

Angels & Advent Day 11

**The Flight to Egypt
and
The Return to Nazareth
Reading: Matthew 2:13-23**





Matthew 2:13-23:

The Flight to Egypt

When they had departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt,^{*} and stay there until I tell you. Herod is going to search for the child to destroy him.”

14 Joseph rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed for Egypt. 15^{*} He stayed there until the death of Herod, that what the Lord had said through the prophet^d might be fulfilled, “Out of Egypt I called my son.”

16 When Herod realized that he had been deceived by the magi, he became furious. He ordered the massacre of all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had ascertained from the magi. 17 Then was fulfilled what had been said through Jeremiah the prophet: 18^{*} ^e “A voice was heard in Ramah, sobbing and loud lamentation; Rachel weeping for her children, and she would not be consoled, since they were no more.”

The Return from Egypt.

19When Herod had died, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt

20and said,^f “Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child’s life are dead.”^{*}

21He rose, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. 22But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod,^{*} he was afraid to go back there. And because he had been warned in a dream, he departed for the region of Galilee.

23^{*} ^g He went and dwelt in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, “He shall be called a Nazorean.”

Reflect:

Joseph was no stranger to angelic communication via dreams.

Despite having nowhere specific to go and no way of supporting himself or his family, **he went, in the dark of night**. He did what any loving father would do to protect his child, trusting that God would take care of them. God did.

We can imagine his fear for the safety of his wife and child. We can imagine his worry about the necessities of life. We can imagine his awe at the instructions and the immediacy, and we can wonder if he wondered about it. But we know he acted. We know that from the moment of his acceptance of the message in the first dream, Joseph embraced God's perfect plan.

In Joseph we see a man who radically trusted God. We do not know if he initially struggled with what God asked of him; we only know **he obeyed**.

Whether we are man or woman, single or married, a parent or not, we can hold Joseph up as a model of trust and fidelity to God and His plan. When we struggle with what God asks of us, we can ask for intercession from St. Joseph. We can thank him for his obedience and docility. He played an important, yet quiet role in salvation history. - *Merridith Frediani, Flight to Egypt through Joseph's Eyes*