Intro: 12 And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way. 13 Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” 14 And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt 15 and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, “Out of Egypt I called my son.” 16 Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. 17 Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: 18 “A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be comforted, because they are no more.” 19 But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, 20 saying, “Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child’s life are dead.” 21 And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to 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, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. 23 And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled: “He shall be called a Nazarene.”

I. God protected the wise men – 12 And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

a. The wise men were miraculously warned by God

• The mystery that has surrounded these men can not be overstated. We don’t know who they are, we don’t know how they knew that the star would relate to the birth of Jesus, we don’t know anything about their history or faith. But what we do know is that God was watching over them from the moment they left Egypt.

b. The wise men obeyed God’s warning

• The wise men had faith in God. They were told to leave and go back to their country, and they did. They went back without a guiding star. They would not have obeyed God if they didn’t believe in Him.

° 6 He will render to each one according to his works: 7 to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; 8 *but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury*. Romans 2:6-8

II. God protected the blood-line of Christ once again – 13 Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” 14 And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt 15 and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, “Out of Egypt I called my son.” 16 Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. 17 Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: 18 “A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be comforted, because they are no more.”

a. The angel warned Joseph to go to Egypt

• This was fulfillment of prophecy by Hosea. It is just as if God has planned an escape before they knew that there was ever a problem. They were rejoicing in the birth of a newborn baby within a short time had to move the family, but God always had planned to protect the bloodline of Christ, and He is not about to let some God hating atheist destroy His predestined plan of salvation for all men.

° 1 When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son. Hosea 11:1

b. Herod killed countless thousands of children

• This gives us a good glimpse inside the mind of a mad man. This Herod (The Great) was an absolute mad man. He killed everyone that was close to him that threaten his power. All three Herod’s (Herod the Great, Herod Archelaus, and Herod Antipas) were not very good people from a morality and ethical standpoint, but killing innocent children to protect your power is probably the worst of them all. This was prophesied by Jeramiah.

° 15 Thus says the Lord: “A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping. Rachel is weeping for her children; she refuses to be comforted for her children, because they are no more.” Jeremiah 31:15

c. The innocent always suffers at the hand of evil

• It is not right, but it is life. Innocent has always suffered at the hands evil. From school shootings by a demon possessed people, to crazy brain washed religious zealots flying plans into and blowing up buildings. Mothers killing the babies in their wombs and claim it health care, to Dads killing the families because of a affair he is having. All of this is a result of evil, and all of it can be laid at the feet of satan, not the Triune God.

° 16 “Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. 17 Beware of men, for they will deliver you over to courts and flog you in their synagogues, 18 and you will be dragged before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them and the Gentiles. Matthew 10:16-18

III. Joseph and Mary showed great patience – 19 But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, 20 saying, “Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child’s life are dead.” 21 And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to 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, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. 23 And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled: “He shall be called a Nazarene.”

a. Herod died and Christ lives

• You and I and whomever thinks that they are more powerful than God will never outthink, out do, or out live His divine plan. Herod brought tremendous suffering to 1,000’s of parents and now him being now dead, never touching a hair on the head of Christ. WE WILL NEVER CHANGE THE MASTER PLAN OF GOD!

° 21 but this one was made a priest with an oath by the one who said to him: “*The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind*, ‘You are a priest forever. Hebrews 7:21

b. They were the most wanted criminals of the day

• The family had been in Egypt for about six years. Joseph and Mary had probably asked God if they could return home, but each time God would not answer. Sometimes the no answer from God is the best answer. The patience of Joseph and Mary was on display here. Waiting for the “ok” from God to go back cannot be overstated here.

c. We should wait upon God before acting

• Waiting on the Lord to show us what we should do may be one of the hardest things to do. We live in a fast paced, give it to me now society, that if we must wait in line for more than a minute then we are calling the manager. Church, we must wait on God because He is eternal, and He has nothing but time.

° 9 For the evildoers shall be cut off, but those who wait for the Lord shall inherit the land. Psalms 37:9

d. God led Joseph and Mary back to Galilee

• This was a fulfillment of prophecy. God will always lead His people step by step, mile by mile, and trail by trail. He keeps the believer close to Him for their protection, He strengthens their faith by the trails they go through and will encourage them in their darkest hour.

° 11 Teach me your way, O Lord, and lead me on a level path because of my enemies. Psalms 27:11