



# THE HEIGHTS FELLOWSHIP

## THIS WEEK AT THF

### ▶ THURSDAY

THF Men - Bible Study & Fellowship

**6:00am-7:00am**

## UPCOMING AT THF

### ▶ JANUARY 5

9:30am & 11:00am Worship Service

### ▶ JANUARY 12 & 19

Connection Group-Sign Up Online

**6:00pm-8:00pm**

### ▶ JANUARY 15

THF Students Spring Semester Kickoff

**December 29, 2024**

Please continue to check all of our social media outlets and our website for updates to weekly activities and Sunday Services.

[www.theheightsfellowship.org](http://www.theheightsfellowship.org)

## FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

### December 22, 2024

*BUDGET GIVING:* \$80,616.00

*BUDGET NEEDS:* \$18,919.00

### YEAR TO DATE

*BUDGET GIVING:* \$1,037,064.79

*BUDGET NEEDS:* \$962,167.00

# The 'Daze' of Christmas

When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone, when the kings and princes are home, when the shepherds are back with their flocks, then the real work of Christmas begins.

- Anonymous



**HAVE YOU EVER NOTICED THERE SEEMS TO BE A LET DOWN AFTER CHRISTMAS?**

**Note:**

Luke's gospel narrative is full of **GLORY** - Matthew's is full of **GRIT**

## Luke's Gospel

Angel Announces to Zacharias  
 Angel announces to Mary  
 Song of Mary  
 Leaping of in utero John  
 Song of Elizabeth  
 Joyous birth of baby John  
 Song of Zacharias  
 Birth of Jesus  
 Angel announces to Shepherds  
 Exhilaration of the Shepherds  
 Adoration of Simeon and Anna

## Matthew's Gospel

Joseph finds out inconveniently  
 Has to navigate the scandal  
 Redireted by an Angel  
 Visit by the Magi  
 They 'sneak' away  
 Uprooted by angel/dream  
 Flee to Egypt by night  
 Herod massacres babies  
 Dream/angel calls family back  
 Dream/andel redirects family to Galilee

We tend to think of Joseph and Mary being severely stressed before the birth of Jesus...but they had loads of stress **AFTER CHRISTMAS** !

Matthew tells the story in **three parts** punctuated by **FULFILLED PROPHECY**

## Part One - Called Out of Egypt vv13-15

13 Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise and take the Child and His mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is going to search for the Child to destroy Him." 14 And he arose and took the Child and His mother by night, and departed for Egypt; 15 and was there until the death of Herod, that what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet might be fulfilled, saying, "Out of Egypt did I call My Son." Matthew 2:13-15

- **TWICE** the angel refers to Jesus as '**THE CHILD**' (Not 'your child; your son; your boy; your baby...')
- An acknowledgement of Jesus as the **SON OF GOD**
- "the Child" list **FIRST** indicates **PRIORITY** or **PREMINENCE**

**Prophecy Fulfilled:** Jesus' return from Egypt was pictured by **ISRAEL'S** exodus **15 centuries** earlier. It is another proof that Jesus is **MESSIAH**  
**CF HOSEA 11:1**

Notes from The Heights

Series: Family Christmas

## Part Two - Mourning the Massacre vv16-18

16 When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. 17 Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

18 "A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more."

Matthew 2:16-18 niv

- Herod had been appointed "King of the Jews" by Rome in 40BC.
- Jesus was a **DIRECT THREAT** to Herod's power.
- Estimates make the population of Bethlehem at the time around **1000ish**...so the number of baby boys killed was appx **20-30**
- The tomb of Rachel (*Jacob's wife*) was in **BETHLEHEM**
- Ramah was the staging point of the **DEPORTATION** of Jewish captives to Babylon **CF JER 31:15 SEE ALSO JER 31:16-17**

**Prophecy Fulfilled:** The massacre from the 'Butcher of Bethlehem' (Herod) is a reminder of the sorrow of **REJECTING** Gods plan

## Part Three - Return to Nazareth vv19-23

19 After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt 20 and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child's life are dead."

21 So he got up, took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. 22 But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning in Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Having been warned in a dream, he withdrew to the district of Galilee, 23 and he went and lived in a town called Nazareth. So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets: "He will be called a Nazarene."

Matthew 2:19-23 niv

- Herod dies...but is replaced by his son **ARCHAELEUS** is worse
- Joseph warned to **MOVE ON**...he settles back in **NAZARETH**
- 'Nazarene' is not just a location but a term or **DERISION**

**Prophecy Fulfilled:** There is **NO DIRECT QUOTE** for this prophecy. Rather - it is an **AMALGAMATION** of the teaching of '**THE PROPHETS**' It was a fulfillment of the **REJECTION** and **LOW ESTIMATION** of Messiah!

## How Do You Beat the Christmas DAZE?

- 1 **OBEY** God Immediately
- 2 Expect **PUSH BACK** (It won't be **SIMPLE** or **EASY** )
- 3 **TRUST** the 'God-OPS' (He knows what He's doing - He will **RESOURCE**)

Notes from The Heights

Series: Family Christmas