

Those Seeking Jesus

Herod the King of Judea was a troubled and insecure monarch. He was only in power because his kingdom was supported by Roman military might. He knew that he was not the rightful ruler of Judea because he was not a descendant of David, so he was always on the watch for any sign of Davidic heir rising to take over. So, we can understand why Herod wanted to find Jesus so badly. Herod wanted to wipe out his competition.

With angelic intervention Joseph knew what Herod's plans were and sought sanctuary in Egypt. When an angel told Joseph, it was safe to Israel, he was still a little nervous because Herod's son was now ruling Judea. If the son was at all like the father, then Jesus was still not safe. Again, a dream provides the direction and Joseph moved his family to a quiet village, far off the beaten path where a descendant of King David could grow up in peace. It is interesting to point out that Joseph himself was a rightful heir to the throne of David and so it makes sense to imagine Joseph trying to live a quiet life so as not to attract the attention of Herod. Also, it means that Joseph, guardian of the son of God could have been a king too.

From the very beginning at his birth there was tension in the story. There were those who looked for Jesus to worship and honor him: the shepherds, the wise men and later after Jesus started his ministry there were followers and people looking for miracles. Then there were those who wanted to trick Jesus, arrest him and kill him.

Even today there are those who want to stop Jesus. Their worldview is based what they believe is right—a view

based on feelings and perceived truths. The biblical worldview is what Jesus was using and today his followers try to use it too. Christians listen to God to tell them how to live their lives and how to treat others. Because we listen to God, we are more likely to avoid danger and even our fears can be a gift from God. Remember in the scripture lesson when Joseph is told it is safe to come back the land of Israel, he is afraid so God lets Joseph decide to live in the town of Nazareth which fulfills a prophecy about Jesus.