
"A Christmas Post Script"

Matthew 2:13-15; 19-23

Matthew's "post-script" to the Christmas story truly underscores Joseph's faith and obedience....

After the wise men were gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, "Get up and flee to Egypt with the child and his mother," the angel said. "Stay there until I tell you to return, because Herod is going to try to kill the child."

That night Joseph left for Egypt with the child and Mary, his mother.....

Joseph's faith was strengthened by God's ability to PROVIDE, in advance, for our NEEDS

....and they stayed there until Herod's death.

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and told him, "Get up and take the child and his mother back to the land of Israel, because those who were trying to kill the child are dead."

So Joseph returned **immediately** to Israel with Jesus and his mother.

Joseph's faith was strengthened by God's ability to deal JUSTLY with those who live SHAMEFULLY. (Psalm 37:1-2, 12-13)

But when he learned that the new ruler was Herod's son Archelaus, he was afraid.

Then, in another dream, he was warned to go to Galilee. So they went and lived in a town called Nazareth. ("....they returned HOME to Nazareth in Galilee." Luke 2:39)

Joseph's faith was strengthened by God's ability to GIVE us the DESIRES of our hearts. (Psalm 37:4-5)

Delight yourself in the Lord, and He will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord; trust in Him and He will do this: He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn, the justice of your cause like the noonday sun.