

“In the year of our Lord....”

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born at Bethlehem, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.”

The first I’d ever heard of it was when I was in college, where certain people were encouraging the use of the letters “C.E.” and “B.C.E.” instead of “B.C.” and “A.D.” The new acronyms were meant to mean, “Before Common Era” and “Common Era,” I think, and were meant to be more inclusive than “Before Christ” and “Anno Domini (In the Year of our Lord).” There were and are still some who prefer to use “CE” instead of “AD” because they don’t believe that our way of keeping time should be based on the birth of Christ. But suppose we DO change things. The question remains – what makes this a different era than what came before it? What monumental shift occurred on or around that point in time that altered things for all eternity? I mean, other than the birth of Christ, if people want to pretend it wasn’t the earth-shaking event that it was, to what else might we owe this change.

At the time of his birth, astrologers traveled some distance from a foreign land because they knew it. And there sat Herod, oblivious to this miracle occurring right under his proverbial nose. And soon he would realize that he was completely powerless to silence this new king to come. Oh, he would try – as would his successors. But the Christ would alter all of time and history, forever.

People can use BCE and CE; they can doubt and speculate and quibble over dates and science and what can be proven with our own eyes. But they cannot deny the awesome power of this birth to affect the lives of those who believe. We live, now and always, “in the year of our LORD.” Merry Christmas! God loves you and so do I.

Pastor Bill