

H is for ... Herod

Not all the kings in the Christmas story are good. One king, Herod, was evil. When some wise men came saying, "Where is the baby who was born to be the king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east. We came to worship him." Herod was troubled. So he asked the wise men to find this King and come back and tell him where he was so that Herod could worship him too. But Herod did not really want to worship the new king. He was jealous and he had a wicked plan in mind.

The wise men found Jesus, worshipped him and gave him their gifts. When the wise men did not return, Herod saw he had been tricked and his jealousy turned to anger. So he gave an order to kill all the baby boys in Bethlehem and in all the area around Bethlehem who were two years old or younger.

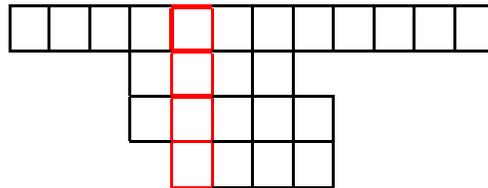
An angel of the Lord came to Joseph in a dream. The angel said, "Get up! Take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Herod will start looking for the child to kill him. Stay in Egypt until I tell



you to return."

Herod thought he could get rid of Jesus. But King Jesus is more powerful than any human king. Herod is dead but Jesus is alive. Please come and worship him with us at Market Overton Free Church this Christmas.

Look in the Bible to answer the questions and fill in the letters. The story is in Matthew chapter 2. The red squares spell one of Jesus' titles.



What was one of the gifts the men gave Jesus?

They were ____ men.

An ____ came to Joseph in a dream.

What was another of the gifts the men gave?

Market
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Insight

Winter
2017

What do we learn from History?

There is a saying that goes: "The only thing we learn from history is



that we learn nothing from history". But if we don't learn from history then we run the risk of making the same old mistakes that our predecessors made.

What can we learn then on the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation?

The Reformation began in Germany when Martin Luther (not to be confused with Martin Luther-King!) nailed his 95 statements/questions to the church door in Wittenberg.

Martin was a monk who thought that favour with God was something you had to earn by doing good-works. So Martin assumed that living a very strict life full of religious duties would be pleasing to God and he would be able to earn his way into heaven.

Martin, however, began to study the Bible, which at the time was inaccessible to the common people due to it

being in Latin. As a scholar Martin was able to read the Bible and found that many of the religious practices of the day were not found in the Bible and were contrary to it. He also discovered that God's forgiveness could not be earned by doing good things. He found the Bible taught forgiveness was freely available through faith in Jesus Christ.

Martin discovered that Jesus' death on the cross at Calvary was for him and for all who believed on Jesus. It was on the cross that Jesus was punished for our sins, so Jesus had paid the price for our sins and we don't need to attempt to earn our salvation.

This was radical teaching and it cut across the church's teaching and they were not pleased. Luther was condemned by the church authorities, but friends rescued him and he escaped, changed his identity and spent his time translating the Bible into German for the

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Insight

- Issued four times a year
- To keep you informed
- To stimulate thought
- To invite you to our events

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Free Church

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common people to read and writing about his discoveries.

With the invention of the printing press Luther's work spread rapidly and the Reformation in Europe began.

What do we learn from this history?

We learn that it is only when we return to the true teaching of the Bible do we find the true way of salvation. It is as relevant today as in the time of Luther that God's forgiveness is freely available simply through believing in Jesus. We still cannot earn our own salvation.

Reformation was not completed in the Martin Luther's time. The church today needs to be reforming in order to stay in line with the Bible's teaching and make that teaching relevant to this present generation.

If we fail to be a reforming church we can easily drift into false teaching and false practices.

The 2001 modern hymn by Stuart Townend captures the essence of the 500 year old Reformation:

1. *In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All,
Here in the love of Christ I stand.*

2. *In Christ alone! - who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save:
Till on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied -
For every sin on Him was laid;
Here in the death of Christ I live.*

(Full version, 4 verses, can be found at:
www.stuarttownend.co.uk/song/in-christ-alone)



Market Overton
Free Church

Sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ

Diary Dates:

Minister:
Rev. Peter Rush

Elder:
Roy Palframan

Phone:
01572 767383

Email:
insight@mofc.org.uk

Morning Worship - Every Sunday, 10.30am
MO Village Hall - suitable for all.

Evening Worship - Every Sunday 6.30pm except the
last Sunday: All Age Service 4.30pm
Edmondthorpe Social Club

Midweek meeting - Most Thursdays, 7.30pm
MO Village Hall (but check website)

Coffee Hour - Friday, 10.30am:
8 December, 12 January, 9 February
MO Village Hall

For latest
information:
www.mofc.org.uk

Celebrate the Christ of Christmas with us this year



Coffee Hour

Friday 8th Dec. 10.30am in Market Overton Village Hall.
A relaxed time chatting over a coffee with a brief Christmas message.

Carols by candlelight

Thursday 21st Dec. 6.30pm in Market Overton Village Hall.
Coffee shop style seating in a specially decorated hall. Singing familiar carols and thinking together about the meaning of Christmas. Then delicious refreshments to enjoy.

Carol Service

Christmas Eve 10.30am in Market Overton Village Hall.
Carols, Bible readings, and a message - all explaining the reason for the season. Drinks and mince pies served afterwards.

All-age Christmas Service

Christmas Eve 4.30pm in Edmondthorpe Social Club.
A service with something for everyone, old and young and in-between. We have a 'bring and share tea' after this service, so do join us for this too.

Christmas Day Praise

Christmas Day morning 10.30am in Market Overton Village Hall.
A shorter service celebrating the significance of this special day.

You are most welcome to join for any of these events.
Please get in touch if you need more information:
peter@mofc.org.uk or 01572 767383.



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