

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE TO WELCOME JESUS INTO YOUR LIFE?

Arrival Of The Messiah #4 Noah Largent 12/23/18



Matthew 2:13-23 When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. “Get up,” he said, “take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.”¹⁴ So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt,¹⁵ where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: “Out of Egypt I called my son.”¹⁶ When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi.¹⁷ Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:¹⁸ “A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more.”¹⁹ After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt²⁰ and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child’s life are dead.”²¹ So he got up, took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel.²² But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning in Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Having been warned in a dream, he withdrew to the district of Galilee,²³ and he went and lived in a town called Nazareth. So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets, that he would be called a Nazarene.

Remember that this is not Joseph’s biological son. The bond between them did not derive from the deep emotional and spiritual tie of father and genetic son. It derived from the **deep bond of obedience to the true Father of this Son**. –Michael Wilkins, *The NIV Application Commentary*, page 127

This part of the Christmas story is almost never told. Have you ever seen the “Slaughter of Innocents” in a Christmas pageant? Is it in the classic ‘A Charlie Brown Christmas’ special? Nope. It may not be a popular part of the Christmas story, however it provides us with an outstanding opportunity to reflect on *what it means to welcome Jesus into your life*.

King Herod uses all of his God given gifts to build monuments to promote his stature, to protect his life and build his fortune. When he perceives a threat, there seems to be nothing he won’t do to protect it.

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Joseph is willing to lay down his reputation to protect Mary. He is willing to venture into unknown danger to protect his adopted son. He does all this without knowing how the story will end.

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It seems silly to “worship” a baby, unless the baby really is THE KING. Then it makes perfect sense. In fact, it would be the only reasonable response.

Notes:
