

OBEDIENCE OVER FEAR

Matthew 2:13-23



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World War II – 1933-1945

Axis Powers– Nazi Germany, Italy, and Japan

Allied Powers– Great Britain, Russia, United States

THE HOLOCAUST

- 1933-1945
- Systematic persecution of the Jews in Germany and central Europe.
- Started with Ghettos, then moved to forced labor.
- Progressed to labor camps, mass shootings, and concentration camps with gas chambers.
- Approximately 6 million Jews killed.
- Nazis hunted the Jews all over Europe.

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MATTHEW 2:13-23

¹³ 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." ¹⁴ And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt ¹⁵ 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."

¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah:

¹⁸ "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."

¹⁹ But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, ²⁰ 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." ²¹ And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. ²² 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. ²³ 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.



EXODUS 1

- Hebrews were slaves in Egypt and were being persecuted by the king.
- Still kept multiplying
- King ordered midwives to kill all the male children born.
- Midwives were faithful to God and refused.
- The king of Egypt told Pharaoh and Pharaoh ordered that all the male children be thrown into the Nile River
- Story of Moses

KING HEROD THE GREAT

- Ruler of Judea from 37 BC to 4 BC.
- Historians believe he and his family converted to Judaism
- Rebuilt the 2nd temple in Jerusalem
- Appointed to power by Caesar.
- Overthrown by his nephew
- Regained his throne by force

THE HUNT FOR BABY JESUS



- **Fear caused Herod to sin.**
- **Mass murder of Jewish boys.**
- **Hunted down all boys 2 years and younger from Bethlehem and the surrounding region and had them killed.**
- **Herod was fearful of losing his power and influence by this child the Magi proclaimed the “King of the Jews”**

FAITH OR FEAR?

- **Similarities of the Holocaust, Pharoah killing the Hebrew babies, and Herod killing Jewish boys.**
- **Rulers felt threatened and were fearful of losing their power**
- **Others acted in faith and opposition to the earthly principalities.**

DON'T LET FEAR RULE

- Fear can rule your life and influence the decisions you make.
- Can make you do the unthinkable
- Examples: King Saul, the three slaves in the parable of the talents, Pharoah, and Herod the Great

By focusing our financial resources on high-impact areas like technology and talent acquisition, we aim to drive innovation and enhance our competitive edge.

FAITH OVER FEAR!

- We are God's people!
- When we trust in the Lord, what have we to fear?
 - Psalm 27:1 KJV
 - The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?
- Joshua 1:9
 - ⁹ Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."

FATHERLY EXAMPLES

- Joseph shows an example of faith and obedience.
 - An example of protection for his earthly son.
 - Obeyed the Lord's command
- God the Father protected, provided, and guided Joseph, Mary, and Jesus.
- We must be obedient to the Lord.
 - ACT in faith!
 - Do not be passive or fearful.
 - Seek out His will for us.

ARE YOU LIVING IN FEAR?

Come to me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.

Matthew 11:28-30 NIV