

A script from



“Our Coming Savior: Herod”

by
The Skit Guys

What After hearing rumors about the birth of a Messiah, a ruthless Herod tries to use some new acquaintances to get him information about the newborn Christ.

Themes: Christmas, Herod, Birth of Christ, Bethlehem

Who King Herod Wise Man #2
Advisor Wise Man #3
Wise Man #1

When Bible Times

Wear (Props) If you can, go for as Biblical as you can without being over the top. If you don't have much in the way of costumes though, just go as understated as you can. Herod should appear a little more elegant than everyone else. The Advisor should be a few steps down from Herod and the Wise Men should all appear in similar clothes.

Props:

4 cups

1 Pitcher

1 table

Why Matthew 2:1-9

How *See the end of this script

Time Approximately 3 minutes

Lights are down.

Herod: Are they here?

Lights come up.

Herod, center-stage, leans over a table and scribbles notes. **Advisor**, approaches from stage-left.

Advisor: As your advisor, I feel compelled to communicate my hesitation about this meeting. Do we even know these men?

Herod: We do not.

Advisor: So why even meet with them? They're stargazers. They're Gentiles.

Herod: *(To the audience)* The only thing more frustrating than explaining myself, is explaining myself to people whose job it is to do what I say. As if I, King Herod, didn't have a precisely specific reason for meeting with these wandering stargazers.

Herod: These men have valuable information. If we play our cards right, they will help us infinitely more than we can help ourselves. Now, unless you require more explanation, send them in.

Advisor moves stage left and welcomes in **Wise Man #1, #2 and #3**.

Herod: Gentlemen, greetings. Welcome, welcome. My staff tells me that you have come a long way.

WM 1: This is true. We've come from the East.

Herod: Is that right? I trust your journeys haven't been too difficult?

Herod moves to front and center stage. He fills 4 cups. He continues to look over his shoulder at the **Wise Men** when conversing, but his posture is facing the audience as he prepares the cups.

WM 1: They are like most journeys: some good, some bad, but mostly long.

Herod: Now tell me, as a man who doesn't do much journeying anymore, what is it that inspired men such as yourselves to undertake such a long trip?

WM 1: As I'm sure you know, word has been spreading about the birth of a Messiah. We all witnessed his star and so we have come to worship him.

Herod: *(To audience)* I'd heard the rumors. But with this one, the stakes are too high now to be imprecise with our actions. Becoming king is an effort unto itself. But maintaining this station? That requires an entirely different set of skills.

Herod: Is that right? A new messiah? I have to admit, I feel a little silly because this is the first I'm hearing of this.

WM 1: He's said to be in a place called Bethlehem. Do you know where we could find this place?

Herod: *(To audience)* So we have our person and now we have our place. All that is left is to put good use to that ancient adage: either hunt or watch yourself become the hunted.

Herod gestures to his **Advisor**, who quickly exits the room.

Herod: Lucky for you, Bethlehem is only about 10 miles away.

The Wise Men all light up with joy and relief.

WM 1: 10 miles? That's such a relief. After so many miles, 10 seems right around the corner.

Herod: Yes. Right around the corner indeed. Now, I'm sure you are eager to be on your way and witness this Messiah firsthand, but please, allow me to be a good host and offer a drink before you leave.

Herod passes out the goblets.

WM 1: To the Messiah.

Herod: Yes, to the new king.

They all drink from their goblets.

Herod: Now, before you go, I'd like to ask a favor.

WM 1: Of course.

Herod: When you find this new king, would you come back and tell me exactly where he is so that I might have the opportunity to go and worship him myself?

WM 1: Consider it done, King Herod.

The Wise Men all exit. Herod sips from his goblet with a hundred yard stare.

Herod: I know he's just a baby boy. But all baby boys grow up to be men. And we can't have that now, can we?

Lights out.

Note to Director:

Herod carries this piece so make sure whomever is playing this part is comfortable and familiar with the different portrayals this script calls for. To the Wise Men, Herod must seem congenial and friendly. But to the audience and to The Advisor, Herod needs to show a sense of ruthlessness.

We added lines for Herod that will not appear in the video version of this scene. These lines directly address the audience and work to give context on Herod. For the video version, the camera supplies this context, but for the stage version, we thought these few lines would help create a more complete picture to see how diabolical and underhanded Herod is.

When Herod addresses the audience, the other characters should freeze. Also, make sure Herod gives the transition between talking to characters and talking to the audience a few beats so that the audience can stay with the action and dialogue.

As a suggestion, we would recommend checking out the video version of this to help you visualize and see one take on the performance. It's not the only way to do it, but it should help you better think through how to portray it on stage.