

– Matthew 2.23 –
1st Sunday of Christmas, Dec 27, 2020
He Shall Be Called a Nazarene

Matthew 2.19 Now when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, 20 saying, “Arise, take the young Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the young Child’s life are dead.” 21 Then he arose, took the young Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel. 22 But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea instead of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being warned by God in a dream, he turned aside into the region of Galilee. 23 And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, “He shall be called a Nazarene.”

* **Why did** God guide Joseph away from Judea into Galilee?

* **Did Joseph** and Mary have a previous connection with Nazareth?

* **Why was** it assumed that they would now settle in Judea?

* **Why was** Galilee looked down upon? (1Kings 9.10-14; 12.14-20; 15.29; 17; Isaiah 9.1-2)

Isaiah 9.1 ... the land of Zebulun and ... Naphtali ... Galilee of the Gentiles. ² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light ...

* **Why was** it an insult even in Galilee to call someone a Nazarene?

John 1.45 “We have found Him of whom ... the prophets wrote— Jesus of Nazareth” ... ⁴⁶ And Nathaniel said, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?”

* **What prophetic** theme does vs 23 allude to?

Isaiah 53.1 Who has believed our message? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? For he grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of parched ground. He has no stately form or majesty that we should look upon him, nor appearance that we should be attracted to him, 3 He was despised and forsaken of men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief, and like one from whom men hide their face, he was despised, and we did not esteem him.

* **What was** God accomplishing by having Jesus grow up in Nazareth?

– Who is the new Israel?

Gen 46.33 “[W]hen Pharaoh ... says, ‘What is your occupation?’ 34 th[en] you shall say, ‘Your servants’ occupation has been with livestock ..., both we and also our fathers,’ that you may dwell in the land of Goshen; for every shepherd is an abomination to the Egyptians.” ... 47.7 Then Joseph brought in his father Jacob ... and Jacob blessed Pharaoh.

Heb 7.7 It is beyond dispute that the inferior is blessed by the superior.

– What is the new exodus?

* **Vs 15** gives us the big picture, which is that Jesus is reliving the life of _____, succeeding everywhere she failed, fulfilling her calling, and bringing salvation to her and the world.

– What is the new Egypt?

Rev 11.8 ... the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified.

Hosea 11.1 “When Israel was a child I loved him, and out of Egypt I called My Son.”

– When does God call his Son Jesus “out of Egypt”?

* **In this** relived story:

– Who is the new Moses?

Mat 2.14 [Joseph] took the young Child and his mother by night and departed for Egypt, 15 ... that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, “Out of Egypt I called my Son.” (quoting Hosea 11.1)

– Who are the new believing Egyptians who follow “Moses” out of Egypt?

* **What is** God’s point in this upside down exodus story?

– Who is the new Pharaoh who kills the baby Hebrew boys?