

THE HOLLOW HOLD OF HEROD

“Why in the World (4)”

December 24, 2017

→ Notice Matthew’s Birth Trilogy: Matthew 1 and 2.

- 1: 1-17 = WHO- The Picture FRAME
- 1: 17-25 = HOW- The BEFORE Frame
- 2: 1-23 WHEN & WHERE- The AFTER Frame

→ A Study of Forces:

- Center- force-- JESUS!
- Centripetal—the power that compels an orbiting object INTO its center.
- Centrifugal—the power that propels an orbiting object AWAY FROM its center.

→ God’s Power is the Strongest Force in the World:

1. Herod says “*Status quo is the way to go!*” (vv. 3-5)

God’s power works supremely NOT in glitzy ways, but for PERMANENT change.

CHRISTMAS MUSCLE: Dare to lean into the ORDINARY

2. Herod says “*The power of this evil world is what’s in control!*” (v.12)

God’s power works sovereignly in the birth of a Baby under the shadow of Herod!

CHRISTMAS MUSCLE: Dare to live like the Power of Jesus is STRONGER

3. Herod says: “*I will obliterate all hope of God’s promises.*” (vv.16-18)

God’s power works unbelievably through impossible situations for the greatest GOOD

CHRISTMAS MUSCLE: Dare to live as a person of HOPE !

“If God be for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously provide us with all things? For I am convinced that...nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ our Lord.” Romans 8: 31, 32, 39

Bible Reading: Matthew 2: 1-3, 7-16

¹ Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem,

² saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

³ When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him;

⁷ Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared.

⁸ And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.”

⁹ After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was.

¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.

¹¹ And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.

¹² And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

¹³ Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.”

¹⁴ And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt

¹⁵ and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, “Out of Egypt I called my son.”

¹⁶ Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men.