

HEROD



*The story of Christmas is a story about two kings. One of them was King Herod.*

When Jesus was born in the village of Bethlehem in Judea, Herod was king. During this time some wise men from the east came to Jerusalem and said, “Where is the child born to be king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him.” When King Herod heard about this, he was worried, and so was everyone else in Jerusalem. Herod brought together the chief priests and the teachers of the Law of Moses and asked them, “Where will the Messiah [God’s promised king] be born?” They told him, “He will be born in Bethlehem, just as the prophet wrote...”

Matthew 2.1-5a



When Herod heard about “the child born to be king of the Jews” he thought that Jesus might one day try to take his place as king, so Herod came up with a plan.

Herod secretly called in the wise men and asked them when they had first seen the star. He told them, “Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, let me know. I want to go and worship him too.” The wise men listened to what the king said and then left.



And the star they had seen in the east went on ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. They were thrilled and excited to see the star. When the men went into the house and saw the child with Mary, his mother, they knelt down and worshiped him. They took out their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh and gave them to him.

Later they were warned in a dream not to return to Herod and they went back home by another road. After the wise men had gone, an angel from the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up! Hurry and take the child and his mother to Egypt! Stay there until I tell you to return, because Herod is looking for the child and wants to kill him.”

Matthew 2.7-13



Herod wanted to be in control – to be Number 1. He didn’t want anyone else to be his king and tell him what to do.

*The other king in the Christmas story is Jesus. Jesus was a completely different kind of king.*



JESUS



Jesus didn’t live in a palace or wear a crown or have lots of servants. Instead, Jesus came to serve and help others – Jesus was a servant king.

*And this is the kind of king that Jesus really is.*

[Jesus] Christ was humble. He obeyed God [the Father] and even died on a cross. Then God gave Christ the highest place and honoured his name above all others. So at the name of Jesus everyone will bow down, those in heaven, on earth and under the earth. And to the glory of God the Father everyone will openly agree, “Jesus Christ is Lord!”

Philippians 2.8-11

