

Antagonism Toward Christmas

Matthew 2:12-18

Matthew 2:12-18 (NASB)

¹²“And having been warned *by God* in a dream not to return to Herod, the magi left for their own country by another way.

¹³Now when they had gone, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up! Take the Child and His mother and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is going to search for the Child to destroy Him.”

¹⁴So Joseph got up and took the Child and His mother while it was still night, and left for Egypt.

¹⁵He remained there until the death of Herod. *This was* to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: “OUT OF EGYPT I CALLED MY SON.”

¹⁶Then when Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he became very enraged, and sent and slew all the male children who were in Bethlehem and all its vicinity, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the magi.

¹⁷Then what had been spoken through Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled:

¹⁸“A VOICE WAS HEARD IN RAMAH, WEEPING AND GREAT MOURNING, RACHEL WEEPING FOR HER CHILDREN; AND SHE REFUSED TO BE COMFORTED, BECAUSE THEY WERE NO MORE.”

Look around you. While many may be enjoying the festivities of Christmas, some are still holding on to bitterness and disdain. But don't be surprised—the problem isn't the season; it's the Savior. Our need for salvation reminds us of our own shortcomings and inability to redeem ourselves.

This is not the first time that Jesus stirred up antagonism in someone's heart. Herod was troubled when he heard that the magi were looking for the King of the Jews. When they didn't return to report the location of the Christ child, he became enraged and slaughtered all the male children in Bethlehem who were two years of age and under ([Matthew 2:16](#)).

Matthew 2:16 (NASB)

¹⁶“Then when Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he became very enraged, and sent and slew all the male children who were in Bethlehem and all its vicinity, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the magi.”

What is it about Jesus that causes some people to feel such hostility? Herod's fury was fueled by his desire for power and control. He didn't want another king, no matter how small, to dethrone him. People today scorn the celebration of Christ's birth for the same reason—they don't want anyone else ruling their life.

[Romans 1:18](#) says that people who reject Jesus Christ have suppressed the truth.

Romans 1:18 (NASB)

¹⁸“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness.”

The Lord pointed out that those who fear their deeds will be exposed as evil won't come to the Light ([John 3:19-20](#)).

John 3:19-20 (NASB)

¹⁹ **“This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil.”**

²⁰ **“For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed.”**

However, we should never assume that salvation is impossible for someone who is hostile to Jesus. After all, the apostle Paul was an aggressive persecutor of the church until his conversion.

Sometimes, people who resent Christianity and Christmas may seem unreachable to us. But remember: **No one is beyond the reach of Jesus!**