

July 11
Jesus' Earthly Father

I taught Ephraim to walk.
I took them by his arms...
I drew them with cords of a man – Hosea 11:3-4

[Matthew 2:13-23, Bethlehem, Egypt, and Nazareth] Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and stay there until I tell you, for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him."

He arose and took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt, and was there until the death of Herod; that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, "Out of Egypt I called my son." [Hosea 11:1]

Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked by the wise men, was exceedingly angry, and sent out, and killed all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all the surrounding countryside, from two years old and under, according to the exact time which he had learned from the wise men. Then that which was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled, saying,

"A voice was heard in Ramah,
lamentation, weeping and great
mourning,

**He arose and took the
young child and his
mother by night**

Rachel weeping for her children;
she wouldn't be comforted,

because they are no more."
[Jeremiah 31:15]

But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Arise and take the young child and his mother, and go into the land of Israel, for those who sought the young child's life are dead."

He arose and took the young child and his mother, and came into the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in the place of his father, Herod, he was afraid to go there. Being warned in a dream, he withdrew into the region of Galilee, and came and lived in a city called Nazareth; that it might be fulfilled which was spoken through the prophets: "He will be called a Nazarene."

When they had accomplished all things that were according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own city, Nazareth. The child was growing, and was becoming strong in spirit, being filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was upon him [Luke 2:39-40].

1. Imagine being Joseph. Would you wake up from a dream and leave with your family?
2. The final quote is not from the Old Testament. What do you think "Nazarene" means?
3. Lord, the prince of this world wanted to destroy your son; now he's trying to destroy...