

§11: THE FLIGHT INTO EGYPT AND RETURN

Matt. 2:13–21

Angel of the Lord Warns Joseph

2:13

13 Now when they {the wise men–gm} had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying: Arise and take the Child and His mother, and flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you; for Herod is going to search for the Child to destroy Him.

Journey to Egypt

2:14–15

14 And he arose and took the Child and His mother by night, and departed for Egypt,
15 and he was there until the death of Herod, that what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet might be fulfilled, saying:
Out of Egypt I called my son.

Herod Slaughters Babies

2:16–18

16 Then Herod, seeing that he had been tricked by the wise men, became very enraged, and sent and slew all the male children in Bethlehem and in all its regions, from two years and under, according to the time which he had ascertained from the wise men.
17 Then that which was spoken through Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled, saying:
18 A voice was heard in Ramah,
Weeping and great mourning,
Rachel weeping for her children.
And she was not willing to be comforted,
Because they were no more.

Angel Instructs Joseph to Return to Israel

2:19–20

19 But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt saying:
20 Arise and take the Child and His mother, and go into the land of Israel; for those who were seeking the life of the Child are dead.

Joseph Returns to Israel

2:21

21 And he arose and took the Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel.

Notes

1. **Egypt (Mt. 2:13).** Egypt was subject to Roman government from 30 B.C. to 324 A.D.
2. **Two years and under (Mt. 2:16).** We are not necessarily to suppose that Jesus was already about two years old at this time, for Herod was known to be a cruel, vicious tyrant and would have allowed himself a wide margin from the time “he had ascertained from the wise men.”