *goost. 19 The her
husbande Ioseph/ beinge a perfecte man/ and lothe to *defame her/ was mynded to put her awaye
secretly. 20 Whyle he thus thought/ beholde/ the angel of the lorde apered vnto him in his slepe
sayinge: Ioseph the sonne of David/ feare not to take vnto the/ Mary thy wyfe. For that which is
conceaved in her/ is of the holy goost. 21 She shall brynge forth a sonne/ and thou shalt call
his name *Jesus. For he shall save his people from their synnes.

22 ¶ All this was done/ to fulfill that which was spoken of the lorde/ be the prophet sayinge :
23 beholde a mayde shalbe with chylde/ and shall brynge forth a sonne/ and they shall call his
name Emannell/ which is as moche to saye/ be interpretation/ as god with vs.*

24 ¶ Ioseph as soone as he awoke out of slept/ dyd as the angell of the lorde bade hym/ and
toke his wyfe vnto him/ 25 and knewe her nott*/ tyll she hadde brought forth her fyrst sonne/
and called his name Jesus.

Right-hand margin side notes

* 1:18 That ys to saye by the workīge 7 power of the holy goste

* 1:19 *Defame*

That is he wolde not puther to opē shame/ as he wel might haue done bi the lawe. Also mathew
reioysith of the goodnes of ioseph/ which for loves sake dyd re myt of his ryght.

* 1:21 *Jesus.*

Jesus is as moche to saye as a saver/ for he onli saveth all men from their synnes bi his
merces with oute there deservīg

1:23 Christe bryngeth god. where Christ is there is god. and where christ is not there is not
god.

* 1:25 *Till she.* ye shall nott suppoose that he knew her afterwarde/ but hit is the maner of the
scripture so to speake/ as gē. viij. c. the rabin cam not againe till the water was drōke bp pe
and the erth drye/ the scripture meaneth nott/ he cam agayne after warde : ebyn soo here/ hit
foloweth not that ioseph ke we oure lady after warde.

§ The Seconde Chapter.

1 **W**hen Jesus was borne in bethlehem a toune of iury/ in the time of kynge Herode/
beholde/ there cam *wyse mē frō the este to Jerusalem 2 sayinge : where is he that is borne
kynge of the iewes? we have sene his starre in the este/ and are come to worshippe hym.

3 § Herode the kynge/ after he hadde herde this/ was troubled/ and all Ierusalē with hym/
4 and he sent for all the chefe preestes and scribes of the people/ and demaunded of them where
Christ shulde be borne. 5 They sayde vnto him : in bethlehem a toune of iury. For thus it is
wryttē by the prophet: 6 *And thou bethlehem in the lōde of *iury/ shalt not be the leest as
perteynyng to the pryncf of iuda. For out of the shall come a captayne/ whych shall govern my
people israhel.

7 § Then Herod prevely called the wyse men/ and dyligently enquyred of them/ the tyme of the
starre that appered. 8 And sent them to bethlehem sayinge : when ye be come thyder searche
diligently for the chylde. And when ye haue founde hym brīge me worde/ that y maye come and
worshippe hym also. 9 Whē they had herde the kynge/ they departed/ and lo the starre whych
they sawe in the este went before them/ vntyll it cā and stode over the place where the chylde
was. 10 Whē they sawe the starre/ they were marveylously gladde. 11 And entred into the
house/ and foūd the childe with Mary hys mother/ and kneled doune and worshipped hym/ and
opened there treasurys/ and offred vnto him gyftes/ gold/ franckynsence/ and myr. 12 And
after they were warned in their slepe/ that they shulde not go a geyne to Herod/ they returned
into there awne countre another waye.

13 § After that they were departed/ lo the angell of the lorde apered to Ioseph in his slepe
saynge : aryse and take the chylde and his mother/ and flye in to egipte/ and abyde there tyll y
brynge the worde. For Herod wyll seke the chylde to destroye hym. 14 Then he arose/ and toke
the chylde and his mother by nyght/ and departed into egipte/ 15 and was there vnto the dethe of
herod/ to fulfill that which was spoken of the lorde/ by the prophet/ which sayeth: *out of egipte
haue y called my sōne.

16 § Then Herod perceavyng that he was mocked of the wyse men/ was excedyng wrathe/
and sent forth and slewe all the chyldrē that were in bethlehē/ and ī all the coostes there of/ as
many as were two yere olde and vnder/ accordīge to the tyme which he had diligently searched
out of the wyse men.

17 § Then was fulfilled/ that whych was spokē be the prophet Jeremi/ sayinge : 18 *On the
hilles was a voīce herde/ mournynge/ wepyng/ and greate lamentacion. *Rachel wepyng for
her chyldrē/ and wolde not be cōforted/ be cause they were not.

19 ¶ When Herod was deed/ lo an angell of the lorde apered vnto Ioseph in egipte 20 sayinge:
arise and take the chylde and his mother/ and go into the londe of israhel. For they are deed/
which sought the chylde's deeth. 21 Thē he arose vp/ and toke the chylde and his mother/ and
cam into the londe of israhel. 22 But when he herde that Archilaus dyd raygne in iury/ in the
roume of hys father Herod/ he was afrayde to go thyder/ notwithstondynge after he was
warned in hys slepe/ he turned aside into the parties of galile/ 23 and wēt and dwelt in a cete
called nazareth/ to fulfill/ that which was spokē by the prophet: *He shalbe called of nazareth.

Left-hand margin cross-references

2:6 mich. v.

2:15 Ose. xi. Nu. Xxiiij

2:18 Iere .xxxi.

2:23 Isai .xi. Judi .xiiij.

Right hand margin side notes

* 2:1 *wyse men.*

Of mathew they ar callid Magi/ 7 in certeyne coūtreis ī the est/ philosophers conynge in
naturall causes 7 effectes/ and also the prestes/ were so callid.

* 2:6 Iury is the londe. Iuda is that trybe or kynred that dwelt there in.

* 2:18 Rachell was buried nor ferre from bethlehem/ ād the prophet signifieth that as she
mourned her sōne beniamyn/ in whos byrth she dyed/ so shuld the mothers of these children
mourne. And here maye we se/ howe it goeth all waye/ with the righte christen men before the
world/ for the faythes sake/ which rhey have yn christe/ nott withstandinge they are
wonderfully mayntained 7 defended alwaye of god/ ageynst all power of hell.