



#3 ... Unlike Herod

Revelation 12, Matthew 2

THE CHRISTMAS THAT ALMOST WASN'T...

Revelation 12:1-4 (NIV) *A great and wondrous sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head. She was pregnant and cried out in pain as she was about to give birth. Then another sign appeared in heaven: an enormous red dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on his heads. His tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth. The dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that he might devour her child the moment it was born.*

Revelation 12:9 (NIV) *The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray.*

FAST FACTS ABOUT KING HEROD

- Known by history as “Herod the Great.” The first of many “herods” to rule in Israel.
- Born around 74BC; not an ethnic Jew.
- Appointed governor of Galilee at 25 by his father. Later given the title “tetrarch of Galilee” by Marc Antony.
- Ousted from his position but able to convince Emperor Octavian to restore his rule. Later appointed “King of the Jews” by the Roman Senate and returned to power.
- Impressed Rome and raised Israel’s profile in the world by launching an ambitious building program, financed by a heavy tax burden.
- Married ten times and had at least 15 kids.
- Became increasingly paranoid; prone to jealous outbursts and erratic acts.
- Died of kidney failure in 4BC.
- Appointed sons to succeed him — Archelaus in Judea and Antipas in Galilee.
- His tomb was discovered and excavated in 2007. No remains.

HEROD, THE WISE MEN, AND JESUS

Matthew 2:3 (NIV) *When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴ When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵ “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written: ⁶ ““But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel.” ⁷ Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸ He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”*

Matthew 2:16 (NIV) *When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. ¹⁷ Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled: ¹⁸ “A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more.”*

1. HEROD’S ISSUE IS OFTEN OUR ISSUE AS WELL — FEAR.
2. JESUS **IS** A KING, BUT HE’S A GOOD KING!
3. LET KING JESUS RULE YOUR HEART TODAY!