

## Herod Was Correct

King Herod, the most powerful man in the region, was greatly troubled to hear about the birth of a king. Why would a reigning king fear a little child? Perhaps because he believed if word spread that a future messiah had been born, the Jews would be harder to control. They were easier to dominate when they were without hope, without a leader.

Herod was correct. Wise men from the East looking for the King of the Jews fulfilled prophecies that foretold all nations would come to Israel looking for a messianic leader.

Herod was also troubled because, if indeed this newborn was a king, he had a pretender and a competitor right under his royal nose. King Herod was correct again.

Although Jesus did not pretend to overthrow the Romans, he did come with authority and would upend the existing order. Jesus would preach to the heart and demand that no one sit on that throne except God his Father.

Pseudo Domenico presents the arrival of the Magi as a procession of vassals showing homage to their king. Kneeling, bowing, and standing erect with gifts in hand, authorities from far away are showing reverence to the newborn royalty who sits on Mother Mary's lap. His royal hall is the hillside, his scepter a baby finger, his royal family is Joseph and Mary.

These Gentile kings were the first to do what all of creation and all of history have been doing since then—bending their knee to the King of the Universe. Herod was right to worry.

— Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

Piece: *Adoration of the Kings*, 1450s  
Artist: Pseudo Domenico di Michelino  
Location: Vatican Museums



### For Reflection

Jesus' reign comes to give security to those who love him. Does his authority and care give me security? Do I seek earthly securities aside from the treasures he offers me: his will, protection, and grace?

*When King Herod heard this, he was greatly troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.*

*Matthew 2:3*