

The Forgotten Jesus Podcast
S3E21 - Christmas Bonus #4
Two Kingdoms & Two Kings

Description – Why was the King of Kings born in such a humble, lowly place? Why not a royal palace with fine silks and linens? Join us today as we look at the Kingdom of the world, and the Kingdom of the Messiah.

Matthew 2:1-3

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of King Herod, wise men from the east arrived in Jerusalem, ² saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star at its rising and have come to worship him.” ³ When King Herod heard this, he was deeply disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him.

On one side, you have King Herod and his kingdom. On the other side, you have King Jesus and his kingdom.

Herod was wealthy beyond belief. He spent his wealth on two main things:

1. Building Cities
2. Building monuments to himself

His wealth came from the spice trade, he was ridiculously wealthy.

He wanted to be known as the master builder.

He built three things that we talk about today from the Bible.

1. Masada - a giant fortress down by the dead sea to the south to protect from outside invading forces and to protect the spice routes.
 - a. Herod never went there. He had it built but was never there in person.
 - b. It's also the place where in the 70's when Rome invaded the Jews escaped to to try to make a last stand. They all died, but held out for over a year.
2. The Temple - David's temple was already there, but Herod expanded the whole temple complex.
3. Herodium - a palace built on top of a mountain, it's believed to be the place where Herod the great was buried. Herodium wasn't a mountain, Herod had the dirt and rock brought in to build a mountain, to THEN build his palace on top of. Also, this overlooked and overshadowed the city of.... Bethlehem.

So, you have this earthly, flashy, wealthy, opulent kingdom on one side, and on the other, you have a King who's born in a manger.

You have a King who is born into the most humble circumstances. He's a complete contradiction to King Herod.

You have poor working class parents, they have scandal hanging over them because of Mary's pregnancy, you have a king who's born in a cave, wrapped in swaddling cloths, laid in a feeding trough and who's visited by the lowest of the low, shepherds, who couldn't even testify in court.

So when God comes on the scene, he comes in the lowest way possible. Why? To show how much God despises pride.

James 4:6

⁶ But he gives greater grace. Therefore he says: **God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble.**

The one who is High and lifted up, wants to come down and dwell with his people.

The incarnation is a picture of humility!

Philippians 2:5-11

⁵ Adopt the same attitude as that of Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, existing in the form of God, did not consider equality with God as something to be exploited. ⁷ Instead he emptied himself by assuming the form of a servant, taking on the likeness of humanity. And when he had come as a man, ⁸ he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death— even to death on a cross. ⁹ For this reason God highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow— in heaven and on earth and under the earth— ¹¹ and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

So here's a question to ask: Why don't I see more of the power of God in my life? Will I build my own kingdom and make it all about me? Or will I humble myself and seek to live in God's Kingdom.

So why don't we see more of God's power and presence in our lives? We stink of pride. We boast all about what we have, or what we do, or how much we have, etc.

God will not share the stage with anyone. God despises the prideful, because it goes against his very nature.

God's covenant with man is eternal, however, experiencing God's presence is conditional on our attitude and our hearts. When we live in sin and pride, we limit God's presence in our lives.

Now, back to the 1st century.

Because of Herodium, Bethlehem was being hailed as the city of Kings. Everyone came to marvel at Herod's palace.

But instead of being born in Herodium, Jesus was born in a cave. He's not born in ritzy royal glamor, he's born in humble circumstances in a cave, and the first to see him are Shepherds.

Jesus has nothing by the world's standards, but He spoke all things into existence. He owns it all.

So what kingdom are you living in? The Kingdom of pride and boastfulness, or the Kingdom of peace and shalom that comes by humbling yourself and repenting before God.

In Matthew 2, did you notice how Matthew shifts from King Herod to just "Herod" by verse 7 after the wise men share the prophecy with him? Why? Because Matthew is pointing to the fact that there's only one true king, and one true kingdom.