

## Eyes Wide Open

### The Ostrich Effect

*“A cognitive bias that describes how people often avoid negative information. Instead of dealing with the situation, we bury our heads in the sand, like ostriches.”*

Fun Fact: *“Ostriches have four-inch claws on a cloven foot and can kick hard enough to kill a lion.”* -San Diego Zoo

## A Recurring Evil

### A New Pharaoh

### The Beast – Recurring Opposition

#### **Opposition:**

“Through these beasts, Satan wages his wretched war against God’s people... the power of Satan expresses itself in antichrists, in concrete historical opposition to God’s people.” *D.A. Carson*

Revelation 17:6 “I saw that the woman was drunk with the blood of the saints, the blood of those who bore testimony to Jesus.”

#### **Recurring:**

Revelation 13:3 “One of [the beast’s] heads seemed to have a mortal wound, but its mortal wound was healed, and the whole earth marveled as they followed the beast.”

Revelation 17:8 “The beast, which you saw, once was, now is not, and will come up out of the Abyss and go to his destruction. The inhabitants of the earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the creation of the world will be astonished when they see the beast, because he once was, now is not, and yet will come.”

“This beast comes, attacks, receives a fatal wound, and then disappears because of it, and then comes back again!” *D.A. Carson*

### History Repeating Itself

## The Defeat of Evil

### A New Moses

*Hosea 11:1 “Out of Egypt I called My Son”*

*How did Moses do it? How does Jesus do it?*

### Scripture Fulfilled

*Jeremiah 31 “The Lord Will Turn Mourning to Joy”*

## A Hope for You

### Hope over evil, pain, suffering

*“If there weren’t pain, suffering, sin, destruction, discouragement, and death, there would be no need for Christmas. This holiday is about suffering. This holiday is about pain. [Jesus] came to end suffering; He came to end death; He came to end sin, brokenness, pain, destruction, and discouragement. So, this is the sufferers’ holiday, rather than the holiday to be avoided.*

*As a sufferer, I ought to run toward Christmas. Christmas tells me there is hope for people like me who are going through what I’m going through. Christmas guarantees that God has, will, and will continue to address what I’m going through.” Paul David Tripp*

### Hope over death

*“Death for the Christian is to fall asleep in the arms of Jesus and waking up and finding out that you’re home.” – Alistair Begg*

### Hope from a new king

## Questions for Study and Reflection

1. Why does the Christmas story shine brighter against the backdrop of evil?
2. How does Herod’s slaughter mirror other atrocities? Why do these keep repeating?
3. Read all of Jeremiah 31. What hope does “Rachel” have in this passage? (See Jeremiah 31:15-17)
4. Imagine living under king Jesus’ eternal rule in his kingdom. What do you look forward to most?