

THE FLIGHT INTO EGYPT

MATTHEW 2:1-15, 19-23

Today's story is about the protective power of the Lord. The angel of the Lord protected Baby Jesus by warning Joseph to flee to the safety of Egypt to escape the wrath of Herod. The following passage from the Writings can bring comfort and personal assurance of the Lord's protection. "Angels call forth the goods and truths that are with a person, and set them in opposition to the evils and falsities which the evil spirits excite. Thus the person is in the midst, and does not perceive either the evil or the good; and being in the midst, he is in freedom to turn himself either to the one or to the other. By such means do angels from the Lord lead and protect a person, and this every moment, and every moment of a moment." *Arcana Coelestia* 5992

IDEAS FOR PARENTS & TEACHERS

- We can know that the Lord constantly protects our spiritual freedom to choose a path toward heaven. He also protects children.
- When we feel attacked, we may not sense the presence of the angels. However, it is the Lord's promise that angels are always present, working on our behalf.
- We can help children to cultivate the habit of reading the Word so that they become partners with the angels in standing against the hells. The truths they learn from the Word can become like weapons and shields in the hands of their defending angels.

FROM THE WRITINGS

Factual knowledge is what those who are being regenerated must learn first, for that knowledge is the groundwork for things that compose the understanding, and the understanding is what receives the truth of faith and the truth of faith what receives the good of charity. Factual knowledge also constituted the first level to be laid down in the Lord when He made His Human Divine Truth or the Divine Law. This is what is meant by the Lord's being taken to Egypt when He was a young child. 'Egypt' means factual knowledge. By factual knowledge however one should understand not secular knowledge but knowledge that the Church possesses. The latter kind of knowledge is also what is meant by 'Egypt' in the genuine sense. *Arcana Coelestia* 6750

That spiritual temptation in a person is a combat of the evil spirits with the angels who are with him. This combat is commonly felt in his conscience, and concerning this combat it should also be known that angels continually protect a person and avert the evils which evil spirits endeavor to do to him. *Arcana Coelestia* 761

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IMPORTANT IDEAS

Angels helped Joseph protect the Baby Lord.

The Lord sends His angels to protect us.

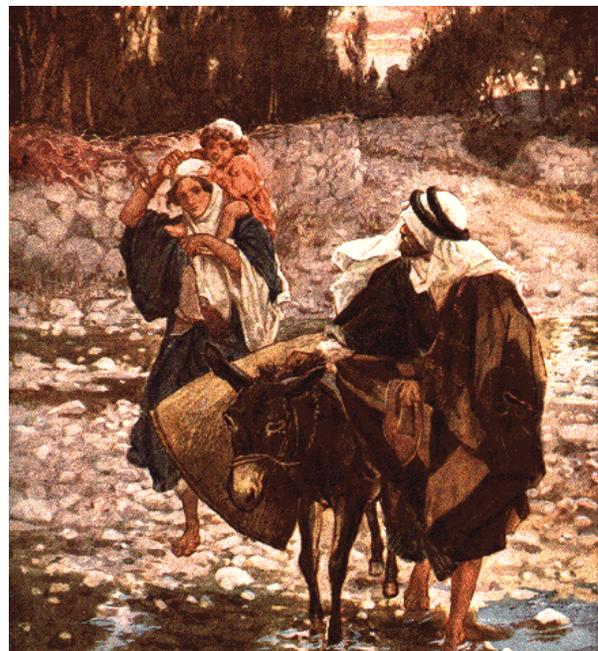
The Lord was born at a time of great spiritual darkness in the world. Most people no longer remembered about obeying the Lord's commandments. Many didn't even know who the Lord was. However, a few people did remember the Lord. These people knew that He had promised in His Word that He would be born into the world. There were wise men who knew about these promises and were hoping that they could see the Lord. They were watching for signs of His birth.

A new star appeared in the sky on the night the Lord was born. The wise men knew from prophecies, or promises, in the Word that this new star was a sign that the Lord had been born. The wise men lived far away from the country where the Lord was born, so they made a long journey to find Him so that they could worship Him. They brought Him precious gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

There was a wicked king in the land where the Lord was born. This king learned about the birth of the Lord from the wise men while on their way to Bethlehem. The wise men were looking for the Lord and asked, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews." Herod, the king, was angry when he heard that the wise men were looking for a king. Herod did not want anyone else to be king in his place. He didn't understand that the Lord was a Heavenly King.

Herod tried to trick the wise men into leading him to the Baby Lord. However, the wise men were warned in a dream not to tell Herod where to find the Baby, and they went back to their own country "another way." Read Matthew 2:1-12.

After the wise men had gone, the Baby Lord was in great danger. Herod wanted to find Him and kill Him. At this time an angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and



warned Joseph of the danger and told him to escape quickly. The angel told Joseph to take Mary and the Baby to Egypt. The angel promised that when it was safe to return home, he would come again.

Joseph listened to the angel and did just as he was told. He left the same night and took Mary and the Baby to Egypt where they could live in safety until wicked King Herod was dead. Read Matthew 2:13-15.

Herod was furious when he found that the wise men had gone home without telling him where the Baby Lord was. He searched the area for all little boy children near Bethlehem who were about the same age as Jesus. He showed how evil he was when he killed those innocent babies, hoping to kill Jesus.

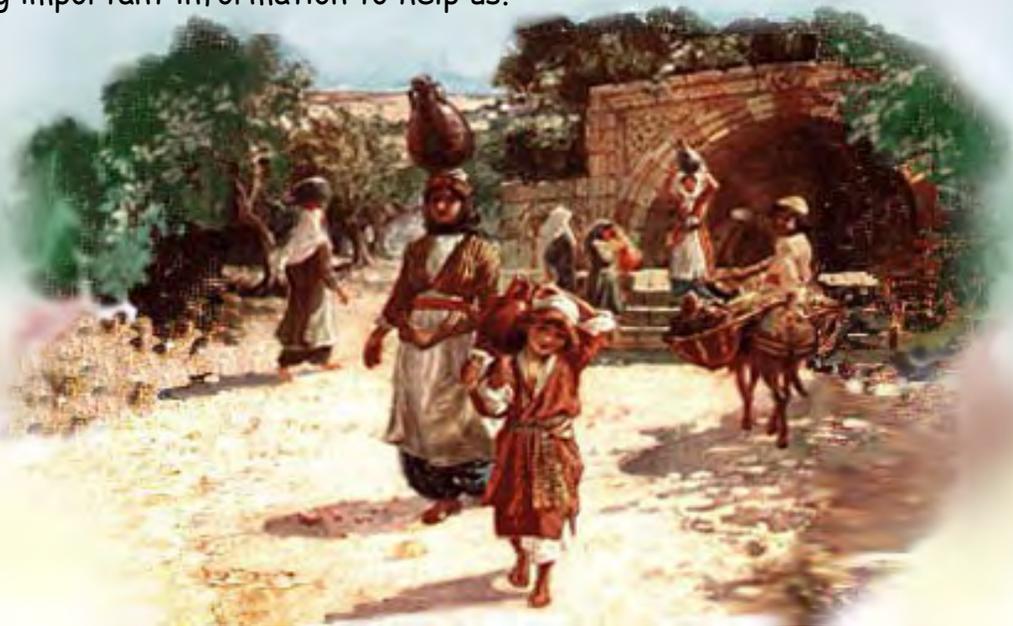
Joseph and Mary lived in Egypt until the angel appeared again to Joseph in a dream. The angel told Joseph that the people who had wanted to kill the Baby were all dead. It was safe for them to return. But once again an angel helped Joseph protect Jesus by warning Joseph in another dream that the new ruler of the land, wicked King Herod's son, was also an evil man who might hurt the Lord.

So Joseph "turned aside" and took the family to the city of Nazareth in Galilee. It is in Galilee that the Lord grew from a boy into a man. It is here that He did His first miracles and began to teach people about heaven. Read Matthew 2:19-23.



DISCUSSION

- Look at the pictures of angels in each of our Christmas stories. With each picture, think about how the angel is helping someone. What are the angels doing? (*Giving good news, celebrating, protecting.*)
- Angels protected Baby Jesus from harm. That was a long time ago. Do you think that angels can protect people today? The answer is "Yes!" The Lord sends His angels to be with us to protect us from anything that might harm our spirit. These angels work hard to defend us against evil spirits who want us to do bad things. We don't see these angels, but the Lord tells us they are with us all the time.
- How else does the Lord protect us? (*He gives us parents, teachers and other people to help us and protect us.*)
- What do you think we can do to help our angel protectors? (*We can pray to the Lord and read the Word. We can say "No!" when we feel like doing something we know is wrong or when someone else tells us to do what is wrong. We can listen to grownups who love and protect us when they show us how to do what is right.*)
- The Lord's Word teaches us how to choose a life of love to the Lord and the neighbor. When we make these good choices, the Lord's angels can keep the evil spirits away from us. The Word is like a messenger angel, sent by the Lord to bring important information to help us.



THE FLIGHT INTO EGYPT | LESSON 30

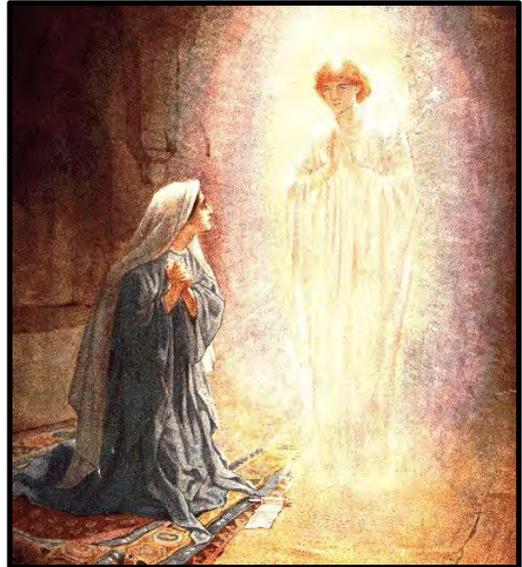
Recitation

- Learn the recitation.

The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest.'

Luke 1:30-32 (Portions)

When your child has learned the recitation, look for the recitation award picture like this in the *Recitation Book*. Give your child a sticker, e.g. a star, to decorate it.



Song

- Angels from the Realms of Glory - Track 31

Projects

- Flight into Egypt Project
- Picture to color

Flight into Egypt Project | Lesson 30

Help children remember Joseph and Mary's journey to Egypt to save the Baby Lord.

Supplies needed

- 1 piece of blue paper approx. 12"x18" (30cm x 45cm)
- a copy of the Flight to Egypt picture pages
- gold glitter
- crayons or oil pastels
- scissors
- glue

Directions

1. Using crayons, color the pictures of Mary with the Baby Jesus, Joseph and the palm tree.
2. Carefully cut out each piece. Position them on the blue paper and then glue them down.
3. Use crayons or oil pastels to add more details of the landscape.
4. Using glue, carefully make small dots across the night sky like stars. Sprinkle glitter on to make the stars sparkle.

