



Sacred Stops

Sacred Stops
Detour to Egypt
Matthew 2:13–23

Sacred Stops Introduction

- Return to Earth
- Journey through Galilee
- **Detour to Egypt**
- Waiting in Bethlehem
- Arriving on Earth

***Main Idea:** We celebrate Advent because God always keeps His promises!

(v.13-15) *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.”*

1. Jesus was protected.

- Who was Herod? King of Judea - A powerful, but evil man.

“Herod was a complex man. Racially, he was an Arab. Religiously, he was Jewish. Politically, he was Roman. In his early days he was described as good-looking and powerfully built. He led his army in the field of battle in ten different wars. In all he married ten women. Sons for him were often seen as potential political rivals. Later he had his wife killed because he became suspicious of her political rivalry. Later in life, he tried to take his life due to the pain and diseases he was experienced. It was a brutal world that Jesus was born into and Herod was nothing if not a man of his times.” Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes, 57-58

(v.16-18) *Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: “A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be comforted, because they are no more.”*

2. Herod's reaction was evil.

- Grief filled Bethlehem

(v.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.*

3. God's plan for Jesus to come could not be stopped.

- Fulfilled Prophecy
- If nothing could stop Jesus from being born, dying and rising again, nothing will stop Him from returning! Trust in the One who cannot be stopped.