

WESTERN WISDOM BIBLE STUDY

FLIGHT INTO EGYPT

And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.

And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word; for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him.

When he arose, he 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 of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Out of Egypt have I called my son.

Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently enquired of the wise men.

Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy the prophet, saying,

In Rama was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, and would not be comforted, because they are not. *Matthew 2:12-18.*

In writing of the allegories of the Bible, Max Heindel states that: "The last of the Jewish feasts and the most important is the Feast of the Tabernacles, when the Sun crosses its western node in autumn, having yielded to man the 'bread of life' wherewith to sustain his material being until the next return of the Sun to the northern heavens." Hence, "the six southern signs which the Sun occupies in winter are always called 'Egypt', the 'land of the Philistines', etc. — a name for something that is bad for 'God's people'."

Applying this symbology to the microcosm, man, and remembering that the Gospels are formulae of initiation, we

consider the above passage to refer to the aspirant's journey through the life having to do with the things of the material world, the objects of desire.

The lower will of man "is an expression of the higher part of the desire body. When the division of the Sun, Moon, and Earth took place, in the early part of the Lemurian Epoch, the more advanced portion of humanity-in-the-making experienced a division of the desire body into a higher and a lower part. The rest of humanity did likewise in the early part of the Atlantean Epoch.

"This higher part of the desire body became a sort of animal soul. It built the cerebro-spinal nervous system and the voluntary muscles, by that means controlling the lower part of the three-fold body until the link of mind was given. Then the mind 'coalesced' with this animal soul and became a co-regent. The mind is thus bound up in desire; is enmeshed in the selfish lower nature, making it difficult for the Spirit to control the body."

The intellect must become purified from desire, so that the Spirit's vehicles are amenable to its guidance. This arduous task is to be accomplished eventually by every aspirant. The lower nature ever seeks to destroy the newborn Christ within, impelling one to indulgence of the sense appetites. To acquire the strength to resist the call of the senses is one of the objects of our pilgrimage through matter. Those who place themselves definitely on the Path have the guidance of the Higher Ones so that ultimately the Spirit triumphs, and the lower self, Herod, dies. ★