

Scripture Readings

*The Old Testament Scripture reading is received from **Isaiah** chapter **63** verses **7-9**, which can be found on page **898** in the **old testament** of your pew bible...*

⁷I will recount the Lord's acts of unfailing love and the Lord's praises as High God, all that the Lord has done for us and his great goodness to the house of Israel, all that he has done for them in his tenderness and by his many acts of love. He said, 'Surely they are my people, my sons who will not play me false'; and he became their deliverer in all their troubles. It was no envoy, no angel, but he himself that delivered them; he himself ransomed them by his love and pity, lifted them up and carried them through all the years gone by.

*The New Testament Scripture reading is received from **Matthew** chapter **2** verses **13-23**, which can be found on page **4** in the **new testament** of your pew bible...*

¹³After they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, and said to him, 'Rise up, take the child and his mother and escape with them to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you; for Herod is going to search for the child to do away with him.' So Joseph rose from sleep, and taking mother and child by night he went away with them to Egypt, and there he stayed till Herod's death. This was to fulfil what the Lord had declared through the prophet: 'I called my son out of Egypt.'

When Herod saw how the astrologers had tricked him he fell into a passion, and gave orders for the massacre of all children in Bethlehem and its neighbourhood, of the age of two years or less, corresponding with the time he had ascertained from the

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astrologers. So the words spoken through Jeremiah the prophet were fulfilled: 'A voice was heard in Rama, wailing and loud laments; it was Rachel weeping for her children, and refusing all consolation, because there were no more.'

The time came that Herod died; and an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said to him, 'Rise up, take the child and his mother, and go with them to the land of Israel, for the men who threatened the child's life are dead.' So he rose, took mother and child with him, and came to the land of Israel. Hearing, however, that Archelaus had succeeded his father Herod as king of Judaea, he was afraid to go there. And being warned by a dream, he withdrew to the region of Galilee; there he settled in a town called Nazareth. This was to fulfil the words spoken through the prophets: 'He shall be called a Nazarene.'

May the Lord God help us to apply this scripture in our lives.