

PART TWO: THE MASTER WEAVER'S MASTER PLAN

HEROD PLOTS MURDER BUT GOD RULES AND ACCOMPLISHES HIS SOVEREIGN, PROVIDENT PLAN ... KING JESUS LIVES!



I. Herod was troubled by the news of the birth of another King, 2:1-6.

- (Matthew 2:1–6 LSB) **Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem** of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, **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 And when Herod the king heard this, **he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.** 4 And gathering together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, **he was inquiring of them where the Christ was to be born.** 5 And 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 LEADER WHO WILL SHEPHERD MY PEOPLE ISRAEL.’” [Micah 5:2]

The Magi and their retinue were an impressive group and large enough to cause quite a stir in Jerusalem of which at that time the population was probably over fifty thousand.

Magi ... μάγος magos; of foreign origin, a Magian, i.e. an oriental scientist; by implication, a magician; a sorcerer, wise man. A magus was the name given by the Babylonians (Chaldeans), Medes, Persians, and others, to the wise men, teachers, priests, physicians, astrologers, seers, interpreters of dreams, augers, soothsayers, sorcerers etc.; also negatively a false prophet and sorcerer.

A. Herod gathered the chief priests and scribes to determine the place where Christ would be born.

B. They answered Herod by quoting the prophet Micah.

II. Herod initiated a plan to murder the King under the guise of worship, 2:7-12.

- (Matthew 2:7–12 LSB) **Then Herod secretly called the magi and carefully determined from them the 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 Now after hearing the king, they went their way; and behold, the star, which they had seen in the east, was going on before them until it came and stood over the place where the Child was. 10 And **when they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.** 11 And 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 in a dream not to return to Herod, the magi departed for their own country by another way.

A. Herod called a secret meeting with the magi to determine the time when the Child was born.

B. Herod carried out his inquiries under the guise of worship.

Guise: an external form, appearance, or manner of presentation, typically concealing the true nature of something.

Application: But is this really so shocking? What about our words and actions that we carry out under the pretense of godliness but are indeed only our own selfish intents and self-centered desires?

In this chess match Herod was **not a king but merely a pawn in the hand of Satan**. The great red dragon (**who is called the devil and Satan**) planned to murder the Christ child.

- (Revelation 12:2–4 LSB) **And she was with child**, and she cried out, being in labor and in pain to give birth. 3 Then another sign appeared in heaven: and behold, **a great red dragon** having seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads were seven diadems. 4 And his tail swept away a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. **And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she gave birth he might devour her child.**
- (Revelation 12:9a LSB) And **the great dragon** was thrown down, **the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan**, who deceives the whole world.

III. Herod searched for the child but was no match for the sovereign, provident plan of the Master Weaver, 2:13-15.

- (Matthew 2:13–15 LSB) Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, “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 departed for Egypt. 15 And he remained there until the death of Herod, in order that what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet would be fulfilled, saying, “OUT OF EGYPT I CALLED MY SON.” [Hosea 11:1]

IV. An enraged, devil-filled Herod murdered the male children in Bethlehem, 2:16-18.

- (Matthew 2:16–18 LSB) 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 carefully determined from the magi.** 17 Then what had been spoken through Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled, saying, 18 “A VOICE WAS HEARD IN RAMAH, WEEPING AND GREAT MOURNING, RACHEL WEEPING FOR HER CHILDREN; AND SHE WAS REFUSING TO BE COMFORTED, BECAUSE THEY WERE NO MORE.” [Jeremiah 31:13]

V. Herod died, 2:19.

- (Matthew 2:19a LSB) **But when Herod died**, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt.

HEROD DIED. KING JESUS LIVES.

**So after all the murderous scheming and plotting Herod is dead, and the Sovereign Lord of the universe wins ...
AGAIN!**