Eyes Attuned To Spiritual Warfare – Part 2

Tony Mauck · Matthew 2

INTRODUCTION

- We need to be reminded that our labor and toil is not in vain in the Lord.
- We ought to be here because we're committed to each other. Admonishing and encouraging one another.
- Wherever something good is going on, wherever the gospel is advancing, Satan is going to throw adversaries in the path of that achievement and success.

1 The Specific Birthplace of Jesus

Micah 5:2; Matthew 2:6; Genesis 3:15

- It's extraordinary and should bolster our confidence or strengthen our confidence in God and his word to see the number of prophecies that are related to this text.
- God knows exactly where this child will be born.
- Bethlehem means house of bread, perfect place for the bread of life to come into the world.
- There's a Bethlehem in the territory of Zebulun that is actually larger of the two Bethlehems.

2 Out of Egypt Did I Call My Son

Hosea 11:1; Matthew 2:15

- When Joseph and Mary take Jesus to Egypt, it is so that the scripture can be fulfilled.
- God is able to take the evil will of Herod and the awful slaughter of children, and again turn that into something very powerful or good.
- Just like Israel was delivered from Egyptian oppression and an evil Pharaoh. Jesus is delivered from Herod, and he too comes out of Egypt to accomplish God's purposes.
- Whereas Israel failed over and over again as God's son, this time the son is going to be a success. Jesus is going to succeed where Israel failed.

3 Rachel Weeping for Her Children

Matthew 2:17–18; Jeremiah 31:15–16; Matthew 5:4

- A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping in great mourning. Rachel weeping for her children, and she refused to be comforted because they were no more.
- This chapter actually contains words of hope in the midst of sorrow.
- Restrain your voice from weeping, and your eyes from tears, for your work shall be rewarded, declares the Lord.

- God turns our mourning, our regrets over our past into rejoicing by providing forgiveness and mercy through Jesus Christ.
- When we realize the blessings of being associated with the Lord and His cause and being in fellowship with Him, we can rejoice even in the midst of pain.
- We tend to focus too much on our pain and our disappointment and our troubles rather than what we know and what we have in Christ.

4 He Shall Be Called a Nazarene

Matthew 2:23; Isaiah 11:1; John 1:46

- There's no specific Old Testament reference to the Messiah being a Nazarene.
- It's not a specific prophecy, but it's a general. It's a general theme or tenor of the prophets that he's referring to.
- The idea of the Messiah suffering and being rejected, it is a theme and tenor of the entire Old Testament.
- Can any good thing come out of Nazareth? You see, Nazareth had a reputation.
- Matthew wants us to know this wasn't an accident.
- This was the calculated, planned purpose of our amazing God.

5 I Need to Be Aligned With God

1 Peter 5:5–10

- When you're going through pain, it is very easy to think that God doesn't care.
- There's something about our suffering that can be redeeming.
- There's something about our pain that can drive us to God and hope and not despair if we will simply stay the course as his faithful people.

THE CHALLENGE

How do you respond when life is challenging, when it's disappointing, when Satan is tantalizing and mesmerizing you with an offer that seems to be too good to refuse.

MY NOTES