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Job

Exodus 1: 15 Then Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, gave this order to the Hebrew midwives, Shiphrah and Puah: 16 “When you help the Hebrew women as they give birth, watch as they deliver. If the baby is a boy, kill him; if it is a girl, let her live.” 17 But because the midwives feared God, they refused to obey the king’s orders. They allowed the boys to live, too.

Matthew 2: Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the reign of King Herod. About that time some wise men from eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem, asking, 2 “Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose, and we have come to worship him.”

3 King Herod was **deeply disturbed** when he heard this, as was everyone in Jerusalem.

Matthew 2: 4 He called a meeting of the leading priests and teachers of religious law and asked, **“Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?”**

5 “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they said...8 Then he told them, “Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child. And when you find him, come back and tell me so that I can go and worship him, too!”

Matthew 2: 16 Herod was furious when he realized that the wise men had outwitted him. He sent soldiers to kill all the boys in and around Bethlehem who were two years old and under, based on the wise men's report of the star's first appearance.

Pharaoh and Herod:

Lust for power

Great builders

Used Jews in forced labor

Ordered infanticide

Extremely paranoid

Injustice

The power of Pharaoh

Divine status, enslave entire nations, largest military, land possession, infanticide

The power of Herod

Ruled crucial area of Roman Empire, extortion, executions, enslavement, infanticide

Beginning of the Conflict

Genesis 3: 15 And I will cause hostility between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring. He will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.”

Christmas is a time for family
and joy.

It's also a time to recognize
the tension between Herod and
Jesus.

In the kingdom of Herod/Pharaoh,
power defeats power.

In the kingdom of Herod/Pharaoh,
power defeats power.

In the Kingdom of God, weakness
defeats power.

Jesus and Moses:

Miraculous births

Born into foreign occupation

Deliverers

Law Givers

Liberators

Shining faces

Jesus and Moses:

Were born in enemy-occupied
territory

Jesus and Moses:

Were born in enemy-occupied
territory

Took down empires through
personal weakness

Romans 12: 2 Do not conform to the **pattern of this world**, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

The “pattern of this world” is the
pattern of Herod & Pharaoh

Consumption, greed, lust, lust for
power, legacy, narcissism, violence

The opposite of being
conformed
is being transformed.

Romans 12: 3 Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought...**9** Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. **10** Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves...**14** Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse...**17** Do not repay anyone evil for evil...**18** If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. **19** Do not take revenge...

**The path of conforming is the path
of least resistance.**

The path of conforming is the path
of least resistance.

The path of transforming is the
path of thoughtfulness,
intentionality, and discipline.

Enemy-occupied territory--that is what this world is. Christianity is the story of how the rightful king has landed, you might say landed in disguise, and is calling us to take part in a great campaign of sabotage.

--C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

Romans 1: I Paul, a **servant** of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God...

Philippians 1: I Paul and Timothy, **slaves** of Christ Jesus, to all the saints in Christ Jesus...

Romans 1: I From Paul, a **slave** of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for God's good news.

Romans 1: 7 To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be his holy people:

1 Corinthians 1: 2 To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be his holy people

For Paul, a disciple is a
slave to Christ because he is
called by God.

We are called to what Jesus
did: Respond to the patterns &
powers of this world with the
weakness & authority of Christ.

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