

The Incarnation as Politics

Part Three: The Threat of the King

Stuart W. Bryan

I. Herod the Paranoiac

II. Duly Afraid

A. The King of the Jews (Mt 2:1-12, 16-18)

B. The Ruler over Israel (Mt 2:6 cf. Mic 5:2-4)

Jesus was a threat to Herod because He was and is Herod's lawful lord. Consequently, Herod would be called upon to obey Him, to worship Him, to honor Him – the very thing that he pretended he was willing to do. The folly of Herod was not that he viewed Jesus as a _____ to his rule; his folly was that he thought he could _____.

C. The Son of God (Ps 2:10-12 cf. Ac 12:20-24; 24:24-26)

III. Application

A. The Assembly of the Mighty (Ps 82)

This psalm is a warning to the “gods” of the earth – to human _____ and _____ who in their capacity of administering justice represented God Himself – the God who sat in the midst of their assembly.

B. Kingly Rule vs. Brigandage (Mk 6:14-29)

“When _____ is taken away, what are kingdoms but a vast banditry?”

Augustine of Hippo

“Indeed, this consideration makes a true king: to recognize himself a _____ of God in governing his kingdom. Now, that king who in ruling over his realm does not serve God’s glory exercises not kingly rule but brigandage. Furthermore, he is deceived who looks for enduring prosperity in his kingdom when it is not ruled by God’s scepter, that is, his Holy _____...”

John Calvin

C. Modern Herods

IV. Conclusion