

## **MONTH OF JESUS: EXILE IN EGYPT**

Matthew 2:13-15 ... “New when they [the Wisemen] had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, ‘Arise, take the young child [Jesus] and his mother [Mary], flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him.’ When he arose, he took the young Child and his mother by night and departed for Egypt, and was there until the death of Herod...”

Are you aware that Jesus was, at one time, a bakwit (an evacuee)? Remember the story of the wisemen who visited Jesus to celebrate his birth? That happened when Jesus was about two years old (not when he was still lying in a manger in Bethlehem). The wisemen knew that king Herod wanted to kill Jesus. So to keep from being interrogated by Herod, the wisemen returned to their country by another route. That angered Herod, so he ordered the murder of all male children under the age of two. In today's verse, we read that an angel told Joseph to relocate his family to Egypt to escape Herod's killing spree.

Joseph, Mary and Jesus remained in Egypt until Herod died, which was about 3-4 months later. Then an angel told Joseph to return to Israel (you can find this in Matthew 2:19-21). Some people today claim Jesus was an illegal alien when he was in Egypt, but at that time nearly all of the known world – including Egypt – was included in the Roman Empire. So, when Joseph's family moved to Egypt, they were simply moving from one region of the Roman Empire to another region. There was (and still is) many Jews living in Egypt at that time and it is likely that Joseph's family lived among them during their short stay.

This is all quite interesting, but we must not ignore the main parts of the story: 1) Herod knew the Jewish prophecies about the Messiah so he ordered the murder of all boys under age two because he was afraid of Jesus, 2) God sent an angel to tell Joseph to take his family to Egypt, 3) God caused Herod to die for his murder of hundreds of innocent children, 4) God sent the angel again to tell Joseph when it was safe to return to Israel, 5) Jesus survived many threats and dangers to grow up to become our Savior, and 6) Jesus died for our sins after he became an adult. This series of events is important to us because it demonstrates God's protection over us as long as He has need of us. Said another way, God has a plan for your life. Until that plan is completed, God will protect you from death. But you must, of course, be committed to living out God's plan for your life if you desire this sacred protection.

This December as you celebrate Jesus' birth, remember to thank God for miraculously demonstrating in the life of Jesus the child, how he protects those he loves.

Copyright © 2018 Datu Wali Mission Foundation