

Home Group Helps

Matthew 2:13-23

The Dragon and The Child

I. The Escape to Egypt (vv. 13-15) - ¹³ Now when they had gone, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up! Take the Child and His mother and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is going to search for the Child to destroy Him." ¹⁴ So Joseph got up and took the Child and His mother while it was still night, and left for Egypt. ¹⁵ He remained there until the death of Herod. *This was* to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "OUT OF EGYPT I CALLED MY SON."

II. The Enragement of Herod (vv. 16-18) - ¹⁶ Then when Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he became very enraged, and sent and slew all the male children who were in Bethlehem and all its vicinity, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the magi. ¹⁷ Then what had been spoken through Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled: ¹⁸ "A VOICE WAS HEARD IN RAMAH, WEEPING AND GREAT MOURNING, RACHEL WEEPING FOR HER CHILDREN; AND SHE REFUSED TO BE COMFORTED, BECAUSE THEY WERE NO MORE."

III. The Exodus of Christ (vv. 19-23) - ¹⁹ But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, and said, ²⁰ "Get up, take the Child and His mother, and go into the land of Israel; for those who sought the Child's life are dead." ²¹ So Joseph got up, took the Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel. ²² But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Then after being warned *by God* in a dream, he left for the regions of Galilee, ²³ and came and lived in a city called Nazareth. *This was* to fulfill what was spoken through the prophets: "He shall be called a Nazarene."

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1. Launching Question(s):

- Why do you suppose that the scene described in this text never makes it into our manger scenes or Christmas plays?

2. Observation Question(s):

- Emotionally/sentimentally, this text seems very "un-Christmas like." Yet, theologically, it is very "Christmas like." How so?

3. Interpretation Question(s):

- Revelation 12 speaks of a glorious woman giving birth to a holy son and a terrible dragon attempting to devour the child at birth.
- According to the sermon, who are these three main characters?
- Is the Revelation 12 text a good description of what we read in Matthew 2:13-23?

4. Reflection Question(s):

- Can you answer the question posed in Psalm 2? **Psalm 2:1** Why are the nations in an uproar
And the peoples devising a vain thing?
² The kings of the earth take their stand
And the rulers take counsel together
Against the LORD and against His Anointed?

5. Application Question(s):

- How might a greater understanding of the spiritual warfare that surrounds us better help you to worship during this season of Advent?