



**A Hidden Agenda
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Matthew 2:1-19

There are many people that investigate the story of Jesus, yet they come to different conclusions. One of the seldom talked about characters of the nativity is King Herod. King Herod knew that there couldn't be two Kings.

Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the reign of King Herod. About that time some wise men from eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the newborn King of the Jews? We saw His star as it rose, and we have come to worship Him." Matthew 2:1-2 (NLT)

1. King Herod began with what sounds like good intentions.

King Herod was deeply disturbed when he heard this, as was everyone in Jerusalem. Matthew 2:3 (NLT)

Then Herod called for a private meeting with the wise men, and he learned from them the time when the star first appeared. Then he told them, "Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child. And when you find Him, come back and tell me so that I can go and worship Him, too!" Matthew 2:7-8 (NLT)

2. Herod knew he couldn't share the throne with Christ.

...an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up! Flee to Egypt with the child and his mother," the angel said. "Stay there until I tell you to return, because Herod is going to search for the child to kill Him." Matthew 2:13 (NLT)

When Herod found out that the wise men from the east had tricked him, he was very angry. He gave orders for his men to kill all the boys who lived in or near Bethlehem and were two years old and younger. This was based on what he had learned from the wise men. So the Lord's promise came true, just as the prophet Jeremiah had said,

"In Ramah a voice was heard crying and weeping loudly. Rachel was mourning for her children, and she refused to be comforted, because they were dead." Matthew 2:16-18 (CEV)

What were the Responses to Jesus' coming?

- Some were Threatened by Jesus
- Some were Complacent about Jesus
- Some embraced Jesus and Worshipped (Luke 2:26-30)