

The Miracle of God's Protection for His People.

Matt. 2:12-15

And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

Now when they had departed,

behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him."

And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt I called my son."

Matt. 2:19-23

But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel.

But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, so that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, that he would be called a Nazarene.

"The Lord will cover you with His feathers. You shall not be afraid for the arrow that flies by day."

Ps. 91:4

"When my people see these feathers over your door – they leave you in peace."

God's protection of His people in the Christmas Story.

1. Redirection

And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.
Matt. 2:12

2. Removal

An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the child and His mother and flee to Egypt and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child to destroy Him. Matt. 2:13

But they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.
Isa. 40:31

3. Reassignment

But when Herod died, behold an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt...Matt. 2:19

Saying, Rise take the child and his mother and to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead. (20)

“What is essential is the sense of God's presence during dark seasons of questioning. Our need for specific answers is dissolved in the greater issue of the Lordship of Christ over all questions, those that have answers and those that don't.” Ravi Zacharias

Remember...

1. God's protection is based on His Sovereign will, not our physical or personal comfort.

... being warned in a dream He withdrew to the district of Galilee – Nazareth. (22b)

... who works all things according to the counsel of His will.
Eph. 1:11b

“I lost my house, I lost my furniture. I lost everything but I won the Lord as my Savior. I am the daughter of the Lord; I am going to heaven.”

2. God's protection is based on a bigger picture involving what is best for.....

. All people

. All situations

A church leader in N. Iraq told us that people are more open to the gospel than ever before. He said that in all his years of ministry, he has never experienced such a hunger for the Lord.

. All time

... who works all things according to the counsel of His will.
Eph. 1:11b

... were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit... (13b)

... who is the guarantee of our inheritance. (14)

What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love Him. 1 Cor. 2:9

He who did not spare His own Son, but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things? Rom. 8:32

“Surely if he would not spare His own Son one stroke, one tear, one groan, one sigh, one circumstance of misery, it can never be imagined that ever He should, after this, deny or withhold from His people, for whose sakes all this was suffered any mercies, any comforts, any privilege, spiritual or temporal, which is good for them.”
John Flavel, Puritan Pastor - 1700s

3. God’s protection is eternal
for His people.

. Death ... Cannot separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Rom. 8:38-39

. Jesus promises – “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” Heb. 13:5

. Jesus promises – “I give them eternal life and they will never perish and no one will snatch them out of my hand.” John 10:28

Eternal glory is waiting - For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. Rom. 8:18

Infinite wisdom has arranged the whole with infinite love; and infinite power enables me to rest upon that love. I am in a dear Father’s hands – all is secure. When I look to Him, I see nothing but faithfulness – and immutability – and truth; and I have the sweetest peace – I cannot have more peace.
Charles Simeon