

The Gospel of Matthew: Literary parallels with Exodus

Moses threatened by king of Egypt. (Infanticide)	Jesus threatened by Herod (Infanticide) Matthew 2:16
Pharaoh outwitted by mid-wives	Herod outwitted by the Magi Matthew 2: 16
Jacob goes down to Egypt to escape famine	Joseph goes down to Egypt to escape Herod. Matthew 2: 13-14
“Go back ... for all the men who sought your life are dead.” Exodus 4:19	“Go back ... for those who sought the child’s life are dead.” Matthew 2: 20
Moses prepared for work of deliverance in wilderness where he received divine authorization.	Jesus goes into wilderness, baptized in waters of Jordon, and affirmed by heavenly voice. Matthew 3
Israel tested in wilderness. Exodus 16:1-8 (wilderness of Sin); Exodus 17:1-7 (rock of Massah); Exodus 32:1-8 (Golden Calf)	Jesus tested in wilderness. Matthew 4:1-11
Moses’ message: “Let my people go.”	Jesus’ message: “Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!” Matthew 4:17
Moses goes up Mt. Sinai and receives Torah.	Jesus goes up the mountain and delivers Sermon. Matthew 5
Moses and Hebrews miraculously fed with manna.	Jesus miraculously feeds multitudes. Matthew 14:13-21; 15:32-38
Sharing first Passover meal creates new community. “Bread of Affliction” (Deut. 16:3) commemorates flight from Egypt. Wine symbolizes sweetness of God’s deliverance.	Sharing new Passover meal calls new community into being. Unleavened bread identified with Jesus’ body. (Matthew 26:26) Jesus identifies wine with “my blood of the covenant.” (Matthew 26: 27-29)

Matthew 26, Mark 14, and Luke 22: Last Supper synchronized with first day of Unleavened Bread when Passover lamb is sacrificed.

According to John 19:31, 42, Jesus was executed on the afternoon before the first day of Passover—when the lambs were being sacrificed in the Jerusalem Temple.