

HOW WILL YOU RESPOND?

Matthew 1:18-2:23

We live in a world of news, global news, 24/7. It does not matter what happens, even in some remote spots, with in a short time that news is broadcasted around the world. Sometimes the news comes so fast that we have a hard time properly responding to it. In fact, such a process tends to harden us.

It is hard to imagine any news more wonderful than the birth announcement of the Savior of the world. This news was the greatest of all news and should have caused an enormous response. Just like today, there was a response by those who heard, but most of it was not appropriate.

With Christmas to be celebrated in a few days, how have you and will you respond to the Christ of Christmas?

THREE RESPONSES TO THE NEWS OF THE BIRTH OF THE SAVIOR URGING US TO WORSHIP THE KING.

Don't allow your familiarity with this great news to hinder you from worshipping the Lord Jesus.

I. **Some People Respond To The Birth Of Jesus With Hatred. (v. 2:3-13)**

- A. King Herod was deeply troubled when he heard the news that there was another one who was called, "the king of the Jews." (2:3)
- B. This Herod was known as "the Great," and is the first of several New Testament Herods.
 - 1. He was actually under Roman rule, but had himself proclaimed as "King."
 - 2. At this point, Herod was in the last few years of his reign. He was a wicked man who was so cruel that he killed his wife, her grandmother, mother, and three of his sons, plus hundreds of his subjects. He was evil and filled with paranoia. (a bad conscience)
- C. Herod's initial response to the news of Jesus' birth was deceptive. (2:4-13)
 - 1. He called for his religious people to tell him where the birth occurred. Micah 5:2 "Bethlehem...out of you will come the Ruler..."
 - 2. He called the wise men to discover the time that this King was born. (v.7ff)
 - 3. Yet his true desire was to kill the Christ child. (v. 13)

Like many hardhearted people today Herod's response revealed he wanted to know nothing of God's way except to eliminate it. Such an attitude reveals pride, self-interest, and greed for power.

II. **Some People Respond With Indifference To The Birth Of The Savior. (2:4-6)**

Many people hear about the birth of God's promised Son but continue on as if it meant nothing.

