

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. Matheiu. The fyrst Chapter.

18 ¶ The byrthe of Christ was on this wyse/ when his mother Mary was maried unto Joseph/ before they cam to dwell togeder/ she was founde with chylde by the holy *goost. 19 Thē her husbande Joseph/ beinge a perfecte man/ and lothe to *defame her/ was mynded to put her awaie secretly. 20 Whyle he thus thought/ beholde/ the angel of the lorde apered unto him in his slepe sayīge: Joseph the sonne of David/ feare not to take unto the/ Mary thy wyfe. For that whiche is conceaved in her/ is of the holy goost. 21 She shall brynge forthe 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 forthe a sonne/ and they shall call his name Emannell/ whiche is as moche to saye/ be interpretation/ as god with vs.*

24 ¶ Joseph as soone as he awoke out of slept/ dyd as the angell of the lorde bade hym/ and toke his wyfe unto him/ 25 and knewe her nott*/ tyll she hadde brought forthe 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/ whiche 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 deserving

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 suppose that he knew her afterwarde/ but hit is the maner of the scripture so to speake/ as gē. viij. c. the ravin cam not againe till the water was drōke vp pe and the erth drye/ the scripture meaneth nott/ he cam agayne after warde : evyn 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 toun of iury/ in the time of kynge Herode/ beholde/ there cam *wyse mē frō the este to Ierusalem 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 scrybes of the people/ and demaunded of them where Christ shulde be borne. 5 They sayde unto him : in bethlehem a toun of iury. For thus it is wrytē by the prophet: 6 *And thou bethlehem in the lōde of *iury/ shalt not be the leest as perteynyng to the prynce 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 hadde 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 fōud the childe with Mary hys mother/ and kneled doun and worshipped hym/ and opened there treasonf/ and offred unto him gyftes/ gold/ franchynsence/ 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 sayinge : aryse and take the chylde and his mother/ and flye in to egypte/ 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 egypte/ 15 and was there unto the deth of herod/ to fulfill that which was spoken of the lorde/ by the prophet/ which sayeth: *out of egypte haue y called my sōne.

16 ¶ Then Herod perceavyng that he was mocked of the wyse men/ was exedyngre wrathe/ and sent forthe and slewe all the chylde that were in bethlehem/ and i all the coostes there of/ as many as were two yere olde and vnder/ accordīge to the tyme which he hadde diligently searched out of the wyse men.

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

19 ¶ Whan Herod was deed/ lo an angell of the lorde apered unto Joseph in egipte 20 sayinge:
aryse and take the chylde and his mother/ and go into the londe of israhel. For they are deed/
which sought the chyldes 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 afayde to go thyder/ notwithstandinge 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 Jere .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 countreis i the est/ philosophers conyngē in
naturall causes 7 effectes/ and also the prestes/ were so calyd.

* 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/ ad 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 wāye/ with the righte christen men before the
world/ for the faythes sake/ which they have yn christe/ nott withstondinge they are
wonderfully mayntained 7 defended alwaye of god/ ageynst all power of hell.