



“THEN HEROD...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...” – MATT. 2:16

The Clash of Two Kingdoms

The Enemy

- “For every tree is known by its own fruit.” (Lk. 6:44)
- “You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.” (Jn. 8:44)



The Enemy

- Herod lied to the wise men
- “I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.” (Rev. 3:15-16)
- Herod murdered the children of Bethlehem



The Enemy

- The reign of Herod is marked by hostility
 - Terrorism
 - New Atheists
 - Homosexual movement



Bethlehem

- Rachel dies while giving birth
 - *Benoni* = son of my sorrow
 - *Benjamin* = son of my right
- “He is despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.” (Is. 53:3)
- “Him God has exalted to His right hand to be Prince and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.” (Acts 5:31)

Bethlehem: Historical context

- “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.” (Jer. 31:15)



God: The Holy Family

- Joseph did not complain about the journey to Egypt
 - “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.” (Matt. 1:21-22)



God: The Holy Family

- St. Joseph submitted himself and his family to God's direction
 - “And Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.” (Jn. 1:46)
- Courage
- Humility



Conclusion

- Psalm 2:
 - Why did the nations rage, and the peoples meditate on vain things? The kings of the earth stood up, and the rulers gathered together against the Lord and against His Christ; saying, “Let us break through their bonds, and cast away their yoke from us.”
 - He who dwells in the heavens shall laugh at them, and the Lord shall mock them. Then He shall speak to them in His anger, and in His wrath He shall trouble them.