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Matthew 2:1-18

1. “Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying,
2. ‘Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him.’
3. When Herod the king heard *this*, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.
4. Gathering together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.
5. They said to him, ‘In Bethlehem of Judea; for this is what has been written by the prophet:
6. “AND YOU, BETHLEHEM, LAND OF JUDAH, ARE BY NO MEANS LEAST AMONG THE LEADERS OF JUDAH; FOR OUT OF YOU SHALL COME FORTH A RULER WHO WILL SHEPHERD MY PEOPLE ISRAEL.”’
7. Then Herod secretly called the magi and determined from them the exact time the star appeared.
8. And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, ‘Go and search carefully for the Child; and when you have found *Him*, report to me, so that I too may come and worship

Him.’

9. After hearing the king, they went their way; and the star, which they had seen in the east, went on before them until it came and stood over *the place* where the Child was.

10. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.

11. After coming into the house they saw the Child with Mary His mother; and they fell to the ground and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they presented to him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

12. And having been warned *by God* in a dream not to return to Herod, the magi left for their own country by another way.

13. Now when they had gone, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, ‘Get up! Take the Child and His mother and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is going to search for the Child to destroy Him.’

14. So Joseph got up and took the Child and His mother while it was still night, and left for Egypt.

15. He remained there until the death of Herod. *This was* to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ‘OUT OF EGYPT I CALLED MY SON.’

16. Then when Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he became very enraged, and sent and slew all the male children who were in Bethlehem and all its vicinity, from two years old and under, according to the time

which he had determined from the magi.

17. Then what had been 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 COMFORTED, BECAUSE THEY WERE NO MORE.’”

In this passage we find Herod the king search out and trying to kill the Christ Child. Throughout the history of mankind we find men who lust for power and position. And they will do anything to gain and maintain control over others.

In this Scripture 1. Herod was troubled in verse 3 as the magi asked where Christ was in verse 2, 2. Herod gathered priests and scribes to find out where Christ was born in verses 4 through 6, 3. Herod secretly asked the Christ’s time of birth in verse 7, 4. Herod told the magi find the Christ and report back to him that he may worship in verse 8, but he had no intention of worshipping, 5. the magi were warned in a dream not to return to Herod in verse 12, 6. Joseph was warned and went to Egypt in verses 13-15, and 7. Herod was enraged and killed all male children two years old and under in Bethlehem and all around.

There is nothing new under the sun. Power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely. We see this in Herod as he killed children to keep his power and

position. Today, our civilized country kills unborn babies. Abortion is a political football that keeps men in power today.

January 20th marks the thirtieth anniversary of the Roe vs. Wade decision which legalized abortion in the United States. Since then, forty-two million babies have been killed. The local clinic is located with a beautiful view of a golf course and across from an elementary school. The powers that be in the city of Kalispell at the county level are closely allied with the abortionist. The local clinic averages at least one abortion a day in the past twenty years that I've been in the pro-life movement.

We encourage everyone who loves and follows Jesus to come out for the peaceful pro-life march and rally this Saturday, January 18th. The march starts at Depot Park about 2:00 in the afternoon. The rally is at Central Bible Church's gym at about 3:00. See you there.