

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.