

## King of Kings - Part 3

A King You Can't Kill

*Matthew 2:13-18*

*Memory Verses: Acts 2:24*

### MANUSCRIPT

#### Introduction (Me, We, & the Struggle)

In *Matthew chapter 2* we find three sets of kings. You have the wisemen who aren't really kings but people call them kings anyway. You have king Herod who is a kind of place holder king but refuses to ever give up his throne. And then you have a child who might just be the long awaited for Messiah, the King of Kings.

Over the past two weeks we've already seen a vast difference between the wisemen and Herod. The wisemen set aside any claim they have to kingship in order to worship the one true king; Jesus. When they see his star they take on a very long journey to find him. When they find him they bow down and worship him with gifts fit for a king. Herod on the other hand pretends to want to worship him and then seeks to destroy him. These are two drastically different approaches. Both of these parties believe that Jesus is the Messiah, but only one is willing to surrender their lives to him. Both have a head knowledge that Jesus is the one true king of kings, yet only the wisemen allow that knowledge to transform their lives.

And this question still remains for us as well; are we willing to surrender our desires to be our own king or are we going to reject the authority of the one true king in order to hold on to control over our lives. At some point we must realize that we are not the king of our life and trying to hold onto kingship will be our demise. True life, true freedom, is found in worshipping the one true king.

And as we will see this morning; you really have one of two choices here. You must either die to your self or you must try to kill Jesus. **You can try to kill Christ, but you may just end up killing your self.** But let me warn you ahead of time... Jesus Isn't easy to kill. Let's go ahead and read *Matthew 2:13-18*.

#### Teaching (Expand on the Problem, God)

The first thing I want us to see this morning is that... **Jesus is Eternal & Immortal (Matthew 2:13-15)**. So Herod tries to kill Jesus... surprise he fails! Why? Because Jesus isn't easy to kill. God sends an angel to give Joseph a heads up and they are able to escape before Herod finds them. Even here at the beginning of Jesus' life, there appears to be a divine protection over him. And why is there this supernatural shield on Jesus? Well let's go back to Genesis 1. Many

people don't recognize this fundamental biblical principal, but Jesus has always been. Look and see, Jesus was in the beginning of time. Look with me at *Genesis 1:1,26*. Here we see that God was working in the beginning of time to create the universe and the earth. In verse 26 we see something very interesting. God says; "let us." God isn't just one person... but as we see in the rest of the Bible, he is three persons; the trinity. And one of the persons of the trinity is Jesus. When God says, "let us," he's showing us that Jesus was there in the beginning. *John 1:1,14* reiterates this when we see that the Word was with God and the Word was God... and the Word became flesh. The Word, Jesus, has always been and will always be.

And he has appeared to us in human form at various points throughout time. In *Gen 14:18* Abraham meets Melchizedek, a priest and a king who Abraham worships and honors by giving him a tithe. In *Hebrews 7:1-3* we are given more information that this Melchizedek was a pre-incarnate Christ; God in the flesh. Then in *Joshua 5:12-14* we meet the Commander of the Lord's Army who again, Joshua bows down and worships. And then of course we have the fourth person in the fiery furnace in *Daniel 3:24-25* who looked like a son of the gods. That is because he was the son of God. And notice that none of these figures died... he couldn't even be burned from the fire. In all of Jesus' appearances throughout time he has proved that he is pretty hard to kill.

But people keep trying none the less. But, Jesus has withstood the test of time. Throughout the ages, they've tried to destroy his Word. Mythical books like Homer's *Odyssey* are never banded and burned. Why is that? Because they're never seen as a threat. And yet over the millenniums man has systematically tried to destroy the Bible. It's exactly why we found the Dead Sea scrolls. They were hidden away in sealed jars, preserved from those who sought to destroy it forever. *Matthew 24:35* tells us that the Word of God will never pass away. When the communist took over China the first thing they did was to try and destroy the Bible. They burned them in city squares. Many of the Chinese believers took their Bibles and carefully buried them in their back yards. When Castro took over Cuba, the first thing he did was to confiscate the Bibles, shut down the churches, and imprisoned all the pastors. In 1750's the French philosopher Voltaire declared, "Within 100 years the Bible will be forgotten." When he died, Voltaire's home was eventually bought and turned into the French Bible Society! *1 Peter 1:24-25* makes it clear that the Word of the Lord endures forever.

You can't destroy his Word and you can't destroy his worldview. When Galileo discovered that the Earth was not the center of the Universe people proclaimed.. "well there you have it God is Dead." When Fredrick Nietzsche looked upon the scientific and engineering achievements of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries he famously exclaimed God is Dead. And then of course when Darwin published his theory of evolution many in the scientific community claimed... and are still claiming that God is Dead. But the

problem is... Christianity isn't dying... no, it's still growing. In places like China, Iran, and India, places that thought they had eradicated the world of Jesus for good... Jesus is very much alive and the church is growing by leaps and bounds. You've heard it said, "if you aim for the king, you better not miss." Well I say, **Jesus is eternal, and immortal, if you aim to kill him, you'll fail.** **You can try to kill Christ, but you may just end up killing your self.**

The next thing to notice here is... **Jesus Has Always Been & Will Always Be King (Matthew 2:13-15).** In Genesis Eve was told that her heir would eventually rise up and defeat the serpent. Also in Genesis Abraham was promised that through his heir the whole world would be blessed. David was promised that an heir of his would remain on the throne forever. But that presented a problem because the Israelites went into exile and the line of kings was broken. So who is this king who would sit on the throne of David? Who is this king who would eventually destroy the serpent? Who is this king who would bless the entire world? Look back at **Matthew 2:6.** He will come from the tribe of Judah. Who is the only person who fits the bill? Look back at **Matthew chapter 1**; the genealogy of Jesus. In **vs2** he is the heir of Abraham, in **vs3** he is the heir of the tribe of Judah, and in **vs6** he is the heir of king David. Jesus is and has always been the one true king.

So how does Herod fit in here? If the line was broken who is Herod? Herod is not from the lineage of Abraham or David, so why is he the King of the Jews? Well, Herod isn't really the king of anything... he is more like a steward of the throne. He's like Denethor in the Lord of the Rings. A governor who was in charge of the kingdom until the rightful heir returned to the throne. Herod was put in power by Rome to appease the people and to act as a Roman puppet. He had no real authority over the people. He could merely do what he was allowed. He certainly had no right to deny Jesus his rightful place on the throne. Much like Gandalf said to Denethor, "you have no authority to deny the return of the king, steward."

Of course when it all played out Herod was dead and Jesus was still alive... proving that you can try to deny Jesus the throne but you will fail. **Herod died... Jesus lived... all earthly kings will pass away... only the real king lives forever.**

And it's important to remember that the first time he came he was a child, the next time he comes he will be a conqueror. Look how **Revelation 19:11-16** describes his second coming. In the end... Jesus wins; King of Kings & Lord of Lords. **You can try to kill Christ, but you may just end up killing your self.**

Lastly.... **When You Try to Kill Your King... You Kill Your Soul.**

**(Matthew 2:16-18).** Herod tries to kill Jesus and fails... so what does he do next? He kills all the boys 2 and under in the area, historians estimate somewhere around 16-24 children. Much like Pharaoh thousands of years before when he killed the Hebrew children. It's interesting that Moses escaped Pharaoh much like Jesus escaped Herod.

But let me ask you a question... how morally bankrupt must you be to kill babies? Can you think of something more evil, something more vile? You must have a deadened soul to do something like that.... and yet we kill 1 million every year through abortion. It just goes to show that when we try to kill Jesus we end up killing our souls. **When we've killed Jesus in our hearts, when we've refused him the throne, our souls become dark and dead.** Think about this; when Judas betrayed Christ what did he do? He went out and killed himself. Why? Because he couldn't live with his dark soul... he had killed the only one with the key to meaning and purpose, and now he had nothing left to live for. Listen, no matter how hard to you try to convince yourself otherwise... if you have discarded Jesus as King... you have no purpose. A year ago some of my favorite youtubers Rhett & Link came out as having left Christianity and became atheists. And one thing Rhett said stood out to me... He said, **"I know that by not believing in Christ anymore I don't have much of a purpose.. but I'll just have to try to find one."**

The bottom line is this... if you reject Christ as king... you'll be left with a very lonely kingdom. **You can try to kill Christ, but you may just end up killing your self.**

### Application

You can't kill the immortal, eternal King of Kings... he's here to stay and he's here to reign forever. You can accept it, accept him as your King and your Lord, or you can try to kill him in your heart. The problem is clear... when you try to kill Jesus in your heart... you destroy your soul. **You can try to kill Christ, but you may just end up killing your self.**

### Conclusion

But you say, didn't Jesus actually die? And I'm glad you brought that up. He did die... but not because someone killed him, rather because he laid his life down so that we could be saved. The only way Jesus could die is if he allowed it. And then just as quick as he died... he took his life back up again and was resurrected from the dead. Look at **Acts 2:23-24.** I love this passage. Jesus can't be held by death. He is alive forevermore... and you can also be alive forevermore by surrendering to him as king of kings and Lord of Lords.