

Jesus: the Hope of Israel. Matthew 2.13-23**Week Two****Day One.**

Listen to the episode. Read the following question, and write your answers in the box provided.

Quotation: *When different scenes from different stories shed light on each other, you get a clearer view of reality.* Do you agree? What are some of your favourite movies/books/TV shows that you think tell you something about us as humans, or the character of God. **Helpful hint:** "I like the *Vicar of Dibley*, because although the characters are flawed, they teach me about community."

Reflection: Joseph and Herod in contrast. It's easy to identify with Joseph and tell ourselves we're nothing like Herod. Instead, ask yourself how you react when your personal freedom is threatened. Why is self-obsession so damaging? Are you selfish? How is God speaking to you today regarding the areas where you're selfish. Eg. Your time, your money, your affections. Are there any areas of your life that require surrendering to God?

Prayer.

Day Two.

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Prophecy. When we read of the fulfilment of prophecy, what does that teach us about God? Read Romans 11. We're told in Romans that we're "grafted into Israel." God was faithful and patient with his people. In what ways is God faithful and patient with you?

Reflection: No longer will a man teach his neighbour, or a man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest," Jeremiah 31.34a. To what extent has this prophecy been fulfilled? It's a vision of God being known by all. Does that create a longing in your heart? Is God calling you into some new area of service or vocation?

Prayer.

Day Three.

Listen to the episode. Read the following questions, and write your answers in the box provided.

Hope. If hope is confidence in the ultimate triumph of God, how do you respond to that definition? How important is hope to you as you live your Christian life?

Reflection: Hope is about confidence that God is with you in times of difficulty, knowing his purposes are the best. Reflect on your life. How does hope help you to gain perspective? Thank God for his goodness, and tell Him you trust Him for all your needs. Offer worship, knowing that He will one day come in glory.

Prayer.