

Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord Cycle C

January 6, 2012

Know Your Faith

The meaning of “All”

*When King Herod heard this, he was greatly troubled, and **all** Jerusalem with him. Assembling **all** the chief priests and the scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. Matt. 2:3*

The meaning of words in the Hebrew language was somewhat fluid and often used in hyperbole and exaggeration to emphasize a certain truth. Most of the time the word **“all” means “a large number,” NOT “each and every one without exception.”**

Such as:

Romans 11:26 St. Paul states: **all** Israel will be saved.

Did St. Paul mean that every single person in Israel would be saved?

Romans 15:14 St. Paul describes members of the Roman Church as filled with **all** knowledge.

Does St. Paul mean that every brother in the Church was filled with **all** knowledge?

Luke 3:15 *Now the people were filled with expectation, and **all** were asking their hearts whether John might be the Messiah.*

Does Luke mean that every single person without exception was asking if John the Baptist was the Messiah.

Matthew 3:5 *At that time **Jerusalem, all Judea, and the whole region around Jordan** were going out to John and were being baptized.*

Was every single person in Judea without exception asking John for baptism?

Romans 3:23 **All have sinned** and are deprived of the glory of God.

Did St. Paul mean that each and every person who has ever lived without exception has sinned, or was he quoting from Psalms 14:24?

All have gone astray; **all** alike are perouse.

Why doesn't Romans 3:23 refute Mary's Immaculate Conception?

(Hint: There are two reasons)

Source: Karl Keating. Catholicism and Fundamentalism (San Francisco, Ignatius Press 1988) p. 270-1.
Dave Armstrong. The One Minute Apologist (Manchester, NH, Sophia Institute Press 2007) p. 108-109.