

**Joy to the World**  
**Part 3**  
**“Stress & Conflict”**

**Matthew 2 NIV**

1 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

3 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 Messiah 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 shepherd 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 search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

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12 (the Magi) having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

13 When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. “Get up,” he said, “take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.”

**Revelation 12**

A great 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. 2 She was pregnant and cried out in pain as she was about to give birth. 3 Then another sign appeared in heaven: an enormous red dragon with seven

heads and ten horns and seven crowns on its heads. 4 Its 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 it might devour her child the moment he was born. 5 She gave birth to a son, a male child, who “will rule all the nations with an iron scepter.” And her child was snatched up to God and to his throne. 6 The woman fled into the wilderness to a place prepared for her by God, where she might be taken care of for 1,260 days.

### Scripture on Spiritual Warfare

#### **2 Corinthians 10 NKJV**

3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh.

4 For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds,

- I don't necessarily believe that every difficult situation we face is an attack of the enemy...
- Or that every difficult day is a result of the Devil having his way...
- But in the case of Mary & Joseph with Jesus the battle was Spiritual, quick and certain...
- When Jesus was born the spiritual battle began to wage...
- The Spiritual reality of what happened is clearly seen in Revelation...
  
- If you have made up your mind to follow Jesus and to serve God's Will for your life you will also encounter Spiritual Battles on the journey...
- The good news is, the word of God prepares us and equips us with what to do...

#### **1 Peter 5**

8 **Be alert and of sober mind.** Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. 9 **Resist him**, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

10 **And the God of all grace**, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, **will himself restore you and make you strong**, firm and steadfast.

## In Times of Difficulty

### **1. Be alert and of sober mind**

#### **1 Peter 5:8**

Be alert and of sober mind.

alert: be calm and collected in spirit  
sober: vigilant, give strict attention to

#### **1 Peter 4:7**

Therefore be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray.

#### **James 4**

7 Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8 Come near to God and he will come near to you.

Rule #1 in beating the Devil: Submit yourself to God  
Submit: Put under, arrange under, become a subordinate

#### **Root Text: Vs.12**

And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

#### **Proverbs 3**

5

Trust in the Lord with all your heart  
and lean not on your own understanding;

6

in all your ways submit to him,  
and he will make your paths straight.

7

Do not be wise in your own eyes;  
fear the Lord and shun evil.

## 2. Resist the plan of the Enemy

### 1 Peter 5:9

Resist him, standing firm in the faith

### James 4

7 Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Resist: to set one's self against, to withstand, oppose

### Root Text: Vs. 16

When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious,

### 2 Corinthians 2

11 in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.

## 3. Be Persistent

### 1 Peter 5:10

And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong

### Revelation 12

6 The woman fled into the wilderness to a place prepared for her by God, where she might be taken care of for 1,260 days.

*"No weapon that is formed against you will prosper; and every tongue that accuses you in judgment you will condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their vindication is from Me," declares the Lord.*

**Is. 54:17**

No weapon formed against you...

*will push forward*

*go well*

*go over*

*be any good*

*break out*

*be profitable*

*make it*

In Times of Difficulty

- 1. Be alert and of sober mind**
- 2. Resist the plan of the Enemy**
- 3. Be Persistent**