

Key Phrases:

ὅτε ἐτέλεσεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς

“When Jesus had finished”

This formula phrase appears five times and signals the close of a major discourse.

Ἀπὸ τότε ἤρξατο ὁ Ἰησοῦς

“From that time Jesus began”

This exact phrase occurs twice in Matthew’s gospel and appears to signal a shift in the story line as well.

“That it might be fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet, saying...”

- Variations of the formula:
 - Name of the prophet (Example: Jeremiah)
 - Prophets (plural)
 - Spoken by the Lord

1:22-23	2:15	2:17-18	2:12	4:14-16
8:17	12:17-21	13:35	21:4-5	27:9-10

Important Point: In Matthew 2:17-18 and 27:9-10 Matthew changes the formula to indicate that God is not the author of the evil that occurred.

Interesting Point:

Matthew like the other gospel writers, usually gives his quotations from the Greek Septuagint.

Thus it is striking that 1:23 is the only one of these 10 formula statements quoted from the Septuagint.

At Least Two Reasons:

1. Matthew draws from multiple passages to relate the same theme.
 - a. Examples:
 - i. Matthew 2:6 begins with Micah 5:2 and concludes with 2 Samuel 5:2.
 - ii. Matthew 21:5 combines quotations from Zechariah 9:9 and Isaiah 62:11
 - iii. 27:9-10 is a quotation of Zechariah 11:12-13 and echoes Jeremiah 19:1-3.
2. The Septuagint appears to have done a poor job translating the quotations found in Matthew 2:15 and 8:17.

Similar formulas are found in:

Matthew 13:14	Matthew 26:54, 56	Matthew 2:5
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ῥηθεὶς

“spoken” – This participle is used exclusively by Matthew and is always used in reference to an inspired prophetic utterance.

Major Point: The topics of “prophets speaking” and “fulfillment” are two major points of emphasis throughout the Gospel of Matthew as he pleads with his Jewish audience to accept Jesus as the Christ.