

TOP 10

BIBLICAL  
VILLIANS

KING  
HEROD

The background features several dark silhouettes of figures, likely biblical characters, standing against a glowing, golden light source. The overall aesthetic is dramatic and cinematic, with a focus on the central text.

**Sunday, August 13, 2023, 9:00am**  
**11th Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Responsive Prayer, I**  
***Top Ten Biblical Villains...King Herod***

*Paranoid, cruel, and barbaric, king Herod was so jealous of Jesus' birth that he ordered all babies under the age of two to be slaughtered.  
His name means 'heroic', though he was anything but.*

***Prelude***

**#367, *Angels from the Realms of Glory***

**1 Angels from the realms of glory, Wing your flight o'er all the earth; Ye who sang creation's story, Now proclaim Messiah's birth. Refrain**

**ref Come and worship, come and worship; Worship Christ, the newborn King.**

**2 Shepherds in the field abiding, Watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing, Yonder shines the Infant Light. Refrain**

**3 Sages, leave your contemplations, Brighter visions beam afar;  
Seek the great Desire of nations, Ye have seen His natal star. Refrain**

**4 Saints before the altar bending, Watching long in hope and fear,  
Suddenly the Lord, descending, In His temple shall appear. Refrain**

**5 All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,  
Evermore your voices raising To the\_ eternal Three in One. Refrain**

Text (sts. 1, ref, 2–4): James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt.; (st. 5): Salisbury Hymn Book, 1857, Salisbury, alt.  
Text: Public domain

**P: Holy God, holy and most gracious Father,**

**C: have mercy and hear us.**

**P: We pray,**

**C: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever, Amen.**

**P: We profess our faith,**

**C: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified,**

**died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **Children's Time**

### **Jeremiah 31:15–17**

Thus says the Lord: “A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping. Rachel is weeping for her children; she refuses to be comforted for her children, because they are no more.” Thus says the Lord: “Keep your voice from weeping, and your eyes from tears, for there is a reward for your work, declares the Lord, and they shall come back from the land of the enemy. There is hope for your future, declares the Lord, and your children shall come back to their own country.”

**L: This is the Word of the Lord.**

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **Revelation 7:9-17**

After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!” And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.” Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?” I said to him, “Sir, you know.” And he said to me, “These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. “Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple; and He who sits on the throne will shelter them with His presence. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and He will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **Matthew 2:1-16**

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, “Where is He who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw His star when it rose and have come to worship Him.” When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: ““And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd My people Israel.”” Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the Child, and when you have found Him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship Him.” After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the Child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house they saw the Child with Mary His mother, and they fell down and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered Him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way. Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the Child and His mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the Child, to destroy Him.” And he rose and took the Child and His mother by night and departed to Egypt and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, “Out of Egypt I called My Son.” Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men.

P: This is the Gospel of our Lord,

**C: Thanks be to God!**

### **#370, *What Child Is This***

**1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mary’s lap is sleeping? Whom angels greet with anthems sweet While shepherds watch are keeping?**

**This, this is Christ the king, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mary!**

**2 Why lies He in such mean estate Where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here The silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mary!**

**3 So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peasant, king, to own Him.  
The King of kings salvation brings; Let loving hearts enthrone Him.  
Raise, raise the song on high, The virgin sings her lullaby;  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mary!**

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–98

Text: Public domain

## **The Sermon**                      *King Herod*

### **The Gathering of our Gifts and Tithes**

P: I cry to You, O Lord;

**C: in the morning my prayer comes before You.**

P: Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,

**C: and uphold me with a willing spirit.**

P: My mouth is filled with Your praise,

**C: and with Your glory all the day.**

P: Every day I will bless You

**C: and praise Your name forever and ever.**

P: By awesome deeds You answer us with righteousness,

**C: O God of our salvation, the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas.**

P: Bless the Lord, O my soul;

**C: and all that is within me, bless His holy name!**

P: He redeems your life from the pit

**C: and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy.**

P: Hear my prayer, O Lord;

**C: let my cry come to You.**

P: Together, we pray,

**C: I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and**

**soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me, Amen.**

**P: Let us bless the Lord.**

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**P: The Lord bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.**

**C: Amen.**

**#397, *As with Gladness Men of Old***

**1 As with gladness men of old Did the guiding star behold; As with joy they hailed its light,**

**Leading onward, beaming bright; So, most gracious Lord, may we Evermore be led by Thee.**

**2 As with joyful steps they sped, Savior, to Thy lowly bed, There to bend the knee before**

**Thee, whom heav'n and earth adore; So may we with willing feet Ever seek Thy mercy seat.**

**3 As they offered gifts most rare At Thy cradle, rude and bare, So may we with holy joy,**

**Pure and free from sin's alloy, All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heav'nly King.**

**4 Holy Jesus, ev'ry day Keep us in the narrow way; And when earthly things are past, Bring our ransomed souls at last Where they need no star to guide,**

**Where no clouds Thy glory hide.**

**5 In the heav'nly country bright Need they no created light; Thou its light, its joy, its crown,**

**Thou its sun which goes not down; There forever may we sing Alleluias to our King.**

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–98, alt.

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## **Ministry Announcements**

### ***Postlude***