

From Egypt to Nazareth

Matthew 2:21-23

Luke 2:39

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Text:

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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.”

Luke 2:39, And when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own city Nazareth.

Commentary:

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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.”

I. Joseph again immediately obeyed God! No wonder God chose Joseph as foster-father for Jesus!

II. The angel had told Joseph to return to Israel. He did not now tell Joseph in which place to live. This was left to Joseph's wisdom.

- A. Many things the Bible specifies! These are to be done exactly as ordered.
- B. In other things God expects his followers to use their wisdom and discretion.
- C. Because Herod's son Archelaus was ruling in Judea, Joseph chose to withdraw into Galilee.
- D. A Herod also ruled in Galilee, but he was one of the mildest and least vicious of the Herodians.

III. Joseph took his family to Nazareth that the prophecy might be fulfilled that Jesus would be *called* a Nazarene.

- A. Nazareth means watch tower.
- B. **Acts 22:8, "And I answered, 'Who are You, Lord?' And He said to me, 'I am Jesus the Nazarene, whom you are persecuting.'**

Luke 2:39, And when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own city Nazareth.

I. When Joseph and Mary had done everything which was required of them by the Law of Moses, the Law of the Lord, they returned to their own town of Nazareth.

- A. Luke omits (does not record) the flight to Egypt, and certain other events documented by Matthew.
- B. A similar writing characteristic is noted in Luke's Acts of the Apostles.
- 1. Acts 9:25-26, Then the disciples took him by night, and let him down by the wall in a basket. And when Saul was come to Jerusalem, he assayed to join himself to the disciples: but they were all afraid of him, and believed not that he was a disciple.**
 - 2. Galatians 1:17-18, Neither went I up to Jerusalem to them which were apostles before me; but I went into Arabia, and returned again unto Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and abode with him fifteen days.**

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Questions

Match the following characteristics with the persons listed. Which characteristic best describes each individual.

Characters:

- a. All Jerusalem
- b. Chief Priests and Scribes
- c. Herod
- d. Herod's soldiers
- e. Infants
- f. Infants' parents
- g. Jesus
- h. Joseph
- i. Mary
- j. Wise Men/Magi

Characteristics:

- 1. Angry, enraged. _____

2. Demanded information by interrogation for wicked purposes. _____

3. Endured hardship. _____

4. Evil. _____

5. Executioners. _____

6. Followed heavenly indications. _____

7. Gave a right answer to a religious question. _____

8. Generous. _____

9. Happy. _____

10. Hospitable. _____

11. Hypocritical. _____

12. Innocents murdered. _____

13. Lacked respect for proper authority. _____

14. Murderer. _____

15. Obedient to God. _____

16. Possessors of Treasures. _____

17. Protective. _____

18. Prudent. _____

19. Respected proper authority. _____

20. Secretive. _____

21. Selfish. _____

22. Troubled, worried. _____

23. Violent. _____

24. Wept bitterly. _____

25. Willing to make a long arduous trip to find Jesus. _____.

26. Worshipful. _____

Additional Questions:

27. When Joseph learned of the death of _____ the _____, he left _____ and returned into the land of _____.

28. When Joseph heard that _____, son of _____ the _____, was now reigning over _____, he was afraid to return to _____.

29. _____ warned Joseph in a _____ of the dangers of establishing a residence in _____.

30. Joseph left Judea for _____ and established residency in _____ that the scriptures might be fulfilled which said Jesus would be called a _____.