

Herod's Plan Thwarted

Matthew 2:1-22: *“Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem,² Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.³ When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.⁴*

And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born.⁵ And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet,⁶ And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.⁷ Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared.⁸ And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.⁹ When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was.¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.¹¹ And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.¹² And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.¹³ 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.¹⁴ When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt:¹⁵ 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.¹⁶ 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.¹⁷ Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy the prophet, saying,¹⁸ 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.¹⁹ But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeareth in a dream to Joseph in Egypt,²⁰ Saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and go into the land of Israel: for they are dead which sought the young child's life.²¹ And he arose, and took the young child and his mother, and came into the land of Israel.²² But when he heard that Archelaus did reign in Judaea in the room of his father Herod, he was afraid to go thither: notwithstanding, being warned of God in a dream, he turned aside into the parts of Galilee:”

I. Verse 13—“And when they were departed”

A. After that alarming dream, the wise men immediately moved in **Matthew 2:13**.

1. Verse 13 says, “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.”

B. The wise men knew that they were in imminent danger and they had to act fast. Thankfully, they did.

C. Their happiness and worship quickly turned to a “We got to get out of here before Herod and his men catch up with us.” Joseph is watching all of this unravel before his eyes.

- D. Those words in verse 13 convey a strong anxiety that Joseph felt by the quick exodus of the wise men.
 - E. Imagine Joseph standing there left behind as the wise men disappeared into the horizon and that empty feeling in Joseph's stomach as he waved good bye to his friends from the East.
 - F. Joseph stand all alone and terrified over what the wise men said about Herod.
 - 1. Just the name of Herod struck great fear in his heart. Can't you just picture the wise men talking to Joseph about the great interest that Herod showed in finding the child?
 - 2. Joseph must have interrogated the wise men over everything that Herod said and everything that they said to Herod about the child.
 - G. Keep in mind the wise men had no idea that the King of the Jews had been born in Bethlehem. Instead, it was the scribes and Pharisees that supplied the information that the King of the Jews would be born in Bethlehem.
 - H. Imagine how the wise men told Joseph that they were under strict orders to go back to Herod and report exactly where the child was in Bethlehem.
 - 1. This was all terrifying for Joseph because it was not as though Bethlehem was the size of Los Angeles. If Herod wanted to kill the child, he could easily order the murder of all children under 2 years old in and around Bethlehem.
 - I. This is all contained in those words in verse 13 of *"When they had departed."*
 - J. Joseph's mind was racing with what he would do as he was left alone.
 - 1. That is a picture of what our minds do when there is a problem that seems to have no solution.
 - 2. We just keep thinking and thinking of all the events that led up to the predicament. We just keep thinking of all the "if only's."
 - K. This is where faith comes in. Faith is a fight.
 - 1. Faith is a fight against all those dark thoughts of how we are for sure going to become so destroyed that the garbage collector will not even want to haul us away.
 - L. Faith says, "No, I will not let my mind go down that path. I will trust in God to take care of me. God has many more options than I do."
- II. Verse 13—*"Behold, the angel of the Lord"*
- A. "Behold" is the backdrop to the most wonderful answer to Joseph's questions.
 - B. "Behold" expresses all the surprise of the unexpected.
 - 1. Aren't you glad for the "beholds" in your life when God comes through with a deliverance?
 - 2. I am glad for that. For the past year, I have been watching some tumors grow, and last week, I had the cancer PET scan and CT scans. Most of the tumors had decreased, and some actually disappeared.
 - 3. That was a "Behold" moment for me.
 - C. When the wise men were departed and Joseph felt all alone, the angel came to Joseph and gave Joseph direction at just the right moment.
- III. Verse 13—*"The angel of the Lord appeareth"*
- A. When he found out Mary was pregnant and he did not know what to do, an angel of the Lord appeared to him and told him what to do. Again, the angel of the Lord came to Joseph to direct Him what to do.
 - B. Interesting enough, the Joseph in the Old Testament was directed by dreams, and the Joseph in the New Testament was directed by dreams.
- IV. Verse 13—*"Flee into Egypt"*

- A. Joseph was told to flee into Egypt, and the Greek word used here means “to escape, run away or vanish.”
 - B. Joseph was told to vanish into Egypt.
 - C. As a baby, the Lord Jesus is in trouble with Mary and Joseph having to run with him into Egypt.
 - D. This pretty much sets out the course for the life of the Lord on earth. It was trouble, trouble, trouble just like Job said in **Job 5:7**.
 - 1. The verse says, *“Yet man is born unto trouble, as the sparks fly upward.”*
 - E. In this chapter, there is going to be a mysterious association of the Lord Jesus with the nation of Israel. The Lord being persecuted from the time that He was a baby is one of the associations of the Lord with Israel.
 - F. David said it best in **Psalms 129:2**. The verse says, *“Many a time have they afflicted me from my youth: yet they have not prevailed against me.”*
- V. Verse 13—*“Herod will seek the young child”*
- A. Verse 13 makes it harder to imagine how all the forces of evil energized Herod to try and kill the Lord.
 - B. But, we have a description of who was energizing Herod in **Revelation 12:4**
 - 1. **Revelation 12:4** says, *“And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.”*
 - 2. The dragon in that verse is Satan, and the dragon stood before the woman to destroy the Lord as soon as He was born.
 - a. That was Herod.
 - C. Later, the Lord told His disciples what they were to do when they were persecuted in **Matthew 10:23**.
 - 1. The verse says, *“But when they persecute you in this city, flee ye into another: for verily I say unto you, Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel, till the Son of man be come.”*
 - 2. When the Lord spoke about being persecuted in one city and having to go to another and then another, the Lord knew from His own experience what that was like to be chased out of town.
- VI. Verse 13—*“Flee into Egypt”*
- A. We can imagine what Joseph thought when He heard the angel say, *“Flee into Egypt.”*
 - B. Here again, faith fights those dark thoughts and just trusts God.
 - 1. If God commands Egypt to protect this little Jewish family, then Egypt will protect Joseph’s family.
 - C. There is so much that we cannot see that is happening in the spiritual realm. What is happening behind the scenes is described in **Revelation 12:16**.
 - 1. The verse states, *“And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth.”*
 - D. How could the earth help save the Lord as a baby? Psalm 24:1 explains it best.
 - 1. **Psalms 24:1** says, *“The earth is the LORD’S, and the fulness thereof.”*
 - a. How could Egypt help save the life of the Lord? It is because Egypt is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof.
 - E. It is interesting that God sent the family to Egypt because the shame of Egypt was that it was a place of death for Jewish male babies. Now, Egypt will be a place to save the life of the most important Jewish male baby that ever lived.
 - F. It is like God is giving Egypt a chance to change their reputation.
 - G. This is all very dramatic with the Savior first having no room and being born in a barn then having to flee and become fugitives in Egypt.

- H. How can all this be that the King of the Universe is running away to save His life? How are we to process this? What are the implications of this?
1. First, the conflict starts between Light and Darkness.
 2. Second, He is on the run to save His life from a sinner who wants to take His life. However, Jesus won't give up His life for our sins **until the right time**.
 3. Third, the humility of the Lord to be on the run.

VII. Verse 13—*“Be thou there until I bring...”*

- A. The Lord told Joseph that he was to remain in Egypt until God brought him word that the coast was clear.
- B. We don't know how long the family stayed in Egypt, and we do not know exactly where in Egypt they were.
- C. As a matter of fact, we do not know very much about the childhood of the Lord because very little is written about the first 30 years of the Lord's life.
 1. The word *“until”* shows how temporary Egypt was. Even when He was a baby, God the Father made it abundantly clear that He was not to stay in Egypt. He was not to stay in any Gentile place because God the Father sent Him into the world for one purpose.
 - a. **Matthew 15:24** says, *“But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.”*
- D. That means that God the Father sent God the Son to the Jewish people, and for that reason it was imperative that He return to Israel.
- E. He was sent to gather Israel back to God.
 1. **Isaiah 49:5** says, *“And now, saith the LORD that formed me from the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob again to him, Though Israel be not gathered, yet shall I be glorious in the eyes of the LORD, and my God shall be my strength.”*
 2. A body was prepared for Him.
 - a. **Hebrews 10:5** says, *“Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me.”*
 - b. This leads us to see that when the body was prepared for God the Son, God the Father said to the Son, *“Here is the body that has been prepared for you for you to use to bring Israel back to God.”*
- F. It is interesting to see how the Lord was kept in Egypt until Herod died.
 1. It is like the Lord was kept in his ministry on earth until the time He should go to the cross to die for our sins.

VIII. Verse 13—*“Herod will seek...to destroy him”*

- A. The angel told Joseph that Herod was trying to destroy the young child. When Joseph heard that, that was all he needed to hear for him to go.
- B. Joseph was so different from Lot and Lot's wife who were told something similar, but they hesitated in Genesis.
 1. **Genesis 19:15-16** says, *“¹⁵ And when the morning arose, then the angels hastened Lot, saying, Arise, take thy wife, and thy two daughters, which are here; lest thou be consumed in the iniquity of the city. ¹⁶ And while he lingered, the men laid hold upon his hand, and upon the hand of his wife, and upon the hand of his two daughters; the LORD being merciful unto him: and they brought him forth, and set him without the city.”*
- C. When people today hear the Gospel message that judgment is coming and it is time to escape by receiving the Lord as Savior, people fall into two categories: the Lot and Lot's wife or Joseph.
- D. Lot and Lot's wife would be in the category of “lingering” and not coming.

- E. The Joseph category would be those who act of immediate response.
 - 1. Joseph did not linger, and Joseph did not argue with God. He just obeyed God.
- IX. Verse 14—*“Took the young child...by night”*
 - A. Joseph was so ready to obey that immediately he took the Lord and Mary and went down into Egypt.
 - 1. Verse 14 says, *“When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt.”*
 - B. Joseph left in the night because he wanted to avoid anyone from having seen him. It was critical for Joseph to get out of town fast.
- X. Verse 15—*“There until the death of Herod”*
 - A. We don’t know any details of their stay in Egypt.
 - 1. We don’t know where the family stayed and for how long they stayed. Those details (like so many details in the Bible) are not what God wants us to focus on.
 - B. All that we do know comes from verse 15.
 - 1. Verse 15 says, *“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.**”*
 - C. They were in Egypt until Herod died. Herod died at the age of 70 after he ruled over Judea for 37 years.
 - D. This return that they made back from Egypt is said to have been a fulfillment of the prophecy in **Hosea 11:1**.
 - 1. **Hosea 11:1** says, *“When Israel was a child, then I loved him, and called my son out of Egypt.”*
 - E. In this verse, it says that when Israel was a child that then God loved Israel.
 - 1. This is similar to **Exodus 2:23-25**.
 - a. **Exodus 2:23-25** says, *“²³ And it came to pass in process of time, that the king of Egypt died: and the children of Israel sighed by reason of the bondage, and they cried, and their cry came up unto God by reason of the bondage. ²⁴ And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. ²⁵ And God looked upon the children of Israel, and God had respect unto them.”*
 - F. Israel was oppressed as slave. They are crying out.
 - 1. God hears their cry, and in the next chapter, God calls Moses.
 - a. **Exodus 3:7-8** states, *“⁷ And the LORD said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows; ⁸ And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land.”*
 - 2. After a little misunderstanding by Moses as to who made the mouth, Moses came around, and Israel was delivered.
 - 3. That would be what you would think of when you read in **Hosea 11:1**.
 - a. The verse says, *“When Israel was a child, then I loved him, and called my son out of Egypt.”*
 - b. God saw Israel in Egypt as His son that was a young child, and God called the Jewish people out of Egypt.
 - 4. This may not strike you as a prophecy that was yet to be fulfilled.
 - a. But, in **Matthew 2:15**, the Scripture of **Hosea 11:1** is said to be a prophecy that was fulfilled when the Lord Jesus returned from Egypt.
 - G. There is no way that you could have known in advance that this was a prophecy that would be fulfilled when the Messiah came out of exile from Egypt.

1. Because of this, I don't try to work out all the details of what is going to happen in the future and when it is going to happen.
- H. But, that was a tender time when God called Israel as His son out of Egypt. We remember when God told Moses to command Pharaoh to let Israel go.
1. God did not tell Moses to say to Pharaoh to just let the Jewish people go. God took that opportunity to state who the Jewish people were to God.
 - a. **Exodus 4:22** says, *“And thou shalt say unto Pharaoh, Thus saith the LORD, **Israel is my son, even my firstborn.**”*
 2. God saw Israel as His firstborn so much that He said to Pharaoh that He would kill Pharaoh's firstborn if he did not let Israel go in **Exodus 4:23**.
 - a. Verse 23 says, *“And I say unto thee, Let my son go, that he may serve me: and if thou refuse to let him go, behold, I will slay thy son, even thy firstborn.”*
- I. God's firstborn son that He loved and called out of Egypt was Jehovah Jesus. Now, here He is in Egypt being called out of Egypt just like His people were.
- J. This shows how closely linked the Lord Jesus is with the Jewish people.
- a. He was persecuted like they were persecuted.
 - b. He was in Egypt like they were in Egypt.
 - c. He was called out of Egypt like they were called out of Egypt.
2. This was part of the “all points” we can find in **Hebrews 4:15**.
 - a. **Hebrews 4:15** says, *“For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was **in all points tempted like as we are**, yet without sin.”*
- K. When Israel finally sees that Jesus is Jehovah, then they will see the greatest association that He had with them seen in **Isaiah 53:5-6**.
1. The verses powerfully say, *“⁵ But he was wounded for **our** transgressions, he was bruised for **our** iniquities: the chastisement of **our** peace was upon him; and with his stripes **we** are healed. ⁶ All **we** like sheep have gone astray; **we** have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of **us** all.”*
- XI. Verse 16—*“Herod...saw...he was mocked”*
- A. The Lord is in exile in the protection of Egypt, and back in Israel, Herod understands that he has been tricked by the wise men in **Matthew 2:16**.
1. The verse says, *“When Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of **[by]** 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.”*
- B. Verse 16 says that Herod saw that he was mocked. The Greek word used here means “outwitted.”
1. Herod was a fox, and here, Herod sees that the wise men outfoxed him.
- C. Herod was really angry at the wise men because they had lied to him by promising to return with the information of where the Lord Jesus was. Instead, they escaped out of the land without telling him.
- D. In response, Herod ordered all the children that were two years old and younger to be murdered.
1. Herod would have killed the wise men, but he could not. Instead, Herod decided to kill the person that they wise men worshipped.
- E. This shows how ruthless Herod was; his bloodthirstiness had no limits.
1. Herod knew that the King of the Jews was a male baby, but sadly, Herod killed all the babies both male and female.

2. Herod knew that the King of the Jews was in Bethlehem, but Herod killed all the babies that were in Bethlehem and the coastal towns that were around Bethlehem.
- F. The reason Herod chose two years old and under is stated because that was his conclusion after interrogating the wise men.
1. Herod pressed the wise men for the exact time that the star appeared. That is how he learned that the star appeared less than two years ago.
 2. Knowing how Herod went overboard in his actions, we can conclude that probably the star appeared one year ago. Then, Herod ordered all the children to be killed that were 2 years old and younger.

XII. Verse 17—*“Then was fulfilled...”*

- A. Can you imagine the horrible scene of soldiers coming into homes and finding any baby that look like it was 2 years old and younger? They would probably rip that child out of its mother’s arms and kill the baby right on the spot.
- B. The soldiers would go on the next house, leaving baby blood on the floor of those homes they came to.
1. It makes you wonder if this bothered any of the soldiers to kill babies.
 2. Even Hitler had trouble with some of the Nazis carrying out his order to kill Jews in Europe and Russia.
- C. It is no wonder that the description of what it was like at that time was in **Matthew 2:18**.
1. The verse says, *“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.”*

XIII. Verse 18—*“A voice heard”*

- A. First, we see in verse 18 that there was a voice that was heard.
- B. There was no person seen; there was only a voice. There was in each house a howling over the death of the child.
- C. Children are very special in Jewish homes
- D. On Sabbath in Israel, the whole country comes to a stop, and families are together. It is actually a very nice time.
1. The center of those gatherings are the children.
- E. Children are celebrated in Israel.
1. My friend John was in the lobby of an expensive hotel in Jerusalem on the Sabbath, and there was a handicap ramp with a marble floor.
 2. Nearby, there was a four year old girl on a tricycle, and she was racing her tricycle down the handicap ramp.
 3. No one would have thought of stopping her because children are very special in Israel.
- F. Now, each home is full of their children lying dead in their homes.
- G. The grief is so intense for the mothers that they do not want to be seen by anyone. Still, they are not silent; they are wailing in anguish and grief.
- H. The voice in verse 18 was not all the same. There were three types of sounds coming from the voice.
- I. First, there was the sound of lamentation. At the root of this Greek word is the word “troubled.”
1. This is the voice of wailing or a screaming out.
- J. Second, there was the voice of weeping.
1. This was the sobbing, the uncontrolled crying.
- K. Third, there was the voice of great mourning.

1. This was the great cries of, “Oh No! This can’t be true.”
- L. Together, these three sounds of wailing and crying and mourning blended together to be one voice.
 1. This was one of the most terrible times in Israel’s history
- M. Verse 18 says that it is the voice of Rachel weeping for her children.
 1. But, Rachel has been dead for over a thousand years, and her grave was venerated
 2. This voice was like the voice of Rachel crying out in anguish from her grave, weeping for her children.
- N. Next, it says that Rachel would not be comforted.
- O. The reason these mothers refused to be comforted were as verse 18 says, “Because they are not.”
 1. Those children are not there to bring joy to the homes.
 2. Those children will not be there in the future to bring joy to the parents.
 3. None of those monumental events like graduations or weddings will happen for those children because they are not.
- P. Because of the rage of Herod, many children died and brought this gaping wound to Israel.

XIV. Verse 19—“*When Herod was dead*”

- A. When it came time for Herod to die, verse 19 says, “*But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel the Lord appeareth in a dream to Joseph in Egypt.*”
- B. Herod looked so powerful, and now, he is dead and looks so weak.
- C. With the death of Herod, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in Egypt to say, “*Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and go into the land of Israel: for they are dead which sought the young child's life.*”
- D. Joseph and the family had to stay in Egypt until those that sought the life of the Lord Jesus were dead.
- E. This is actually the reverse of what happened in the life of Moses. The Lord Jesus stayed in Egypt until they were told that those who wanted to kill him were dead.
 1. Moses had to stay out of Egypt until he was told that those wanted to kill him were dead in **Exodus 4:19**.
 2. Verse 19 says, “*And the LORD said unto Moses in Midian, Go, return into Egypt: for all the men are dead which sought thy life.*”

XV. Verse 21—“*And he arose...and came...Israel*”

- A. As soon as Joseph was told that it was safe to return, Joseph took his family back into Israel in **Matthew 2:21**.
 1. The verse says, “*And he arose, and took the young child and his mother, and came into the land of Israel.*”

XVI. Verse 22—“*He heard that Archelaus did reign*”

- A. When Joseph returned to Israel, he found out who the new ruler was in **Matthew 2:22**.
 1. The verse says, “*But when he heard that Archelaus did reign in Judaea in the room of his father Herod, he was afraid to go thither: notwithstanding, being warned of God in a dream, he turned aside into the parts of Galilee.*”
- B. When Herod died, his kingdom was divided between his three sons. His son Archelaus got the land of Judea.
- C. Archelaus was more cruel than Herod was. He was so cruel that Caesar Augustus banished him because there were so many complaints by the Jews about his cruelty.
- D. Joseph was afraid to go any further in Israel, and Joseph wanted to go back to Egypt.
 1. But, God would not allow Joseph to return back into Egypt.
 2. God directed him up to the north of Israel into the region of Galilee.

XVII. Verse 23—*“He came & dwelt in...Nazareth”*

- A. Verse 23 tells us that the Lord Jesus was from Nazareth.
 - 1. **Matthew 2:23** says, *“And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, He shall be called a Nazarene.”*
- B. Nazareth was a very much looked down on city in Israel. We see this when Nathanael heard that the Lord Jesus was from Nazareth, he said the following in **John 1:45-46**.
 - 1. **John 1:45-46**—⁴⁵ *Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.* ⁴⁶ *And Nathanael said unto him, Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth? Philip saith unto him, Come and see.”*
- C. It was a demeaning statement to be called a person from Nazareth.
 - 1. That is why Pilate put over the Lord’s Cross that statement in **John 19**.
 - a. **John 19:19** says, *“And Pilate wrote a title, and put it on the cross. And the writing was, JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS.”*
- D. From man’s perspective, the early history of the Lord looks so chaotic. Imagine being chased by murderers to hide in Egypt, and then because of fear, you end up in the looked down city of Nazareth.
- E. In reality, God was guiding every step. He even used the anger of man to guide where the Lord Jesus would be taken which are so well expressed in the hymn:

*If thou but suffer God to guide thee
And hope in Him through all thy ways,
He'll give thee strength, whate'er betide thee,
And bear thee through the evil days.
Who trusts in God's unchanging love
Builds on the Rock that naught can move*