



Elgin Evangelical Free Church - March 17, 2024

I. The God who Warns – 2:12-13

And having been warned by God in a dream not to return to Herod, the magi left for their own country by another way. Now when they had gone, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "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."

A. Unhindered Warning

B. Authoritative Warning

C. Informed Warning

II. The God who Works – 2:14-15

So Joseph got up and took the Child and His mother while it was still night, and left for Egypt. He remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: Out of Egypt I called My Son.

A. He works in our obedience

B. He works His will

III. The Enemy who Rages – 2:16-18

Then when Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he became very enraged, and sent and slew 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 determined from the magi.

A. The Fury

B. The Fulfillment

IV. The Lessons we Learn– 2:19-23

But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, and said, "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."

A. Obeying supernatural authority is normal

B. This is about Jesus

C. Trust God's Sovereignty

Life Group Study Notes
The Purpose of God's Protection
Matthew 2:12-23

1. How would you react if your life was taken over by the plans of God in the same way as he took over Joseph's life? What is your response when God suddenly changes the direction and stability of life?
2. What do God's warnings to the Magi and to Joseph teach us about His ability to protect?
3. How does this passage of Scripture reveal that God's protection is never apart from His greater purpose to glorify Himself. Give some examples of how his protection leads to the fulfilment of His promises.
4. Joseph is called to head to Egypt without an end date. Often God calls us to obedience that removes us from control. Have you seen this principle at work in your own life? How?
5. The slaughter of the male children of Bethlehem is hard to process. How does it reveal the intentions of our enemy Satan (Exodus 1).
6. This passage teaches us some very practical and important truths about God's protection. How does knowing your story is not separate from the unfolding story of Jesus change the way you look at the issue of God's protection? What do you think God is doing in the ups and downs of your life?

7. God is sovereignly working out His plan to glorify Christ. The unknown twists and turns of life cannot thwart this. How does this give you confidence to face your life today.