

Christ: Called Out of Egypt Matt. 2:13-15

Matthew alone singles out the descent into Egypt. The account is extremely brief and basic. He tells us almost nothing about the journey, but that it took place at night under the cover of darkness. **Tell the Story.** We know nothing of where the young family lived or the manner in which they lived during the time they were there.

This has been regarded as significant.

- The Jewish Rabbis have used it to slander Christ. They say it was here that His grasp on the truth- the pure teaching of Rabbinic Judaism as supplanted through the study of magic. **A.** It is obvious that He was far too young to study anything and that He was not there for any significant period of time.
- It has fueled speculation and vain imaginations. The so called “*Lost Books of the Bible*” have sought to fill in the years. **A.** There are no true records of a stay that could only have been a life in ‘*incognito*.’

Why did Matthew include this and what does it teach us about our Lord and how He would have us to live? **Well as we try to answer that let us observe:**

1. **The way in which God dealt with Joseph. V. 13.** It is wonderful to see how God guides and provides for Joseph during these crucial events. **This is evident in:**
 - a. **The emphasis on the divine mission.** The mention of the baby before the mother is formulaic in this section. **Vv. 14, 20, 21.**

b. **God protected and guided him.** Joseph couldn't have known the danger or how to escape. But the angel was there.

- i. An angel appears in a dream and directs him. It is significant that this is the second of three supernatural revelations given to Joseph. **Cf. vv. 1:20; 2:14, 20.**
- ii. Why Egypt? Egypt, was now a Roman province with a large Jewish population. There was even a substitute for the Jerusalem temple set up by the exiles. It was *strong* enough to provide political safety and *large* enough to blend in.
- iii. A poor family of the fallen house of David would've lacked means to make the journey or sustain their existence once there. Now the gifts of the Magi would provide for them. God foresaw the need and provided.

2. The way in which God dealt with Christ. V. 14. Christ' works as mediator involved humiliation. It required accepting a low estate and assuming our place.

*Mild he laid His glory by
Born that man no more may die
Born to raise the sons of earth
Born to give them second birth*

His humiliation extends from His incarnation to his burial. Matthew doesn't tell us of the shame of the manger but he does tell us how he “**came unto His own and His own knew Him not**” how He was “**hated without a cause.**”

3. The way in which God dealt with His people.

V. 15. So why did Matthew choose to include this? He tells us, **“This was to fulfill....”**

Matthew singles out this episode for what it reveals about Christ relationship to the OT. This is his particular concern in **chapters 2-7.**

Here he has two OT points of contacts that do not fit together as neatly as we would like. Christ typifies *both* Israel and Moses.

- a. **Jesus is the new Moses.** In Egypt Moses escaped the infanticide of Pharaoh. From Egypt, as an adult He fled Pharaoh’s anger, returning when, **“those who sought [He] life [were] dead.”** Cf. **Exod. 4:19; Matt. 2:20.**
- b. **Jesus is the new Israel.** He is God’s **“Son.”** As Israel went into Egypt and returned to the Promise Land, so does Jesus the new Israel.
- c. **The significance can hardly be overstated.** Jesus fulfills two crucial OT types.
 - i. He is the deliverer who will not fail to take us into the Promised Land. Because He will perfectly obey God. Cf. **Nu. 20:10-13; Isa. 42:1-7.**
 - ii. He is the **“Son”** who will perfectly obey God fulfilling the divine intent in the election of Israel. Cf. **Ex. 4:21-23; 19:1-6; Hos. 11:1-11; Isa. 49:1-7.**

4. What does it teach us about our Lord and how He would have us to live? **It sheds light on:**

a. **The Qualification of our Savior.** Do you ever think of Christ as above the fray- a stranger to your trials? No Christ can identify with believers displaced in Dabar! He can identify with all who are sore pressed and in trouble. **“He was a man of sorrows....”** Oh dear mothers, He has a heart for children in trouble!

b. **The Character of the Christian life.** Oh what cause for doubt Joseph and Mary labored under. Having recently heard the child was the glory of His people Israel was He not to slink out of town like a badman? Oh how difficult and confusing it all must’ve been.

- i. The Christian life gets worse in the short run. It is one of walking not by sight but by faith. This is real Christianity; don’t trade it for *your best life now!*
- ii. But let’s always remember the security we really have. The angel said to Joseph, **“... and remain there until I tell you....”** The danger was real but Gabriel would be there to watch over them- to guide and provide for them. This is the truth about us. **“The angel of the Lord encamps around us.”**

And while we endure let be under the shadow of the Jesus Gabriel’s Lord, who has already fulfilled the predictions of the prophets, answered the types and **“gave Himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.”**