

**April 1 - Egypt**  
[Matthew 2:13-23](#)



Jesus' parents are required to take him back, by the word of God's angel, to the cesspool of historic grief. The description of this land never hits hard enough because none of us ever experienced that Pharaoh.

This is a desperate journey suffered under the course of night. If you haven't read through the entirety of scripture, this moment might seem ludicrous. What is God trying to do? Is this a proving sign for Jesus to fulfill for the sake of mankind? Why would he call the Holy family back to Egypt when he spent time in the prophets telling everyone NOT to go there?

Hosea 11:1. "When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my so."

Exodus 4:22-23 "Then you shall say to Pharaoh, 'Thus says the Lord, 'Israel is my firstborn son,' and I say to you, 'Let my son go that he may serve me.'" 'If you refuse to let him go, behold, I will kill your firstborn son.'"

God wants it all to begin in the cacophony of Egypt and end in the grace of the death of the firstborn Son. Why do you think there's the ninth plague, the curse of darkness, at Calvary? Why do you think the 10th plague, the Son who becomes the embodiment of sin, perishes?

Yes, Jesus must fulfill it all, from Egypt, to the crossing of the river, to the casting into the wilderness for forty days, to...

The crucifixion centurion. Yes. Our man who views the last moment is drastically important. He must see the outcome of the ONE who went back to Egypt to being one for all. Jesus seems to

do anything, for the sake of everyone, even to the point of Egypt and the cross. This man, who stands below him at that moment, who (possibly) shoves a spear in his side, is a rescued one. He alone confesses what no one else does. “TRULY, this was the Son of God.”

He is a Jerusalem Pharaoh with a softened heart. This is what Jesus has come to do.

The New Egypt, a mount in the shadow of Jerusalem, is the tiny callous country of the centurion. The death of THE firstborn is meant to massage the hardest heart and calm the coarsest soul. “Truly, this was the Son of God.” This Roman mini-Pharaoh is truly blessed. We don’t always get a softening of the heart. Here, the one who crucified the firstborn receives it. We should all be so grateful.

Back to that command from an angel. Joseph and Mary’s little child represents all of Israel—IS all of Israel, IS all of humanity. He is the fulfillment of all the things that the historic people left unfulfilled. He must be faithful where they were not. He must do what they did but accomplish what they failed. They were obstinate, stiff-necked people. Jesus must do the exact will of God. He must flee from where they fled.

And then this happens. The angel tells Joseph, Mary, and Jesus to travel. (Can you imagine that? They went when Jesus was nearly born to Bethlehem. The wise men have arrived and departed. Now they head even farther to the heathen place of Egypt because an angel tells them again. This must get old.) One step after another, God is going to fulfill promise after prophecy for the sake of his people and our future centurion.

And us.

Egypt is the staging point for redemption. Once Herod dies, the family can head back home to more anxious anonymity. But until

then, God is readying the way for it all. He is preparing the road to Golgotha, and it begins in Egypt.

God is readying the way for us.

Truly.

**Jesus, from the beginning of time, all through your earthly life, and into eternity, truly you have been, are, and always will be the Son of God who makes a way of redemption for us. Amen. Let it be so.**