

# Out of Egypt

## Matthew 2:13-21



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**FOCAL** Matthew 2:13-21<sup>KJV</sup> And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him. {14} When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt: {15} And was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Out of Egypt have I called my son. {16} Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently inquired of the wise men. {17} Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy the prophet, saying, {18} In Rama was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping [for] her children, and would not be comforted, because they are not. {19} But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeareth in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, {20} Saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and go into the land of Israel: for they are dead which sought the young child's life. {21} And he arose, and took the young child and his mother, and came into the land of Israel.

Though we've read a large section of text today, the text I'd like to focus on is in verse 15, **out of Egypt I have called my son**. Please say that with me: **out of Egypt I**

**have called My Son.**

Today we're going to see three things. First of all, we will see how God uses Egypt as a place of protection for His children. Secondly, we will see how Egypt will become a place of cursing. And finally, we will see that Egypt is not the home of God's Children, and apply this truth to our lives. First,

### **1. God Uses Egypt As A Place Of Protection For His Children**

**FOCAL** Matthew 2:14-15 ... When [Joseph] arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt: {15} And was there until the death of Herod: **that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Out of Egypt have I called my son.**

You might be wondering how this passage can be applied to the children of God, for in this context it seems to be applied only to the Son of God. Yet it is the Holy Scripture that here quotes:

Hosea 11:1 When **Israel [was] a child, then I loved him, and called my son out of Egypt.**

Israel herself was an Old Testament type or

foreshadowing of Christ insofar as her calling from Egypt was concerned.

**Jamieson-Fausset-Brown** in their commentary write:

**"Matthew 2:15, therefore, in quoting this prophecy (typically and primarily referring to Israel, antitypically and fully to Messiah), applies it to Jesus' sojourn in Egypt, not His return from it. Even from His infancy, partly spent in Egypt, God called Him His son. God included Messiah, and Israel for Messiah's sake, in one common love, and therefore in one common prophecy. Messiah's people and Himself are one, as the Head and the body."**

God used Egypt as a place of protection for Christ our Savior, but He also used Egypt as a place of protection for Israel, His Chosen Nation, first. God uses Egypt to protect those He loves!

Look at how God used Egypt to protect Israel. Remember the words of our Lord:

Isaiah 55:8-9 For **my thoughts [are] not your thoughts, neither [are] your ways my ways, saith the LORD. {9} For [as] the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways,** and my thoughts than your thoughts.

No where is this more evident in Scripture than in God's protection of Israel by Egypt. Before Israel was *ever* a nation, while it was but one man and his sons, God used the hatred that eleven sons had toward the twelfth. Israel loved Joseph, it seemed, more than his other children - a terrible thing for a parent to do:

**Genesis 37:3** Now **Israel loved Joseph more than all his children**, because he [was] the son of his old age: and he made him a coat of [many] colors

Israel's sin in loving Joseph caused his brothers to **hate him so much that they could not speak civilly to him** (Genesis 37:4). Joseph didn't help matters, for he told the brothers of a dream he had that showed them bowing down to him. This is not the way to *win friends and influence people*, for the Scripture says:

**Genesis 37:5** Joseph dreamed a dream, and he told [it] his brethren: and **they hated him yet the more.**

Joseph - whether he did it innocently or not - helped dig the pit he would be thrown into later on! **When pride cometh, then cometh shame (Proverbs 11:2)**, and Joseph would find this out.

His coat of many colors would be taken away, smeared with animal blood, and he would be sold into slavery. Yet God was behind the scenes working to bless Israel through Egypt.

After several years in slavery and in prison Joseph, instead of giving up to despair, grew closer and closer to God. The trials of Egypt did not destroy him, but they drew him closer to His God. Though falsely accused, Joseph focused on God. Though imprisoned, Joseph focused on God. Though forgotten and despised of men, Joseph focused on God. Because of that God opened a door where one day we read:

**Genesis 41:15** And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, I have dreamed a dream, and [there is] none that can interpret it: and **I have heard say of thee, [that] thou canst understand a dream to interpret it.**

Listen Christian, do not modify your walk with God while in Egypt to suit the unbeliever around you! So many times professors of salvation and churches that bear the name of Christ have flown under false colors.

There is no value in sailing under the flag of the cursed in order to placate them or to try to lure them in among the sheep. Sail under God's colors, lift high the name of salvation by faith in Jesus Christ alone, and God will exalt thee in due season.

You know the rest of the story. Joseph interpreted Pharaoh's dream, and showed this pagan ruler that there would be *seven years of plenty, followed by seven years of famine*. Joseph recommended that Pharaoh appoint a person to store up grain during the seven years of plenty,

so that all of Egypt could eat in the seven years of famine. Joseph heard God's Word, advised the unbelievers based on God's Word, and thus saved Egypt from what would have been a national disaster. Joseph puts all this in perspective when he later tells his now repentant brothers:

**Genesis 50:19-22 ... Fear not: for [am] I in the place of God? {20} But as for you, ye thought evil against me; [but] God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as [it is] this day, to save much people alive. {21} Now therefore fear ye not: I will nourish you, and your little ones. And he comforted them, and spake kindly unto them. {22} And Joseph dwelt in Egypt, he, and his father's house: and Joseph lived an hundred and ten years.**

It is a fact that Israel, God's Chosen, would have died had God not raised Joseph up to sit at the right hand of Pharaoh.

God uses Egypt to nourish His people, those who believe on Him and are saved by faith. Israel would have died without Egypt. That old dog Herod would have killed Christ had Joseph not taken Him to Egypt. Egypt is God's to command for good, for the good of Israel, for the good of Christ, and for the good of Christ's people.

God is in control of Egypt, and this is why the Apostle can say with all certainty:

**Romans 8:28-29 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to [his] purpose. {29} For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate [to be] conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.**

If God protected His Son through Egypt, will He not protect His *children of adoption* by Egypt? If God took care of His firstborn Israel, will He not take care of us? We are the:

**Romans 11:17<sup>HCSB</sup> wild olive branch, ... grafted in among ... the olive tree"**

Though the Church is not Israel, we were grafted into the promise of salvation by faith in Christ. We who believe in Jesus are now

**Galatians 3:26-29<sup>HCSB</sup> ... all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. {27} For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. {28} There is no Jew or Greek, slave or free, male or female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. {29} And if you are Christ's, then you**

## are Abraham's seed, heirs according to the promise.

God uses Egypt to grow Israel, to protect His Son Christ, and to protect His Children who are the adopted by faith in Christ Jesus. Now to the next truth:

### 2. Egypt Will Become A Place Of Cursing

**FOCAL** Matthew 2:14-15 ... When [Joseph] arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt: {15} And was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, **Out of Egypt have I called my son.**

The prophecy was that **OUT of Egypt have I called my Son.** Though Egypt is a place of protection when God makes it so, Egypt is *never* meant to be the place where God's Son stays.

Israel stayed in Egypt for a long time, for several hundred years, as they grew and prospered. But oil and water do not mix, and after a time the prosperity that God brought to Israel caused Egypt to be jealous of them. Once Egypt became jealous, she began to attack God's people, to torment the children of God.

The child of God, though the Lord may use Egypt to prosper him, must *never forget* that Egypt is but a temporary place. This Egypt is not our home, nor more

than was Egypt Christ's home. You go to Egypt when God sends you there, you use it's protection, but you never become satisfied nor saturated by its gods and goddesses.

Egypt is a pagan place! Egypt's greatest claim to fame is that it is a place of *pyramids*, and what is a pyramid but a rich man's tombstone?

Egypt made a gods or a goddess of everything, whether it was a frog, a tadpole, or a cat. It didn't matter, if it moved Egypt worshiped it. If it didn't move, Egypt made a shrine of it. Egypt was a place of Satan's delight!

Yet Egypt, for all it's curse, was the place where Israel first was told that she was God's Son. When Israel began to cry out to God under the taskmaster's whip and under slavery, the Lord heard their cry. When Egypt imposed the terrible law on Israel of *drowning their male children* (**Exodus 1:16**), God had one mother put her child under the care of the daughter of Pharaoh, raising him up in the palace of the persecutor.

Though an ark of branches carried the child called Moses to Pharaoh's daughter, it was God who guided the mother and the ark to that place of safety. God raised up Moses to manhood, then called him at a burning bush to go and demand Israel's release.

God raised up Moses and told him:

Exodus 4:22-23 ... **thou shalt say unto Pharaoh, Thus saith the LORD, Israel [is] my son, [even] my firstborn: {23} And I say unto thee, Let my son go, that he may serve me:** and if thou refuse to let him go, behold, I will slay thy son, [even] thy firstborn.

The trials of Egypt can either break us, or prove our sonship to God.

Though Egypt is a place where cursing is, what a blessing are those words "let My Son go, that He may serve Me". Egypt is a place of growth, a place where we are drawn closer to God in Christ, if we know Jesus Christ as Savior. God later told Israel:

Isaiah 43:1-4 **But now thus saith the LORD that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called [thee] by thy name; thou [art] mine. {2} When thou passest through the waters, I [will be] with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee. {3} For I [am] the LORD thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour: I gave Egypt [for] thy**

**ransom,** Ethiopia and Seba for thee. {4} **Since thou wast precious in my sight, thou hast been honorable, and I have loved thee: therefore will I give men for thee, and people for thy life.**

Stepping forward for God on faith regardless of their suffering, Israel saw God do mighty things for them. Cursed and whipped, Israel saw the armies of Pharaoh drowned in the Red Sea. Coming out of Egypt and trials, only then did God's people see the *pillar of fire and pillar of cloud* walking ever before them. Only after Egypt did Israel see *fire on the mountain*, as God spoke to Moses about His Firstborn Israel. Only after Egypt did Israel see *water come from a rock, manna drop from Heaven like dew, salty water miraculously become sweet, and the walls of a mighty city fall down at the toot of a trumpet.*

Had Israel learned the lesson of Egypt the death angel would not have taken their first generation from this earth, leaving a million or more dead bones in that dead desert.

When the curse of Egypt comes it is often a greater blessing than the *milk and honey of Canaan*. The Bible tells us:

1 Peter 1:6-7 <sup>HCSB</sup> **You rejoice in this, though now for a short time you have had to be distressed by various trials {7} so that the genuineness of your faith--more**

**valuable than gold, which perishes though refined by fire--may result in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.**

God has called us **out of Egypt**, and will bring those Whom He loves **out of Egypt** with a mighty hand. If we never had trials, would we look to Jesus? If we never suffered in this life, would we ever give Him a second thought? Further, trials prove that we *are the Children of God*. We read:

**Hebrews 12:6-8<sup>NIV</sup> because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son." {7} Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons.** For what son is not disciplined by his father? {8} If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons.

Egypt is a place of cursing, but even in cursing it is a place of  blessing.

Look for God's mighty hand of deliverance. **F.B. Meyer** said:<sup>1</sup>

**Holiness is the product of sorrow, when sanctified by**

NIV New International Version of the Scripture

1 in *The Way Into The Holiest*, chapter 28, *Chastisement*

the grace of God. Not that sorrow necessarily makes us holy, because that is the prerogative of the divine Spirit; and, as a matter of fact, many sufferers are hard and complaining and unlovely. But that sorrow predisposes us to turn from the distractions of earth to receive those influences of the grace of God which are most operative where the soul is calm and still, **sitting in a veiled and darkened room, whilst suffering plies body or mind. Who of us does not feel willing to suffer, if only this precious result shall accrue, that we may be "partakers of his holiness" ?**

The trials that God gives us, He gives to draw us closer to Him. Cry out to Him, and follow Him both into and out of Egypt, always remembering that:

### **3. Egypt Is Not The Home Of God's Children**

**FOCAL** Matthew 2:14-15 ... When [Joseph] arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt: {15} And was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, **Out of Egypt have I called my son.**

Just as God called Israel out of Egypt, just as God called Christ out of Egypt, He calls you and I out of Egypt. There's a little poem that says:

**I wake up in a hurry,  
I have lots of things to do.  
I comb my hair and brush my teeth,  
But don't spend time with You.**

I rush throughout the day,  
Trying to make the loose ends meet.  
Yet things keep going wrong  
And this day has got me beat.  
I go home filled with anger,  
Just wanting the day to pass.  
"God, why didn't You help me?"  
"My child, you never asked."<sup>2</sup>

This world is not the home of the Christian, but God is our Father. God has called us to remember

2 Corinthians 6:16-18 KJVA ... **ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in [them]; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. {17} Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean [thing]; and I will receive you, {18} And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.**

This must be our mindset. Trust God, focus on Him, live for Christ, not for Egypt, and God will **be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.** May God touch your hearts with these words.

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2 author unknown, Title "Unspoken"

