



INTRODUCTION

Recently, we have studied the people who were impacted by the first Christmas – the arrival of *Emmanuel* – God as a human baby! Israel had endured 400 years of silence from Malachi with no prophets, no angelic visits, and no new words from God... then suddenly, God broke the silence with angelic messengers – first to Zacharias, then Mary, Joseph, and shepherds. God delights in using unexpected, ordinary people in His extraordinary plan. So many Old Testament prophecies had come to pass just like the Bible says! Today, we will focus on the political climate of the day and how God's redemptive plan advances despite human fear, worldly opposition, and evil. What God purposes to do, no power – political, spiritual, or individual – can prevent. God is unstoppable! This is God's message to you...

1. A Threatened King – a king who feared losing control (*Matthew 2:1-8*)

*“When Herod the king had heard these things, **he was troubled**, and **all Jerusalem** with him.”*

- ✓ “*Troubled*” – disturbed, agitated, annoyed, stirred, shaken inwardly
- ✓ Herod's fear was not spiritual (fearing God) – it was political and personal.
- ✓ He ruled by Roman appointment and murdered family to protect his throne.
- ✓ He knew where Christ would be born; had no intention of worshipping Him.

Applications:

- Knowledge of God without submission to Christ is not salvation.
- Jesus Christ still threatens human pride and self-rule. (*Jas 2:19; Jn 5:39*)
- Many want information about Jesus but do not want Him to rule them.
- Fear of losing control is often the root of rejecting Jesus Christ.

2. A Protected Child – the Lord who guides and protects (*Matthew 2:9-15*)

*“When **they saw the star**, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.”*

*“And **being warned of God in a dream** that they should not return to Herod...”*

*“...the angel of the Lord **appeareth to Joseph in a dream**... Arise, and take the young child...”*

- ✓ God guided the wise men step-by-step; their joy increased as they went.
- ✓ God protected His plan and people through divine intervention!
- ✓ Joseph obeyed immediately (again) to save his family, advance God's plan!

Applications:

- Nothing is random in God's plan which includes:
Divine warning, human obedience, and uncoincidental fulfilled prophecies.
- God is actively guiding all events in your life and the world.
- Obedience often involves inconvenience and sacrifice.

3. A Fulfilled Plan – God prevails despite evil opposition (*Matt 2:16-18*)

“Then Herod, when he saw... he was mocked...was exceeding wrath...slew all the children.”

“Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy the prophet... lamentation... weeping...”

- ✓ Herod **attacked the children** because he could not reach or attack Christ.
- ✓ God did not **cause** Herod's sin; He did not **ignore** the suffering. (*Ezek 33:11*)
- ✓ God incorporated even tragedy into His redemptive purposes. (*Gen 50:20*)
- ✓ Evil is real. Suffering is painful. God is still in control. (*Romans 8:28; Job 1-2*)

Applications:

- When Satan cannot stop or destroy God's plan, he attacks **the innocent**.
- Human resistance to God's plan is futile. (*Psalms 2:1-6*)

Kings rage.

Rulers plot.

Nations resist.

- God is not worried – Jesus Christ reigns **whether men accept Him or not!**

Summary

“There is no wisdom nor understanding nor counsel against the LORD.” – Prov 21:30

God's plan is unstoppable. Jesus Christ is on the right hand of the Father today! And He will soon come for us, establish His earthly kingdom, and rule in Jerusalem.

The Christmas story reminds us that when the world rages and rulers resist, God is still on the throne. His plan cannot be stopped, His Son cannot be defeated, and His kingdom will not fail. It makes no sense to try to stop your Creator's plan.

You must choose whether to submit to Jesus Christ and worship Him like the wise men or resist like Herod. Eternity is a long time to be wrong, and God's plan includes an open invitation to you today (it may not be available tomorrow) ...

There are only 2 options:



Receive Jesus Christ. (Repent and Believe) At death, you instantly go to heaven.



Reject Jesus Christ. (like Herod) One second after death, you will wake up in hell.