

Matthew 2:13-23 **To Egypt and Back**

¹³ Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him." ¹⁴ When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, ¹⁵ and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, "Out of Egypt I called My Son."

¹⁶ Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men. ¹⁷ Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying:

¹⁸ "A voice was heard in Ramah,
Lamentation, weeping, and great mourning,
Rachel weeping for her children,
Refusing to be comforted,
Because they are no more."

¹⁹ But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, ²⁰ saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the young Child's life are dead." ²¹ Then he arose, took the young Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel. ²² But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea instead of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being warned by God in a dream, he turned aside into the region of Galilee. ²³ And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, "He shall be called a Nazarene." NKJV

Facts Revealed:

- ✚ When the Wise Men left after presenting their gifts before the Holy Child, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, commanding him to take the young Child and His mother and flee to Egypt, and stay there until God brings them word. Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him. [\[Matthew 2:13-15\]](#)
- ✧ God knows what is going to happen in every event in history, nothing takes Him by surprise.
- ✧ God sets the stage that leads men to fulfill prophecy out of their own natural desires and inclinations.
- ✧ God also steps in when necessary with information for His people so we will know what is coming and to instruct us when action is necessary to save ourselves and others. This is demonstrated in the case of Noah, Lot, and here to save His Own Son until the time for Him to die in fulfillment of prophecy and God's plan of Salvation for all mankind.
- ✚ Again, Joseph did as God commanded, and was there until the death of Herod. [\[Matthew 2:14-15\]](#)
- ✧ This was to fulfill prophecy which said:
 - “Out of Egypt I called My Son. [\[Hosea 11:1\]](#)
- ✚ When Herod knew that the Wise Men were not coming back to report to him the location of the Messiah, he ordered the death of all male children in Bethlehem and in all its districts from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the Wise Men. [\[Matthew 2:16-17\]](#)

- ✧ Herod was a cruel and vicious tyrant and killed his own favorite wife Mariamne and her sons because of their threat to his throne, (according to Josephus). So it is no wonder that he would take such drastic measures to attempt to rid the realm of the potential Messiah and King of the Jews.
- ✧ This fulfilled the prophecy by Jeremiah:
 - "A voice was heard in Ramah,
 - Lamentation, weeping, and great mourning,
 - Rachel weeping for her children,
 - Refusing to be comforted,
 - Because they are no more." [\[Jeremiah 31:15\]](#)
- ✧ When Herod was dead, the Angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, and instructed him to return to Israel with his family.
- ✧ Joseph returned to the land of Israel, but when he learned that Archelaus was reigning in the place of his father Herod, Joseph was afraid to go to Judea. God also warned him in a dream against it, so they went on to Galilee, to a city called Nazareth (the town where he lived when he was espoused to Mary before they traveled to Bethlehem for the birth of Jesus).
 - ✧ This again fulfilled prophecy:
 - "He shall be called a Nazarene."
 - ✧ Nazarene, is the name given to people who lived in Nazareth. [\[Matthew 2:23\]](#)
 - ✧ He is often called in the Gospels, 'Jesus of Nazareth.'" [\[Matthew, Mark, Luke, John and Acts\]](#)
 - ✧ Nazarene, is quite different from the name Nazirite, which is the name given to people who have set themselves apart for the Lord for a specific time of their vow during which time their hair was not to be cut. [\[Numbers 6:1-21\]](#)