



## Murder in Bethlehem Matthew 2:16-18

**Introduction:** Most of us are familiar with \_\_\_\_\_ chapter 1.

Exodus 1:22 - *So Pharaoh commanded his people, saying, "Every son who is born you shall cast into the river, and every daughter you shall save alive."*

Moses spent \_\_\_\_\_ years in the court of Pharaoh. He was well-versed in Egyptian.

The bottom line is that \_\_\_\_\_ plan to destroy the Jewish \_\_\_\_\_ was thwarted.

Well, as we come to our text today, we have a very \_\_\_\_\_ account. We have another King who issues a decree to kill \_\_\_\_\_ children two years old and younger.

### 1. \_\_\_\_\_ – v. 16

*<sup>16</sup> Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men*

A. Herod recognized the wise men \_\_\_\_\_ him

The NKJV uses the word "deceived", whereas the KJV uses the word "\_\_\_\_\_".

B. Herod became exceedingly \_\_\_\_\_

Herod was a \_\_\_\_\_ head. Herod was \_\_\_\_\_-fused. Herod was quick-\_\_\_\_\_. He was very upset at the wise men. The KJV uses the word "wroth". He was \_\_\_\_\_!

### 2. \_\_\_\_\_ – v. 16

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A. Herod issued a \_\_\_\_\_ to kill

Josephus called him, “a man of great \_\_\_\_\_ towards all men.” (Liberty Commentary on N.T.).

“Caesar Augustus once said that he would rather be Herod’s \_\_\_\_\_ than Herod’s son.” (Bible Knowledge – Matthew 1:1-16:2).

B. Herod has all the \_\_\_\_\_ children murdered

Do you know what we call the crime of killing a child within a year of birth? We call it, \_\_\_\_\_.

C. Herod begins \_\_\_\_\_ and moves out to surrounding districts

Herod ordered that the killing begins in the town of Bethlehem. Remember, it was the Chief Priests and the Scribes who told him where the Messiah was to be \_\_\_\_\_ (Based on Prophecy – Micah 5:2).

### How Many \_\_\_\_\_ were Murdered?

Take notes here

Professor William F. Albright estimates...

Dr. Warren Wiersbe also suggests...

D. Herod has every male child \_\_\_\_\_ years old and under was murdered

Herod \_\_\_\_\_ that all the male children two years and under be killed.

### America’s Killing Fields

Herod’s decree to kill was awful – it was \_\_\_\_\_ ! But are you aware that as I speak, here in America, we have murdered over \_\_\_\_\_ million “innocent babies” through abortion?

We have nice names for our killing today:

- \_\_\_\_\_ rights
- A woman’s right to \_\_\_\_\_.
- Pro- \_\_\_\_\_.

And now in America, we are killing children at \_\_\_\_\_ term.

### Judgment Day will Arrive

Herod did not escape \_\_\_\_\_ judgment, and neither will those who kill the innocent today.

Shame on those who kill their babies. You will face \_\_\_\_\_ before Almighty God.

A. Herod based his \_\_\_\_\_ according to the time of the arrival of the wise men

Herod was calculating as he used the \_\_\_\_\_ frame from when the wise men saw the star to the present, and he figured that the King of the Jews was born somewhere in the two-year time frame. So, therefore Herod decreed that all male children two years and younger be killed.

**3. \_\_\_\_\_ – v. 17**

*<sup>17</sup> Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying:*

A. \_\_\_\_\_ was fulfilled

Think this through – the death of the male children was “*fulfilled*”. You see none of Herod’s murders took God by \_\_\_\_\_.

Charles Spurgeon penned, “Our prince steps along a pathway paved with \_\_\_\_\_.”

Edmund Burke said, “The only thing necessary for evil to triumph is for \_\_\_\_\_ people to do nothing.”

B. This Prophecy was spoken by \_\_\_\_\_

The prophet Jeremiah wrote this prophecy some \_\_\_\_\_ years before the birth of Jesus Christ. Jeremiah’s prophecy was about the death of Rachel as recorded in Genesis 35:16-20.

What became the \_\_\_\_\_ place for Rachel, became the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Messiah.

**4. \_\_\_\_\_ – v. 18**

*<sup>18</sup> “A voice was heard in Ramah, Lamentation, weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, Refusing to be comforted, Because they are no more.”*

A. A voice was \_\_\_\_\_

*A voice was heard in Ramah,*

Ramah was a town located \_\_\_\_\_ miles from Bethlehem.

So, what sounds were heard in Ramah? The sound of mothers weeping as they watched their children being carried off into \_\_\_\_\_.

There is a triple mixture mentioned here. What are they?

B. \_\_\_\_\_ weeping, and great mourning

- \_\_\_\_\_ (Greek, “threnos”, to cry aloud. Loud weeping, wailing. Outward demonstration of an inner grief).
- \_\_\_\_\_ – (Greek, “klauthmos”, bewail, wailing). Jeremiah uses the words, “bitter weeping”.
- \_\_\_\_\_ – (Greek, “odurmos”, to bewail, wailing, lamentation, mourning). Notice here in this verses that the word, “great” is in front of mourning. There was great mourning taking place in the lives of mothers.

C. Rachel is \_\_\_\_\_ for her children

The Greek word used here carries the idea, “to \_\_\_\_\_, wail, lament, implying not only the shedding of tears but also every external expression of \_\_\_\_\_.”

### Rachel’s Tomb

Rachel’s tomb is alongside the road as you enter Bethlehem today (See Genesis 35:19).

D. Refusing to be \_\_\_\_\_

If a mother loses a child, you cannot \_\_\_\_\_ that mother. A loss is a loss, and there is a terrible pain that never stops aching.

Think with me today about what the mothers of Bethlehem and the surrounding districts must have been feeling. A pain that never \_\_\_\_\_!

E. Because they are \_\_\_\_\_ more

It has been said that Birth is a \_\_\_\_\_ – it attaches a mother and a child.

So, why is it that we have women today who \_\_\_\_\_ their babies?

**Conclusions:** As I bring this chapter to a close, I think we need to be reminded that we live in a **very \_\_\_\_\_ world**, and we will always have people like \_\_\_\_\_, former Governor \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ who lawfully believe that it’s okay to kill babies. That it is a reproductive right! This is very sick thinking!

So, remember that...

1. We will always have \_\_\_\_\_ people around us.
2. Earthly rulers will decree \_\_\_\_\_ decisions.
3. Nothing takes God by \_\_\_\_\_, and He will use evil for His purposes.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ and feelings are God-given. Nothing wrong with lamentations, weeping, and great mourning.
5. Our \_\_\_\_\_ is not found in the world, but what we do see in this world makes heaven look delightful.