

Matthew 2:13-23

3 Things Christmas Did Not Do



Background/Context

- Author: Former tax collector Matthew (AD 50-60)
- Audience: Primarily Jewish
- Verses: Chronicle of Jesus' birth and early childhood
- Wise Men: (Magi) Some extended time after Jesus' birth, priestly, astrologer class comes from Persia (Iran/Iraq) to worship Messiah

Immediately Eliminate All Evil

- (vv. 13-15) Trip of Wise Men took time, travel was between 800 and 1,000 miles
- After miraculous birth of Jesus, still evil in world
- King Herod, wickedly sought to protect his reign through murder and destruction
- Even wanted to kill the Messiah to keep his power and rule!
- Jesus' birth glorious, but came into world filled with evil

- I John 5:19, “We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one.”
- Eph. 6:12, “For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.”



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Instantly Eradicate All Suffering

- (vv. 16-18) Horrified to read monstrous event from Herod
- He orders brutal murder of male children in Bethlehem 2 years and younger!
- Unbelievable suffering that goes beyond words; the murder of small children and infants
- Can only imagine heartache of parents
- Suffering continued after Jesus' birth and continues today

I Peter 4:12-13, “Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ’s sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy.”



Erase The Complete Victory That Is Coming

- (vv. 19-23) God in total control with all authority
- God instructs Joseph to return to Israel, guided to Nazareth (God guided, protected and gave victory)
- All through evil and suffering God guided/provided
- Everything moved according to God's word, will, and way
- Evil/Suffering were used to accomplish God's plan
- One day all evil and suffering will be erased completely

- Rev. 21:4, “And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.”
- 2 Peter 3:13, “Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.”



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