

The Forgotten Jesus Podcast

S3E28

Joseph The Dreamer - (Matthew 1 & 2, Exodus 37)

Description – Mary was told by the Angel Gabriel that she would be the mother of the Messiah, but Joseph, her betrothed husband was told through a dream. Today we look at Joseph the dreamer, both in the New Testament and in the Old Testament.

A while back, we left off with a cliffhanger, on Joseph the earthly father of Jesus and his dreams.

Today we'll look at Joseph (NT) and Joseph (OT) and their dreams.

NT Joseph's first dream

Matthew 1:20-21

²⁰ But after he had considered these things, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because what has been conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

NT Joseph's second dream

Matthew 2:13-14

¹³ After they were gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Get up! Take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you. For Herod is about to search for the child to kill him." ¹⁴ So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night, and escaped to Egypt.

OT Joseph's first dream

Genesis 37:5

⁵ Then Joseph had a dream. When he told it to his brothers, they hated him even more.

OT Joseph's second dream

Genesis 37:9-11

⁹ Then he had another dream and told it to his brothers. "Look," he said, "I had another dream, and this time the sun, moon, and eleven stars were bowing down to me." ¹⁰ He told his father and brothers, and his father rebuked him. "What kind of dream is this that you have had?" he said. "Am I and your mother and your brothers really going to come and bow down to the ground before you?" ¹¹ His brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the matter in mind.

So Joseph in the OT has two dreams, but in Matthew, NT Joseph has 4 dreams.

NT Joseph's third dream

Matthew 2:19-20

¹⁹ After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, ²⁰ saying, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, because those who intended to kill the child are dead.”

NT Joseph’s fourth dream

Matthew 2:22

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

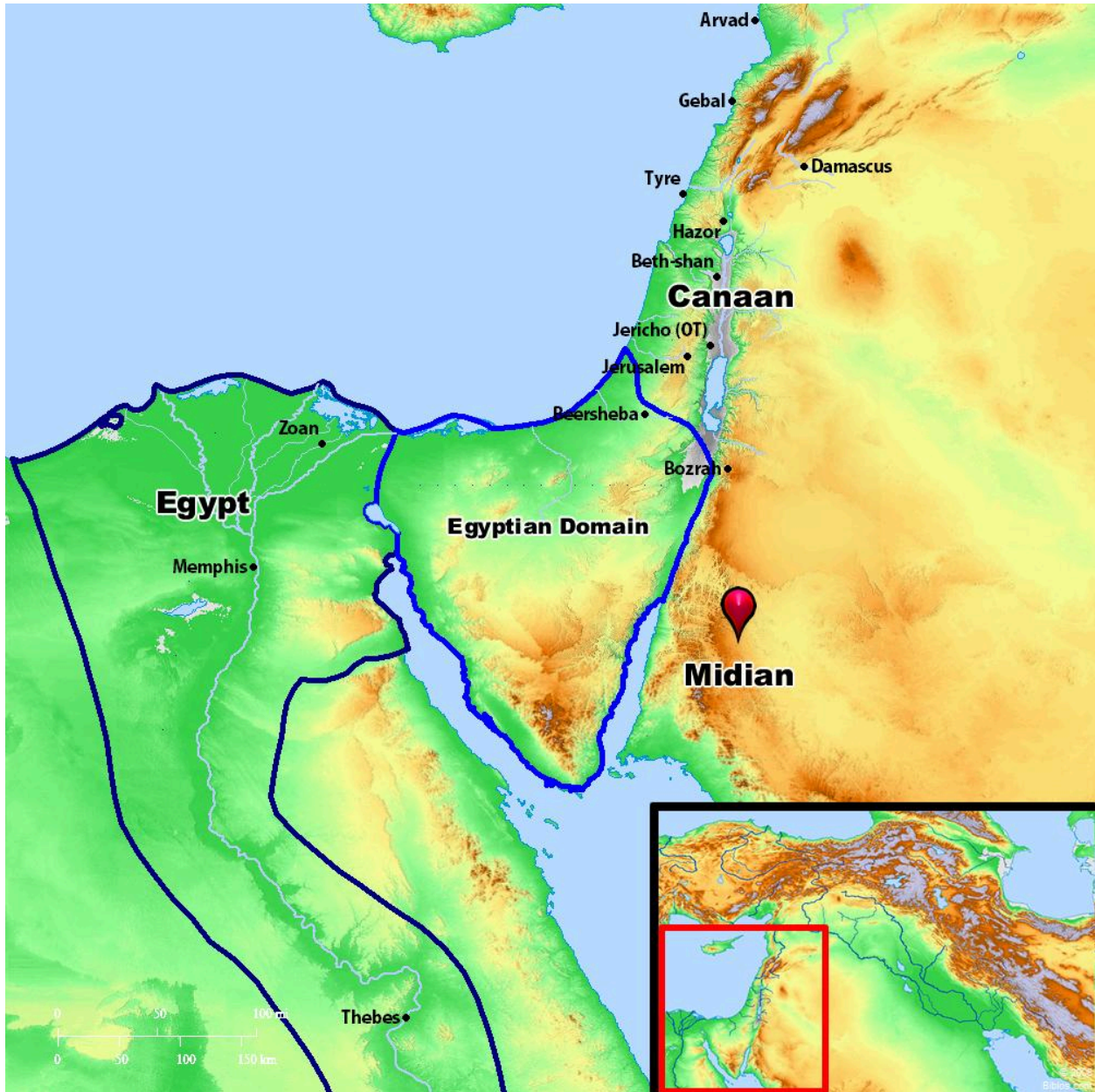
So what’s happening here? Joseph is warned in a dream to flee with Mary and Jesus to Egypt. He then lives there for a while, and returns to Israel as he’s told to by another dream.

There’s a difference between our dreams, and when God reveals something via the Holy Spirit to us.

So why is Jesus with his father Joseph fleeing into Egypt and then coming back out of Egypt?

Because that’s exactly what Moses did, and that’s exactly what Joseph did. They went down to Egypt, and then fled or came up out of Egypt.

OT Joseph also had two other dreams, the dreams of Pharaoh that he helped interpret.



Map showing Egypt and the location of Midian in the time of Moses.

When Herod finds out that he's been tricked by the wise men, he's enraged, and orders the killing of every boy under the age of two.

Matthew 2:16-18

¹⁶ Then Herod, when he realized that he had been outwitted by the wise men, flew into a rage. He gave orders to massacre all the boys in and around Bethlehem who were two years old and under, in keeping with the time he had learned from the wise men. ¹⁷ Then what was spoken through Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled: ¹⁸ A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children; and she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.

The exact same thing happened to the Israelites, go back to Exodus 1

Exodus 1:22

²² Pharaoh then commanded all his people, “You must throw every son born to the Hebrews into the Nile, but let every daughter live.”

Why would Pharaoh and Herod do this? They’re protecting their influence, their wealth and their power. They become paranoid about keeping power, and will do anything to protect their rule.