

Outrageous Barbarism!

Joe Slater

What kind of monster would slaughter all the male children two years old and under in an entire town? The paranoid Herod the Great did exactly that! A well-known song calls Bethlehem a “little town,” and that’s likely true – maybe a couple of thousand people at most. Boys two and under would be at least several dozen.

Herod’s “slaughter of the innocents” continued his extensive litany of outrageous barbarism. He ruthlessly crushed any and all political opposition and murdered his own wives, sister, and children for political gain. He would lose no sleep over a few dead babies in an obscure village.

Our hearts break when we think of the mothers whose babies were torn from their arms and murdered. “*Rachel weeping for her children*” (Matthew 2:18). Our blood boils as we read of this heartless tyrant butchering the most innocent of his subjects.

But do we have any right to be incensed? Over the last five decades tens of millions of innocent babies of both genders have been mercilessly dismembered in American abortuaries. We, as a nation, have made Herod the Great look like a rank amateur!

In case you’re laboring under the illusion that the Supreme Court’s 2022 “Dobs” decision stopped (or at least slowed) the abortion juggernaut, be advised that it did not! In fact, there were 2200 **more** abortions in 2023 than in 2022!

Yet we have supposedly pro-life politicians running for cover while pro-abortion candidates are cheered when they promise to enact legislation legalizing abortion in every state.

Outrageous barbarism continues unabated. “*Lord, how long will the wicked triumph?*” (Psalm 94:3).

To Catch a Thief

Marge Wilson had had enough! For the fourth morning in a row, she had gone to the chicken pen only to find feathers strewn about and one of her good laying hens gone. She knew one thing for sure: the chicken stealing varmint was consistent. And it would surely be back for more. But this time she would be ready for him, waiting with shotgun in hand!

As Jesus spoke of His second coming and the final judgment of mankind, He compared the great event to a thief that comes in the night. Unlike Ms. Wilson’s chicken stealing varmint, the arrival of the Christ will be a total surprise. “*Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect*” (Matthew 24:42–44).

When the trumpet sounds and the voice of the archangel rumbles, every eye will see Christ and there will be surprise, shock, dismay, dread, and mourning by all non-believers (1 Thessalonians 4:16; Revelation 1:7) But for those of us who are watching, it will be a great and wonderful day! (2 Timothy 4:8)

--Jay Launius (Maud, TX)

HOW BIG?

Everyone looked at Goliath and thought he was too big to kill.

David, with the help of the Lord, looked at Goliath and thought, “He’s too big to miss!”

--via Preacher Talk

What True Fellowship Involves

“Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? And what agreement has the temple of God with idols?” (2 Corinthians 6:14-16a, NKJV)

Even though written in the negative, I believe we can examine this text and extrapolate many positive aspects of true fellowship which come forth clearly in the words used. So, here’s what true fellowship involves:

* Yoked together – True fellowship involves being linked together for the purpose of being productive. Fellowship operates best when people work closely together for a common cause.

* Fellowship – True fellowship involves companionship and comradery (which is the definition of the Greek word translated “fellowship”). Fellowship is formed when people are truly together.

* Communion – True fellowship involves close, personal association with one another. Fellowship is strengthened when personal connections are made.

* Accord (harmony, NAS) – True fellowship involves unity, harmony, and peace. Fellowship grows when people get along.

* Part (share, ESV) – True fellowship involves sharing and partaking together. Fellowship blossoms most beautifully when everyone does their part.

* Agreement – True fellowship involves being one in thought, belief, expression, effort, and outlook. Fellowship moves forward when there is common ground.

Truly, true fellowship is wonderful. Take a look at the above list again and note all the benefits of true fellowship. Resolve to do your part to be in true and total fellowship with Christ and His church.

--Edd Sterchi (via *Bulletin Gold*)