

### *A Dark Place*

*No pressure, no diamonds.  
(Mary Case)*

Two thousand years ago humanity was consumed with the worship of pagan deities. All except the Jews, a lone and small people group, who worshipped Yahweh God. In their Holy Scriptures, the Bible, Moses declared, “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth .... He created human beings in His own image. In the image of God He created them ... male and female ....” The Jews at this time were governed by King Herod, a wicked demagogue, who ruled them under the authority of the Roman Empire with an iron and murderous hand. Wise men from the East, Priests, came to Jerusalem, entered Herod’s court and asked a question that created a stir in the city (Matthew 2:1), “Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We have seen his star ... and have come to worship him.” Sometime before their arrival in Jerusalem an angel appeared to a young Jewish virgin, Mary of Nazareth, and proclaimed (Luke 1:29-33), “You will become pregnant by the Holy Spirit and give birth to a son. You are to call his name Jesus—Savior. He will be very great and called the Son of the Most High God.”

King Herod the Great, who personified that dark time, was insanely suspicious and dubious; and the older he became the more wicked he grew. If he suspected anyone as a rival, that person was eliminated. He murdered his favorite wife Mariamne, her mother and his eldest son, Antipater. Herod assassinated two other of his sons, Alexander and Aristobulus. Augustus, the Roman Emperor said, “It is safer to be Herod’s pig than Herod’s son.” His savage nature blossomed as he lay dying. At age seventy, he retired to Jericho the loveliest of all his cities. He arrested several of the most distinguished citizens of Jerusalem on false charges and ordered that at the moment of his death, the hostages should all be killed. He knew that no one would mourn his passing and he was determined that tears would be shed in Israel on the day he died.

Christ could not have been born at worse time and it was only by divine intervention that He escaped an assassination attempt the king made on His life. Herod’s butchers were sent to Bethlehem and they slaughtered every male child two years old and under. Jesus survived the attack through divine intervention. God appeared to Joseph in a dream, warning him of the impending peril and Joseph and Mary fled to Egypt—the Christ child was saved.

In the twilight of your difficulty, when the sun has disappeared over the horizon, there is still hope for you. Jesus will meet you at the point of your need. Reach out to Him and you will find that He is greater than any vice, or power, or sin or pain, or enemy you will encounter in life. When it feels as if your life is shrouded in darkness—pray. Even in death Christ’s voice was not silenced. He rose from the dead and stands at God’s right hand interceding for all who will come to Him in their time of need.

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