

THE CHRISTMAS GRINCH
MATTHEW 2:1-22 / 4-28-19 / P.M.

I. HEROD'S LIFE.

- A. He was born in 72 or 73 B.C.
 - 1. His father was, Antipater, who was an Edomite and a political rising star. His father converted to Judaism for political reasons
 - 2. His mother, Cyprus, was the daughter of an Arab sheik.
 - 3. Herod was close friends with Octavian who became Caesar Augustus. This friendship landed him the kingship of Israel in 37 B.C.
- B. Herod was responsible for several ambitious building programs. **(SLIDES).**
 - 1. Masada.
 - 2. The Cave of the Patriarchs.
 - 3. Caesarea-Maritima.
 - 4. The Herodium.
 - 5. The Temple Mount.
- C. Herod's strengths.
 - 1. Massive building programs.
 - 2. Increase of Israel's world standing by expanding international commerce.
 - 3. He kept order in Israel by using secret police.
 - 4. He worked well with the Romans.
- D. Herod's weaknesses.
 - 1. He was a brutal man who killed anyone he considered a threat including his father-in-law, several of his ten wives and even two of his own children.
 - 2. He favored the Romans over the Jews.
 - 3. His heavy taxation to fund his ambitious building projects burdened the people.

E. Herod's demise.

1. According to Jewish historian, Josephus, he died in 4 B.C. of a painful disease.
2. His kingdom was divided among three sons: Archelaus, Philip, and Herod Antipas who questioned Jesus before his crucifixion.
3. He is only referenced in Matthew 2 and Luke 1:5.
4. His death made it possible for Mary, Joseph and Jesus to return to Israel from Egypt—Matt. 2:19-21.

II. HEROD'S LESSONS.

- A. Uncontrolled ambition can turn a person into a monster.
- B. Jealousy clouds good judgement.
- C. Great accomplishments are no substitute for knowing Jesus—Matt 16:26.