

DARK Christmas

December 21 - A Hard Protection

The gritty reality of redemption's arrival



Syrian Refugees

Global Refugees

33-51.2 Million
12 M. in Camps
21 M. lost homes



Question:
Are we just God's cannon fodder (or
gun powder)?



We spend our time and waste our
energy fighting our biggest opportunities.

"Out of Egypt, I called my Son"

1. God saved Jesus so that Jesus could save everyone else.

"He will be called a Nazarene."

2. God made Jesus nobody so that everyone could become somebody.



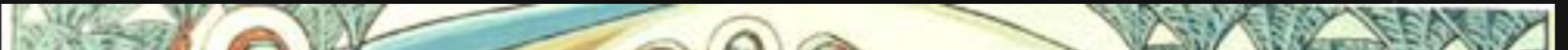


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Christmas

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The gritty reality of redemption's arrival



Global Refugees



Syrian Refugees

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33-51.2 Million

12 M. in Camps

21 M. lost homes

... a Record Peak, Sixty
confirmed for Syrians at
the time of the conflict.
the world.



Global Health
Research Policy Centre

"...a Recent Pew Study confirmed that Christians are 'The most persecuted group in the world.'"

- Galston Institute,
International Policy Council



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The world's most ancient Christian communities are being destroyed — and no one cares

Christians in the Middle East have been the victims of pogroms and persecution. Where's the outrage in the West?

By [Michael Brendan Dougherty](#) | January 23, 2014



1.1k



32.9k



1017



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MOST POPULAR ON THE WEEK

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2. How to be the most productive person in your office — and still get home by 5:30 p.m.
3. Hey, bosses: Stop giving bonuses to your employees
4. You should be furious about Hollywood's gutless retreat on *The Interview*
5. Why the Sony hack changes everything



Matthew 1:24-25

When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

Matthew 2:20-21

and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child's life are dead." So he got up, took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel.

Matthew 2:13-15

When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him." So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, where he stayed until the death of Herod.

Matthew 2:22-23

Having been warned in a dream, he withdrew to the district of Galilee, and he went and lived in a town called Nazareth.



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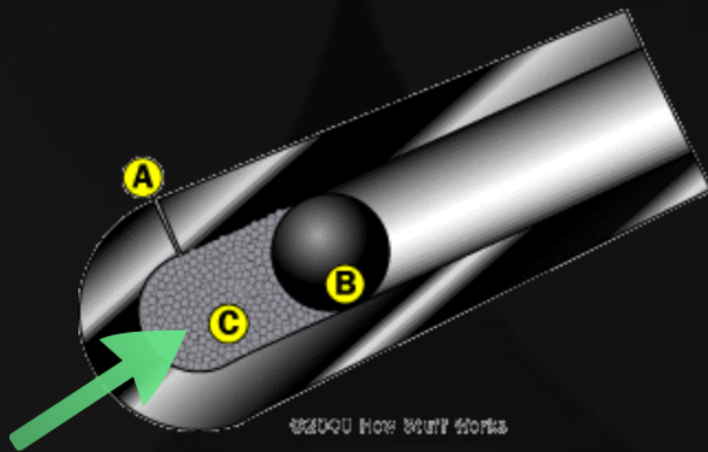
Matthew 2:20-21

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The FACT of our problems
rather than the problems THEMSELVES

That we HAVE cancer → Fighting cancer

That we ARE unemployed → Getting a job

That we FEEL unhappy → dealing with causes and seeking remedies

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rather than the problems THEMSELVES

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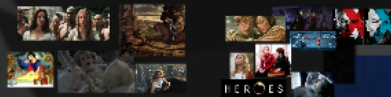
That we ARE unemployed  Getting a job

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"Out of Egypt I called my Son"

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2 Rescue Storylines

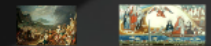


"Out of Egypt I called my Son."

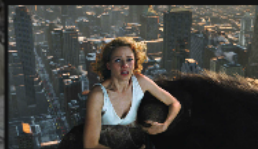
Matthew 2:15

Hosea 11:1

Exodus → Flight to Return from Egypt



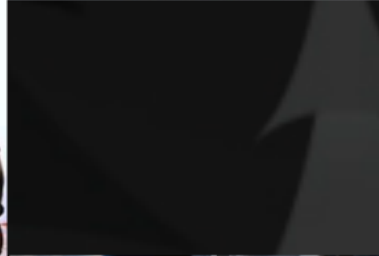
2 Rescue Storylines



HEROES







HEROES

"Out of Egypt I called my Son!"

Matthew 2:15

Hosea 11:1

Exodus



Flight to/Return from Egypt



"He will be called a Nazarene!"

2. God made Jesus nobody so that everyone could become somebody

Which prophet actually said that?

"...he will be called a Nazarene..."

All the other quotes in Matthew do...

1:23	→	Isaiah 7:14
2:6	→	Micah 5:2
2:15	→	Hosea 11:1
2:18	→	Jeremiah 31:15
3:3	→	Isaiah 40:3

John 1:46
"Nazareth, can anything good come from there?"

Acts 24:5
Paul was called "a ringleader of the Nazarene Sect"

Despised

Unlikely

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Despised

Despised

Isaiah 53:2-3
He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces, he was despised, and we esteemed him not. (See Also: Psalm 22:6-8, 13, 18; 70:21, Isa 40:7, Ezra 9:10-12)

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(See also: Isa 53, 54)

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Unlikely

Isaiah 11:1

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Matthew 13:55

"Isn't this the carpenter's son?"

Matthew 1:20

"...angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid..."

Matthew 13:55
For the sake of the text, a small number of words
have been added in brackets. The text is
based on the original text of the Bible. The
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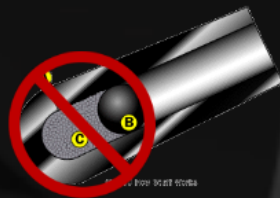
Romans 8:15-17

For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs-- heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

Foreknowledge- he planned it

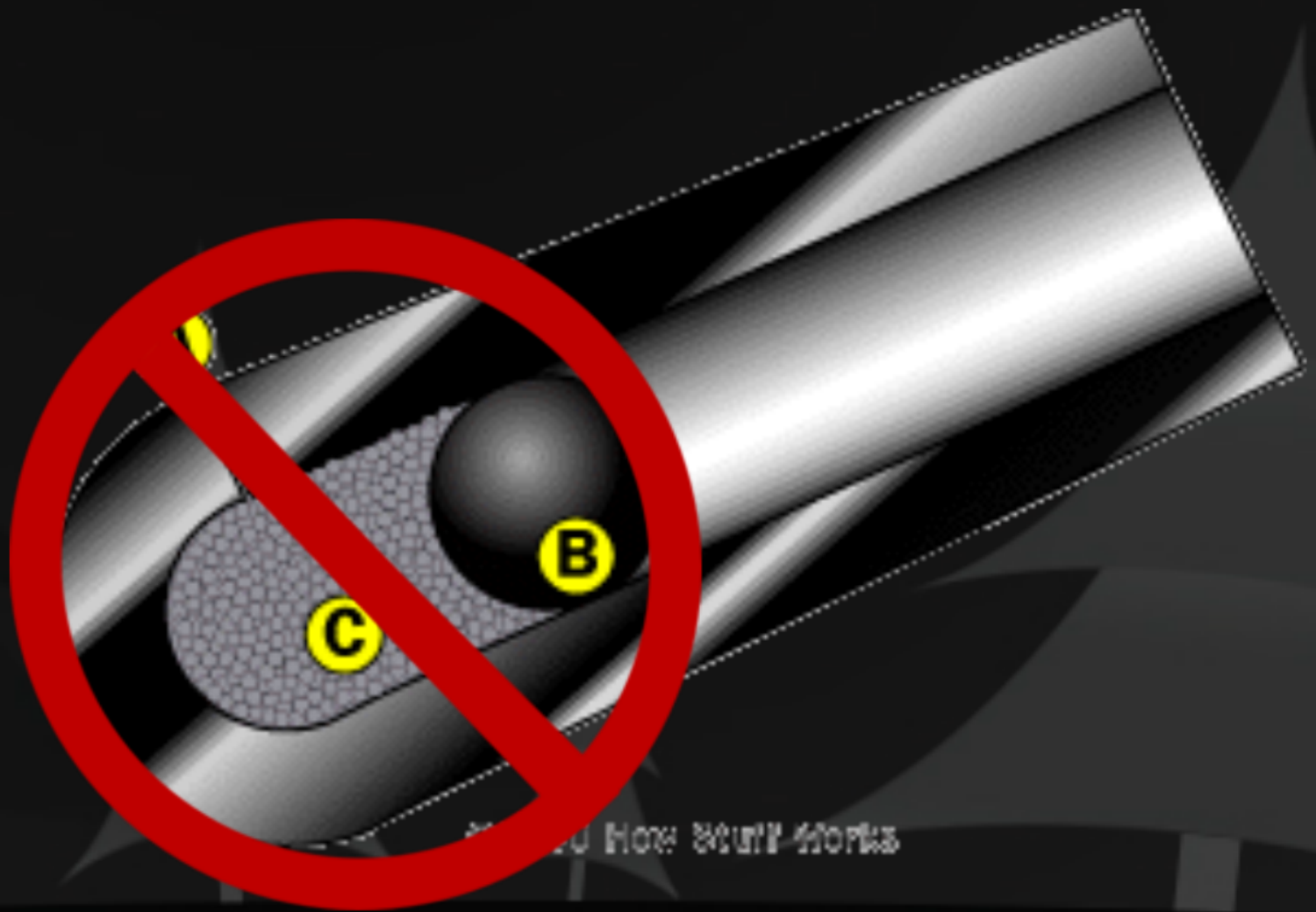


Sacrifice- he gets it



Luke 2:51

Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart.



How Stuff Works

Foreknowledge- he planned it

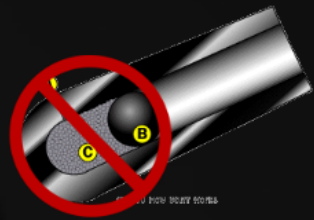


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