

“OUT OF EGYPT I CALL MY SON”

Matthew 2:13–23

Key verse: 15b

Discussion questions:

- What can we learn in these verses about God’s protection?
- Why was Joseph’s obedience important?
- What are the parallels between Jesus’ childhood and the history of the Jews?

Inductive study questions:

1. Why did God want Joseph to leave immediately after the Magi? (13) What does the angel’s appearance tell us about God’s protection? How did Joseph respond, and why might this have been hard for him? (14)
2. Read verse 15. To what did this prophecy originally refer? What did the exodus from Egypt symbolize? How was this prophecy fulfilled in Jesus, and why is this important for us?
3. How had Herod been outwitted by the Magi? (16; see also verse 12) Why was he so furious? What did he order, and why? What can we learn here?
4. How did Matthew interpret this tragedy? (17,18) Who was Rachel, and why was she associated with Bethlehem? (Ge 35:19) To what did Jeremiah’s words originally refer? (Jer 31:15; 40:1) What should we learn from this fulfillment of prophecy?
5. Why was it time to return to the land of Israel? (20,21) Who was Archelaus, and why would his reign make Joseph afraid? (22a) Why did Joseph eventually go to Nazareth? (22b,23)