

December 24, 2017

"Miss, Hiss or Kiss?" How Will You Respond to Christ?

Matthew 2:1-18

I. Most people MISS Jesus Christ –

"Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. ¹⁴ Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it. (Matthew 7:13-14 NKJ)

In Matthew 7:13-14, Jesus is the speaker, He is near the end of His sermon on the Mount and He is calling people to respond to His message. As He does this, he contrasts what most people will do, to what the few do, and that is the MAJORITY GO in the BOARD WAY that leads to DESTRUCTION!

We see this in the Birth of Christ account –

1. By most, Jesus was not noticed for Who He really was – And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. (Luke 2:7 NKJ)

2. Jesus was not sought after to the degree of Hiss worth – saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him." ³ When Herod the king heard *this*, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴ And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵ So they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet: (Matthew 2:2-5 NKJ)

- A. Note, Herod gathered the chief priests and scribes
- B. Note, they knew where Christ was to be born
- C. None of them actually travelled to Bethlehem to see, know, honor or worship the New Born King!

They were hearers, or readers and even teachers of God's Word, but they were not doers of it – But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. (James 1:22 NKJ)

II. Other people HISS at Jesus Christ –

1. Included among the hissers was king Herod, talk of another king, competition, was troubling to him -

saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him." ³ When Herod the king heard *this*, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. (Matthew 2:2-3 NKJ)

"and all Jerusalem with him" - probably referred to the ruling class!

2. Like many politicians since, he lies about wanting to worship Christ, when really, he desires to kill Him –

Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared. ⁸ And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found Him, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also." (Matthew 2:7-8 NKJ)

3. When Herod realizes that the wise men are not going to return and tell him where Jesus, the King of the Jews, is, he goes into a murderous rage –

Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men. ¹⁷ Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying: ¹⁸ "A voice was heard in Ramah, Lamentation, weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, refusing to be comforted, because they are no more." (Matthew 2:16-18 NKJ)

A. This rage was Satanic, the Revelation 12 dragon is Satan as ruler of an ungodly world –

And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. ⁴ His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born. (Revelation 12:3-4 NKJ)

So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; ... (Revelation 12:9 NKJ)

B. Revelation 12:4, he was ready to devour Christ ... Herod was his henchman, and just one of MANY!

III. Wise men KISS Jesus Christ –

Why do the nations rage, And the people plot a vain thing? ² The kings of the earth set themselves, And the rulers take counsel together, Against the LORD and against His Anointed, *saying*, ³ "Let us break Their bonds in pieces And cast away Their cords from us." ⁴ He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; The Lord shall hold them in derision. ⁵ Then He shall speak to them in His wrath, And distress them in His deep displeasure: ⁶ "Yet I have set My King On My holy hill of Zion." ⁷ "I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me, `You are My Son, Today I have begotten You. ⁸ Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations for Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth for Your possession. ⁹ You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel.'" ¹⁰ Now therefore, be wise, O kings; Be instructed, you judges of the earth. ¹¹ Serve the LORD with fear, And rejoice with trembling. ¹² **Kiss the Son**, lest He be angry, And you perish *in* the way, When His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him. (Psalm 2:1-12 NKJ)

1. Psalm 2 is wonderful because it talks about this Herod-like, Satanic rage – "Why do the nations rage..." (Psalm 2:1 A NKJ)
2. It tells us this rage is –
 - A. Vain - a vain thing (Psalm 2:1 A NKJ)
 - B. Laughable - ." ⁴ He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; (Psalm 2:4 NKJ)
 - C. It is the opposite of recommended wisdom -

" ¹⁰ Now therefore, **be wise**, O kings; be instructed, you judges of the earth. ¹¹ Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. ¹² **Kiss the Son**, lest He be angry, and you perish *in* the way, When His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.

3. Acts 4, tells us the Psalm 2 rage was directed against Christ not only by Herod at Christ's birth but also by another Herod when Christ died; and yet God was totally in control of all the ungodly rage –

"who by the mouth of Your servant David have said: `Why did the nations rage, And the people plot vain things? ²⁶ The kings of the earth took their stand, And the rulers were gathered together Against the LORD and against His Christ.' ²⁷ "For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together ²⁸ "to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done. (Acts 4:25-28 NKJ)

4. The wise-men give us a beautiful picture of KISSING Christ –

A. They travelled a distance to see and honor Christ –

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, (Matthew 2:1 NKJ) They did not stop until they arrived at HIS house -

B. They studied, questioned and put footwork with that study – saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him." (Matthew 2:2 NKJ)

- The study of the star was probably some kind of astrology, most astrology today is total foolishness, but D. James Kennedy wrote a book called "The Real Meaning of the Zodiac." It argues that the Zodiac points us to Christ!

- Virgo, the Virgin, he says speaks of Christ as the Seed of the Woman – Genesis 3 and of the virgin – Isaiah 7:14

"Therefore, the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel. (Isaiah 7:14 NKJ)

- Daniel was once one of these wise men in Babylon – young men in whom *there* was no blemish, but good-looking, gifted in all wisdom, possessing knowledge and quick to understand, who *had* ability to serve in the king's palace, and whom they might teach the language and literature of the Chaldeans. (Daniel 1:4 NKJ) Daniel could have written things about Christ and the star which we do not have today. However, they got they information, they knew what they were doing -

- The star is identified as His star (Matthew 2:2 NKJ)
- The star led them directly to Christ -

... and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. (Matthew 2:9 NKJ)

- They rejoiced in the leading of this star –

When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. (Matthew 2:10 NKJ)

- When they found Christ, they worshipped (KISSED) Him; with humility and treasures –

And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. (Matthew 2:11 NKJ)

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