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Dear Friends,

Blessed New Year's Greetings –2015!

Joseph! The husband of Mary – and the father of Jesus!

I want to share with you some thoughts from Matthew Chapter 2, and in particular, I want you to focus on the person of Joseph, and appreciate the significant role model he was, to us, as faithful obedient servants, of the Most High God!

I want to call your attention to three particular instructions – found in this passage – Get up; flee; and – remain!

Mat 2:13 Now after they had gone, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, Get up! [Tenderly] take unto you the young Child and His mother and flee to Egypt; and remain there till I tell you [otherwise], for Herod intends to search for the Child in order to destroy Him.

Mat 2:14 And having risen, he took the Child and His mother by night and withdrew to Egypt

Mat 2:15 And remained there until Herod's death. This was to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, Out of Egypt have I called My Son. [Hos. 11:1.]

'One year when a family was traveling through Ohio on the way to Grandma's house, they arrived in Columbus just as a tornado warning was issued. Suddenly everything changed as they feared that their young children might be in danger.

I mention that story to help us imagine what it was like for Joseph's family as he, Mary, and their young child travelled to Egypt. Herod, not a tornado, threatened them as he sought to kill their little boy. Imagine how frightening it was for them, knowing that "Herod [sought] the young Child to destroy Him" (Matt. 2:13).

We usually take a more idyllic view of Christmas-time — lowing cattle and kneeling shepherds, in a peaceful scene. But there was no peace for Jesus' family as they sought to escape

Herod's horror. *Only when an angel told them it was safe did the family go out of Egypt, and back home to Nazareth (vv.20-23).’ (ODB- adjusted).*

Not unlike our world of today! Sound familiar?

Mat 2:19 But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt

Mat 2:20 And said, Rise, [tenderly] take unto you the Child and His mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the Child's life are dead.

Mat 2:21 Then he awoke and arose and [tenderly] took the Child and His mother and came into the land of Israel.

*Mat 2:22 **But because he heard** that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in the place of his father Herod, **he was afraid to go there. And being divinely warned in a dream, he withdrew to the region of Galilee.***

*Mat 2:23 He went and dwelt in a town called Nazareth, **so that what was spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled:** He shall be called a Nazarene [Branch, Separated One]. [Isa. 11:1.]*

*‘Consider the awe we should feel for the incarnation. Jesus, who enjoyed the majesty of heaven in partnership with the Father, set it all aside to be born in poverty, to face many dangers, and to be crucified for us. **Coming out of Egypt is one thing, but leaving heaven for us—well, that’s the grand and amazing part of this story.***



***Jesus our Saviour left heaven above,
Coming to earth as a Servant with love;
Laying aside all His glory He came,
Bringing salvation through faith in His name.
(Hess).***

Jesus came to earth for us so we could go to heaven with Him.

Today’s passage is both a harrowing and a comforting account of early events in Jesus’ life. Verse 15 reminds us - that the threat to His life and His family’s hasty escape to Egypt - were within God’s plan.’ (ODB).

I want you to take a few minutes out, and think about, whether or not YOU KNOW – what it is, that God is telling you to do - today, and why?

Mary and Joseph KNEW - the voice of God, which came via the ‘Angel of the Lord’ in a dream – all to fulfil God’s plan and purpose! The prophets had already spoken those words, and, if Joseph had not been listening, and recognising, the authority – that the Angel of the Lord’s words contained; and, if he did not act on his intuition (revelation knowledge), their story and general welfare, may have taken a very different path.

Joseph is a wonderful example of OBEDIENCE by FAITH - (And a very much overlooked character of Biblical significance, in my opinion). There were so many things just not “right” for him – in the “sight” realm, of reality. But because he chose to walk by FAITH and do as the Lord instructed him – regardless of not understanding

anything about the circumstantial evidence at the time (which was ALL he had to go by), **God blessed the boots off them – as a family.**

At this time of year, the Festive Season, and because the Lord has laid this on my heart, I think it appropriate that we consider the facts as presented here. And in lieu of the significance of the importance of this upcoming year, on our Lord's Calendar, we need to ponder just what it is, HE is saying to me, and to you – to do, and to go, and to say – and to whom...???

Does God still Speak?

Do we Still Listen?

Here is PROOF that God Still Speaks - and to WHOM! (Genesis 18:17)

He TELLS HIS 'FRIEND' – what He intends to do.

We are NOT kept in the dark by GOD. HE REVEALS to us (His 'friend') – what it is that we should KNOW – if we will ASK and LISTEN. (Genesis 18:17) "...Shall I hide from Abraham [My friend and servant] what I am going to do?"

Then it is OUR RESONSIBILITY – to Go, and to Do – what it is, He has said! Amen!

Jas 2:23 And [so] the Scripture was fulfilled that says, Abraham believed in (adhered to, trusted in, and relied on) God, and **this was accounted to him as righteousness (as conformity to God's will in thought and deed), and he was called God's friend.** [Gen. 15:6; II Chron. 20:7; Isa. 41:8.]

Jas 2:24 You see that a man is justified (pronounced righteous before God) through what he does and not alone through faith [through works of obedience as well as by what he believes].

Jas 2:25 So also with Rahab the harlot—**was she not shown to be justified** (pronounced righteous before God) by [good] deeds when she took in the scouts (spies) and sent them away by a different route? [Josh. 2:1-21.]

Jas 2:26 For as the human body **apart from the spirit is lifeless, so faith apart from [its] works of obedience is also dead.**

Gen 18:17 And the Lord said, Shall I hide from Abraham [My friend and servant] what I am going to do, [Gal. 3:8.]...

Gal 3:7 Is it not obvious to you that persons who put their trust in Christ (not persons who put their trust in the law!) are like Abraham: **children of faith?**

Gal 3:8 It was all laid out beforehand in Scripture that **God would set things right with non-Jews by faith.** Scripture anticipated this in the promise to Abraham: **"All nations will be blessed in you."**

Gal 3:9 **So those now who live by faith are blessed along with Abraham, who lived by faith—this is no new doctrine!**

Thank you Jesus! Our time here is short. We need to KNOW what (You) – our FRIEND – is sharing with us, and we need be found FAITHFULLY OBEDIENT, to those instructions. Amen and Amen!

You don't have the right to be going through the 'tribulation', or your tribulations, in an unprotected state. God promised us protection, just as He promised to protect Joseph, and Mary, and baby Jesus. **But – that protection was reliant on**

OBEDIENCE; Joseph's obedience to hear, and to do. Remember those three instructions in that first verse of Matthew 2:13... Get up; flee; and – remain! If he hadn't heard the instructions loud and clear – to get up; and to go (flee, hurry) and most importantly – to 'remain until' – He was told otherwise... (For as long as it takes)... the circumstances of their destiny, and eternal destination, may have been gravely different. The 'promised Saviour's life' - could have ended with Herod!

You need be seated at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb! And the only way to **KNOW that you will be around 'that table' – is to be found intimately acquainted – with the Master, and, absolutely **OBEDIENT** – to His instructions to 'you'.**

You need to Live Him; Breathe Him; Touch Him; Taste Him; Smell Him! Your spirits, should be so intertwined, that you are inseparable. It should break your heart, to be apart from Him, for any time at all!! Think about that for a minute!

Do you ever ask God to stand by, while you just attend to this, or that? And then tell Him "...I will come back soon, and re-join the conversation, Lord"OR "...I will come back and repent – in a little while. But just now I need to do this for MYSELF" ...?

It's a valid question and requires a valid answer – and fast! You are running out of time. Whether you believe the End-time Calendar – or not!

As an end-time 'watchman of the word', I have been faithful to deliver to you, what God has given to me. Have you been faithful, and grateful, to receive – ALL that Christ has offered to you? Your attention to – "get up: flee; and – remain" – may well save your life, also – just as it did for Joseph, Mary and baby Jesus! Amen

When He opens The Lamb's Book of Life – will He find your name written therein?

This is – Your New Year #1 question???

Till next month

From my house to yours

Blessings of the abundant kind!

Leila Nord.

