

## Herod's Reaction to The Birth of Jesus

Matt. 2:1-18

Introduction:

A. Herod the Great was more cruel than great. (Began 37 BC).

B. Herod the Great's reaction to news Jesus was not great.

Discussion:

II. He Reacted with An Assumption. (vs. 1-3).

A. He heard "King of Jews" - assumed political king, a threat to him.

1. Jews assumed political kingdom. (Jn. 6:15).

2. Disciples assumed political kingdom. (Matt. 20:20-22; Mk. 10:35-38).

3. Premillennialists assume political kingdom.

4. Pilate assured of non-political nature of kingdom. (Jn. 18:36).

B. People today hear something and then assume things not so.

1. Hear "water baptism", assume "water salvation." (cf. 1 Peter 3:20,21; Acts 10:46-47).

2. Hear "O.T. law done away", assume "Don't believe in O.T." (Eph 2.14-16)

3. Hear "Church not to support Orphan Homes", assume "Don't believe in orphan care" (cf. James 1:27).

III. He Reacted Dishonestly. (vs. 7-8).

A. Truth would not serve purpose - so gave noble reason for wanting to know where Jesus was.

B. Hypocrites know truth not serve purpose, so give "acceptable" reasons.

1. Factious men say they act "for good of church."

2. One offended by truth seldom complains "he got on my toes".

C. Christians can be above board about purposes and intentions. (2 Cor. 4:1-2).

1. No need to slip up on people to "convert" them.

2. No place for "cat and mouse game" in evangelism.

IV. He Reacted Excessively. (v. 16).

A. He panicked when security threatened - order ALL children under 2 killed.

B. We panic when security threatened by word or deed - do much harm.

1. No need to pull all teeth to cure one tooth-ache; pull bad one.

2. No need to over react to problems (church or personal), calmly sort out and deal with it.

V. He Reacted Vainly.

A. In vain because Jesus was no threat. (cf. Grandpa King and bulldog)

B. In vain because God's purpose could not be defeated.

Conclusion: Let us learn:

A. Get all the facts before we react.

B. Keep our designs above board.

C. Calmly and reasonably react to threats - real or imagined.

D. We cannot defeat God's way, submit to it.