



**Sermon Series:** The Visitors

**Sermon Title:** The Flight: Embracing God's Unexpected Paths

**Date:** 12/17/2023

### Matthew 2:13-15

Our passage today is a testimony that reminds us that God is in control of every detail throughout history and life today.

#### **BIG IDEA: TRUST GOD WITH THE DETAILS OF YOUR LIFE**

##### **1. God knows how you fit into His overall plan.**

From Genesis to Revelation, there are events that point to the cross. The events of the Old Testament were laid in the shadow of the cross; the New Testament points back to the cross.

Satan tried to prevent Jesus from fulfilling His rescue mission by using Herod. Herod was king over Judea, who was trying to kill Jesus. God's overall plan included very specific details about how Jesus would die. Jesus has to stay alive in order to live a sinless life, fulfill the Old Testament prophecies about Him and his life, and ultimately offer himself as a sacrifice on the cross. If Jesus had died at the hands of Herod as a small child, it would not have been what was necessary for Him to offer salvation to mankind – it would not have been a voluntary sacrificial death – it would not have fulfilled all the prophecies about Jesus.

Part of God's plan was to have Joseph –be an earthly protector over Jesus. Therefore, God directed him and told him to flee to Egypt. **Mt. 2:13 -15**

##### **2. Everything is part of God's plan**

We can be tempted to get discouraged and wonder if God sees us, but just so that we know without a shadow of a doubt that we can trust God with the details of our life, take a close look at Matthew 2:14. In this verse, there is proof of this idea that God accomplishes his overall plan even when we feel like we're going on a detour. As we understand this verse in detail, we will see just how much God can be trusted with the details!

We understand that going to Egypt protected Jesus so He could live to fulfill God's overall plans, but why specifically Egypt? Why not some other place

out of Herod's jurisdiction? Some place easier? It's because God's overall plan has been in motion long before Jesus's birth. Jesus and his family went to Egypt to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet Hosea. **Hosea 11:1** Throughout the Old Testament, Israel is symbolically referred to as God's Son. This passage in Hosea is referring to when God freed the Israelites from Egyptian slavery. There were similarities between the nation and the Son.

This is called typology, and it is used throughout the Old Testament. Typology is a special kind of symbolism in the Old Testament that refers to historical people, places, objects, or events that point forward to Christ and his work. Jesus spoke about this to His followers: **Luke 24:25-27**

Many events in Israel's history foreshadowed what would happen later in the life of Jesus. Some examples of types of Christ include the tabernacle, the sacrificial system, and the Passover, where Christ is the sacrificial lamb. Revelation 13:8 tells us that Jesus was the sacrificial lamb that was chosen before the foundation of the world. He was slated to be the sacrificial lamb before the Jewish sacrificial system was ever established.

In our passage - Jesus going to Egypt as a child is a typology. Thousands of years before Jesus was born, the Israelites were enslaved in Egypt. God sent a series of plagues on the Egyptians, which resulted in the Israelite's freedom.

This is what Hosea was referring to. After they crossed the Red Sea and went into the wilderness to head to the promised land that God had for them. Over and over in the wilderness, the Israelites disobeyed God, and God had them wander in the wilderness for 40 years.

Israel was God's chosen "son" by adoption (Ex. 4:22), and Jesus is the Messiah, God's Son. Jesus was taken into Egypt so He could live the perfect life that Israel and we could never live. He was taken specifically to Egypt so He could succeed in every area where Israel failed. Jesus' life parallels the events of the Exodus in many aspects.

Jesus fled from Herod. Herod - a paranoid leader who ordered the killing of boys 2 years and younger in Bethlehem in an effort to kill Jesus. Jesus left Egypt after Herod died, and Joseph took him to live in Nazareth. At the start of Jesus' ministry, he was baptized and immediately went into the wilderness for 40 days and was tempted by Satan. Satan's first temptation was for Jesus to turn rock into bread. Where Israel was unfaithful and failed to obey God, Jesus was faithful and did not sin. At every point in the wilderness, Jesus succeeds in overcoming temptation after temptation.

Jesus lives a perfect life, qualifying Him to be the savior of Israel and the world. Jesus was born into the world so He could live a perfect life and die a sacrificial death, resulting in salvation for anyone who believes in Him.

Discussion Questions:

- What about the sermon stuck with you this week? What part challenged your thinking?
- Do you believe God ordained every step leading to Jesus' birth, or was He course-correcting all along?
- Name some instances in the Old Testament where you see foreshadowings of Jesus.
- The gospel accounts only reveal a few details about Jesus' childhood. Why do you suppose that is?
- Have you ever had a situation in your life that seemed random, then you discovered it was part of God's plan all along? Explain