

Christmas Part 3: Faith Brings Victory Over Evil in the World

Matthew 2:13-23



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Now when they departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "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 departed for Egypt. 15 And he remained there until the death of Herod, in order that what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet would be fulfilled, saying, "Out of Egypt I called My Son." 16 Then when Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he became very enraged, and sent and killed 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 carefully determined from the magi. 17 Then what had been 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 refusing to be comforted, because they were no more." 19 But when Herod died, behold an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying. 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 departed for the district of Galilee, 23 and came and lived in a city called Nazareth, so that what was spoken through the prophets would be fulfilled: "He shall be called a Nazarene."

1) Faith is How We Participate in God's Plan for the World. An angel told Joseph to take Jesus to Egypt to avoid Herod's plot to kill the Messiah. Joseph once again got up and did what the word from God commanded of him. Faith is receiving God's word, believing God's word, and trusting in God's word. We are found to be trusting God when we put His word into action in our lives. Many want to know; "What is God's plan for my life?" But this is the wrong question when it comes to a faith that leads to victory, rather we should be asking; "What is God's plan in the world, and how do I fit into that?" God's plan for all our lives is that we are found participating in His plan for the world by trusting and doing what His word calls us to do.

2) The Powers of Evil Will Try to Defeat God's Plan in the World. Even though God has a plan for the world, Satan also has a plan for the world and it is completely opposed to what God is seeking to accomplish. Herod was an agent of Satan who thought he could stop God's plan by killing Jesus as a child. The powers of evil in the world will do whatever it takes to stop God's plan, even if that means horrific acts of violence against humanity. The Christian should know and understand that when they are found trusting in God by doing the will of God, that there is an enemy who will come against them.

3) We Can Trust That Christ Will Triumph Over Evil in the World. The good news is that Jesus wins in the end. Through Joseph's faith, the enemy of God was destroyed, Herod died, and Jesus was brought safely back into the land of Israel. Though Satan does not stop here, and will continue to come against Jesus and His followers, Scripture declares that this first victory in the life of Christ is one of a series of victories that ultimately end is a final triumph over evil in the world. The Christian is on the winning team in Christ. Despite all of Satan's plans and schemes, we can have confidence knowing that our trust is well placed in Jesus because He is the One who conquered the world.