

The Nativity of Christ and Other Interesting Points

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All scripture in the K.J.V.

God in human flesh, Jesus Christ, was born in Bethlehem of Judæa¹ in the days of Herod the Great.² Gabriel, one of two archangels,³ approached Mary and shared with her the wonderful news that she would bear a child conceived in her by the Holy Ghost.

John the Baptist was born six months earlier than Jesus.⁴ The Baptists' parents were Zacharias and Elizabeth. Before Jesus declared his public ministry on his 30th birthday,⁵ John the Baptist had been preparing, through his baptism of REPENTANCE, to make the message of Jesus Christ and his lordship receptive to those baptized by immersion.⁶ Six months prior to Jesus' baptism in the river Jordan, inaugurating the commencement of his public ministry, John was fulfilling Malachi 4:5, 6, "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD: 6 And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse."

Four significant scriptural benchmarks about Jesus' age, need to be noted.

FIRST, it was only the shepherds in the fields, watching over their flocks by night, that came to the manger when Jesus was born.

SECOND, the wise men from the east, probably from Babylon and influenced by Daniel's life, followed the star to the house,⁷ where Joseph, Mary, and Jesus lived. While not mentioning three wiseman, the gifts they brought, namely gold, frankincense, and myrrh suggest there could have been three wise men whose names have been filled in by secular history: Melchior, Balthasar, and Gaspar.

¹ The three provinces during the life of Christ, from south to north, were Judæa, Samaria, and Galilee.

² Remember, this is the same sick, insecure potentate that slaughtered all the children two years of age and under in the suburb of Bethlehem called Rama (Raman). Rama, if you recall, was Samuel the prophet's hometown.

³ Gabriel is known as the annunciator, while Michael is Israel's warrior angel.

⁴ Luke 1:26, 36-And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, 36 And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren.

⁵ Matt. 3:23-And Jesus himself began to be about thirty years of age, being (as was supposed) the son of Joseph, which was *the son* of Heli,

⁶ The only way to show the death, burial, and resurrection of man's sin nature, to man's regeneration by the Holy Spirit, was by baptism in water by immersion.

⁷ Matt. 2:11-And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.



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Jesus was two years of age. We know this because of Herod's inquisition of the wisemen when the star appeared.⁸ Herod, a psychopath, arranged for all the children, two years of age and under to be slaughtered in a suburb of Bethlehem, known as Rama (Ramah).⁹

THIRD, before Herod's rampage, the angel of the Lord told Joseph to take Mary and Jesus and flee into Egypt. Because of Herod's slaughter of the innocents, he died shortly thereafter. Joseph is told again while in Egypt, to return to Israel because Herod, who sought the young child's¹⁰ life, was now dead. While we are not told how old Jesus was at this time, it can be assumed that God would not have allowed this fiendish act by Herod towards the children, to have gone unpunished for years.¹¹

When Joseph "heard that Archelaus did reign in Judæa, in the room of his father Herod, he was afraid to go thither: notwithstanding, being warned of God in a dream, he turned aside into the parts of Galilee: And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, he shall be called a Nazarene." (Matthew 2:22, 23).

The next time we see Jesus is when Joseph and Mary inadvertently leave him behind at a Passover celebration in Jerusalem. After three days journey by his parents, Joseph and Mary realize he is not with the rest of the extended family. Returning to Jerusalem, his parents find Jesus at the age of 12, discussing the Old Testament law with "the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions." (Luke 2:46)

FOURTH, we find Jesus growing up in Galilee from the age of 3 to the age of 30. (Matt. 2:22, 23; Luke 2:51, 52)

⁸ Matt. 2:16—Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently inquired of the wise men.

⁹ Again, Ramah was the hometown of Samuel the prophet, the seer who anointed David, the son of Jesse, as king.

¹⁰ According to scripture, a young child was between the ages of 2-11 years old. While there is no suggestion as to how long Joseph, Mary, and Jesus were in Egypt, the death of King Herod the Great suggests that Herod was struck down within a brief period after his slaughter of the innocents, a most heinous and despicable crime.

¹¹ In Acts 12:19–23 is the story of Herod the Tetrarch's (Acts 13:1) narcissism in Cæsarea, and the swift justice God brought upon him because of his refusal to give glory to God.



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“Adoration of the Shepherds,” Gerrit van Hornthorst



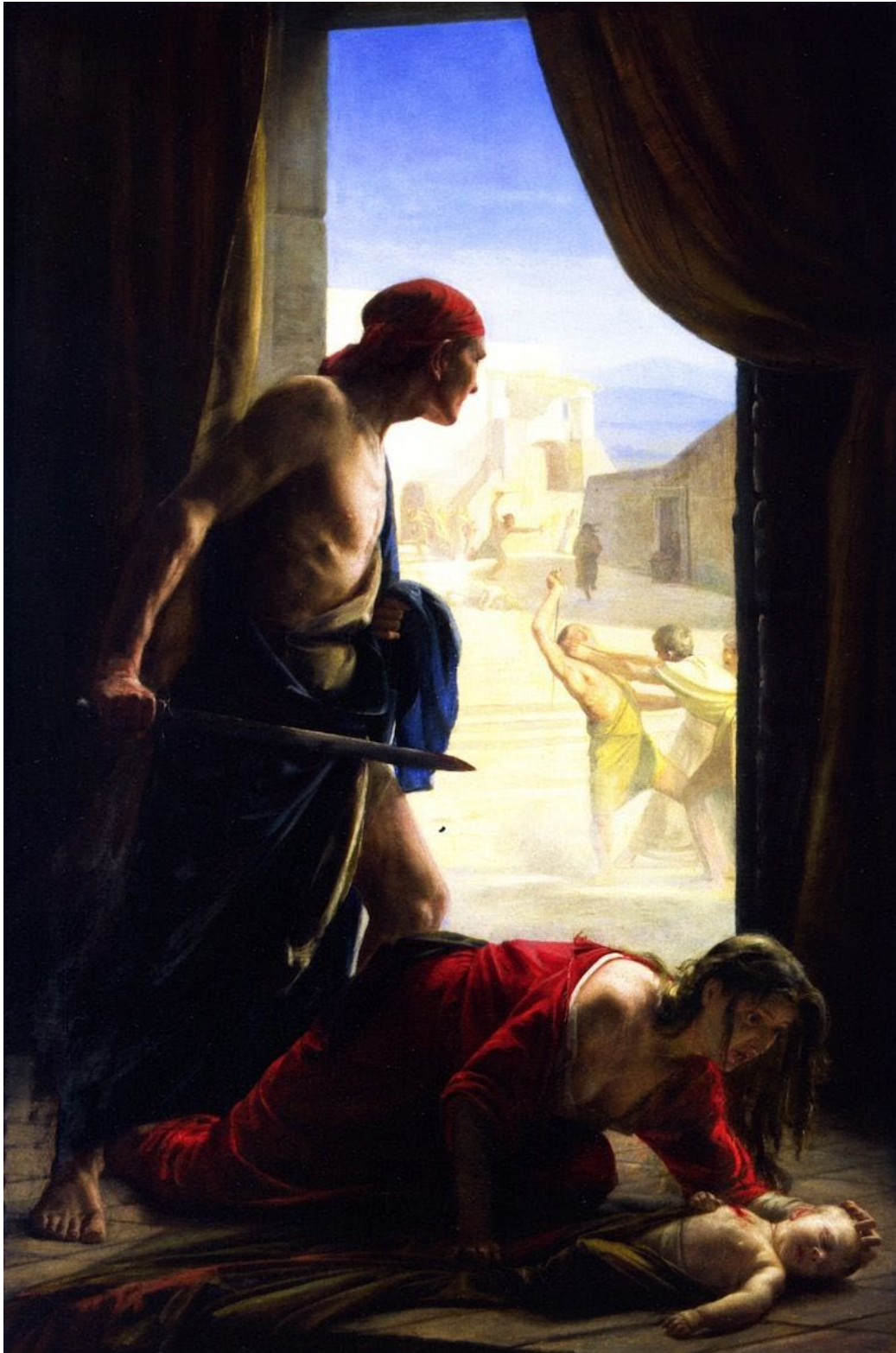
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"Three Wise Men," Henry Collier



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"The Slaughter of the Innocents," Carl Heinrich Bloch



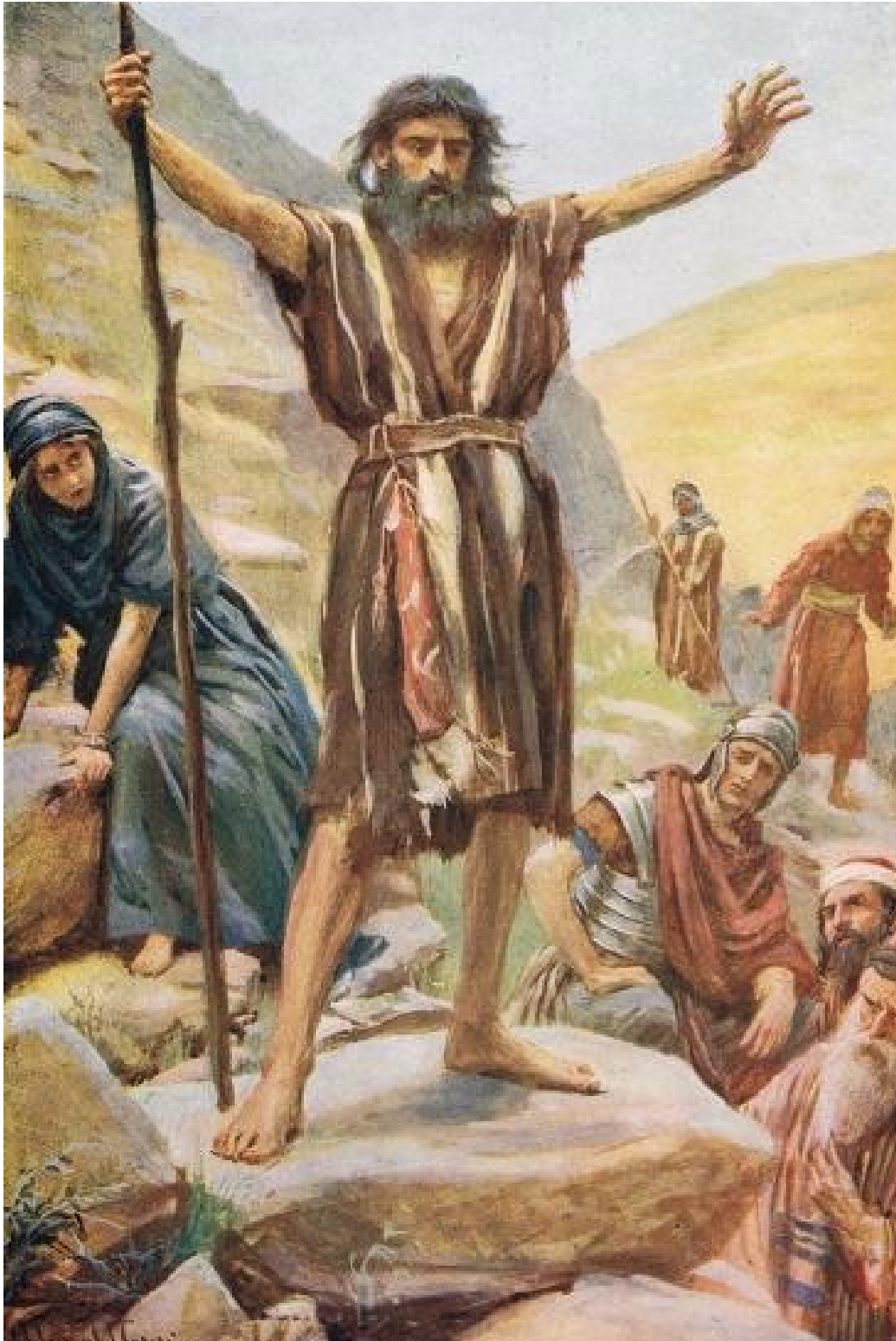
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“Flight into Egypt,” Harold Copping



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"John the Baptist," Heinrich Reinhold German



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"In the World Not of the World," Greg Olsen