

# The King has Come

Dec 18& Dec 21

## MESSAGE NOTES

The King has Come  
Pastor Lance Ainsworth  
Matthew 2:1-12  
December 18th & 21st, 2025  
The Humble King.

notes

### Introduction

**2** Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, **2** “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him.” **3** When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

**Magi** – men likely from Babylon or Persia, following the star.

**Star** – the sign of a new King. (Numbers 24:17, Revelation 22:16)

**Herod** – given the title king of the Jews by the Roman Senate.

### 3 Contrasts between Herod and Jesus.

**#1** Herod is the Roman-appointed king of the Jews; Jesus is the divinely appointed King.

**4** Gathering together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. **5** They said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for this is what has been written by the prophet: (Micah 5, 700 year old prophecy)

**6** ‘And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, Are by no means least among the leaders of Judah; For out of you shall come forth a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.’”

# The King has Come

Dec 18& Dec 21

## MESSAGE NOTES

The King has Come  
Pastor Lance Ainsworth  
Matthew 2:1-12  
December 18th & 21st, 2025  
The Humble King.

notes

**#2 Herod rules through fear and insecurity;  
Jesus rules through humility.**

**7** Then Herod secretly called the magi and determined from them the exact time the star appeared. **8** And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the Child; and when you have found Him, report to me, so that I too may come and worship Him."

**#3 Herod kills children to preserve his throne;  
Jesus gave us life so we can become children of God.**

**9** After hearing the king, they went their way; and the star, which they had seen in the east, went on before them until it came and stood over the place where the Child was. **10** When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. **11** After coming into the house they saw the Child with Mary His mother; and they fell to the ground and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they presented to Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

**The magi recognized the honor of being in  
Jesus' presence.**

Jesus is the humble King (gold), who would suffer (myrrh) and willingly lay down His life as a sacrifice (frankincense) for those who would believe in Him.

---

## GROUP DISCUSSION

---

The King Has Come  
GateWay Church of Visalia, Pastor Lance Ainsworth  
Matthew 2:1-12  
December 18 and 21, 2025  
The Humble King.

Prayer Requests:

Group Discussion: What is a small gift that you have received for Christmas that you really appreciated?

Read Aloud: Matthew 2:1-2

1. v.1-3 "Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, 2 "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him." 3 When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him." Why is Herod troubled? Why is the news of Jesus Kingship troublesome to some?

2. v.4 "6 'And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, Are by no means least among the leaders of Judah;  
For out of you shall come forth a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.'" How is Jesus both the Ruler and Shepherd of our lives? How is this different than Herod's leadership?

3. v.10-11 "10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. 11 After coming into the house they saw the Child with Mary His mother; and they fell to the ground and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they presented to Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh." What can we learn from the magi's response to Jesus? How can we extravagantly worship Jesus this Christmas? What meaning do gold, frankincense, and myrrh have in the story?