

The true light in a dark world

Matt 2:1-12 Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem,² Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his **star in the east, and are come to worship him.**

³ When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.⁴ And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born.⁵ And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet, **6 And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.**⁷ Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, inquired of them diligently what time the star appeared.⁸ And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.⁹ When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was.¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.¹¹ And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way. ¹³ And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him.¹⁴ When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt:¹⁵ And was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Out of Egypt have I called my son.¹⁶ Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently inquired of the wise men.¹⁷ Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy the prophet, saying,¹⁸ In Rama was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, and would not be comforted, because they are not

3 prominent figures in this story

Herod the dark king

1. He was troubled and he troubled others including the people of Jerusalem
2. he dug in the word of God for more but he didn't see the God of the word
3. he hated and there was no light in him
4. he feared and there was no peace in him
5. King Herod came from the line of Esau. Esau and Jacob struggled in the womb, struggled over a pot of lentils and struggle for the birthright. Now we see once again the descendant of Esau looking for the struggle with the descendant of Jacob Jesus the Messiah.
6. King Herod was a convert to Judaism but his soul was never converted. He was in name only a Jew.

Warren Wiersbe

King herod was a cruel and crafty man who permitted no one not even his own family to interfere with his rule or prevent the satisfying of his evil desires. A ruthless murderer he had his own wife and her two brothers slain because he suspected them of treason. He was married at least nine times in order to fulfill his lust and strengthened his political ties. It is no surprise that herod try to kill Jesus, For king herod alone wanted to bear the title king of the Jews. But there was another reason. King herod was not a full blooded Jew he was actually a descendant of Esau. This is a picture of the old struggle between esau and Jacob that began even before the boys were born genesis 25; 19-34 it is the spiritual versus the carnal the godly versus the worldly.

“Augustus, the Roman Emperor, had said, bitterly, that it was safer to be Herod’s pig than Herod’s son. Barclay)

But the Lord even reaches out to Herod

Herod heard a good Bible study about the birthplace of the Messiah, but it did him no good. “When the earth-king dabbles in theology, it bodes no good to truth. Herod among the priests and scribes is Herod still. Some men may be well instructed in their Bibles and yet be all the worse for what they have discovered.” (Spurgeon)

16 Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently inquired of the wise men. 17 Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy the prophet, saying, 18 In Rama was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, and would not be comforted, because they are not.

King herod the Bible says was mocked which means to be delude or deceived

Wroth= To cause one to become incensed, to provoke to anger
he slew all the children Two years and younger
he's a picture of pharaoh in Egypt when Moses was born.

Jer 3:15 Thus says the LORD,
"A voice is heard in Ramah, Lamentation and bitter weeping.
Rachel is weeping for her children; She refuses to be comforted for her children, Because they are no more."

This is the time of lamentation and bitter weeping. The prophet uses Rachel could not have children but I ended up having Joseph and lastly Benjamin in which she died giving birth. She wanted to name Benjamin not the son of my right hand. Rachel cried and called him Ben-oni Son of my sorrow. This is like Jacob who lost his son Joseph not knowing he was sold into slavery. We have two pictures here the wise men exceedingly joyful. The people of Bethlehem extremely sorrowful because of a wicked vile king.

Why did the babe come why did Jesus come? Look at the gross wickedness. We think we're better but we are far from it. We live in a time of gross wickedness. Lord have mercy on us.

Herod had all the good points for king.
Builder, a moneymaker, kept the people in order, ruled with an iron fist yet and all that he never look to please God.

The priest and scribes knew where the Messiah would be born but they were 6 miles away they might as well have been 6000 miles away. Their indifference to the word of God kept them from the presence of God.

Herod use the word of God to look to Jesus The Messiah. Not to worship but to kill to save his mortal Kingdom. He built the temple but did not know the God of the temple.

Do we treat Bible knowledge as just knowledge?

Wise Men

1. They saw something that stood out
2. they traveled far
3. it cost them money time years and a long journey
4. When the star was over the house they rejoiced exceedingly
5. they basically came to worship the king of the Jews
6. this could have caused them their life so they needed to travel back by a different way

The word of God in Micah 5:2 got them to their destination.

The Lord God

- The Lord God takes the weakness of a child and uses it for glory of God
- Shows his guiding hand
 1. He gave the word of Micah 5:2
 2. With the wise men and the star

Num 24:15-17 He took up his discourse and said, "The oracle of Balaam the son of Beor, And the oracle of the man whose eye is opened,
16 The oracle of him who hears the words of God, And knows the knowledge of the Most High, Who sees the vision of the Almighty, Falling down, yet having his eyes uncovered.
17 "I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near;
A star shall come forth from Jacob, A scepter shall rise from Israel,

3. With the dreams to both wise men and Joseph
- Even there gift giving The Lord speaks on who Christ is
 1. Gold=King
 2. Frankincense=Priest
 3. Myrrh= Death

Isa 60:1-6**"Arise, shine; for your light has come, And the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. 2 "For behold, darkness will cover the earth And deep darkness the peoples; But the LORD will rise upon you And His glory will appear upon you. 3 "Nations will come to your light, And kings to the brightness of your rising.**

4 "Lift up your eyes round about and see; They all gather together, they come to you. Your sons will come from afar, And your daughters will be carried in the arms. 5 "Then you will see and be radiant, And your heart will thrill and rejoice; Because the abundance of the sea will be turned to you, The wealth of the nations will come to you. 6 "A multitude of camels will cover you, The young camels of Midian and Ephah; All those from Sheba will come; **They will bring gold and frankincense, And will bear good news of the praises of the LORD.**

The magi we're seeking the king; Herod was opposing the king; and the Jewish priests were ignoring the king.-Warren Wiersbe

The Lord God spoke the word of God to the prophets to lead the wise man and Joseph and Mary and the baby Jesus to each other. Then he gave them dreams for their safety.

Mic 5:2 But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.

“Those who look for Jesus will see him: those who truly see him will worship him: those who worship him will consecrate their substance to him.” (Spurgeon)

Timothy Keller-Christmas means not just hope for the world, despite all of its unending problems. But hope for you and me despite all our unending failings.

- **Are we troubling others like Herod**
- **Are we digging into God's word with the right motive and desire?**
- **Picking of fight with the Lord of host never works out**
- **are we indifferent like the priests who were unconcerned casual about God's word?**
- **Are you seeking Christ Jesus our Messiah still?**
- **The world is dark and may I say getting even darker does Christ Jesus our Messiah bring you joy and light?**
- **King herod and the priest we're caught in the moment and they missed Jesus our Messiah they allowed fear indifference anger to miss history greatest story.**
- **Isn't it sad the king herod and the priests and scribes are a sad outcome in history's greatest story**
- **Jesus Christ was born of a virgin worship by the wise men but came and died for you and me and if we believe on him and confess him with our mouths we shall be saved.**

Salvation is this simple as ABC

- A. admit you are a Sinner and need a savior**
- B. believe that Jesus died and rose again to pay the debt for your sins**
- C. confess that Jesus is your Lord and savior**

Summary

The document explores the biblical account of Jesus' birth, focusing on the figures involved and their contrasting responses to the Messiah's arrival.

- **Herod's troubled reign:** King Herod, descended from Esau, was troubled by the news of Jesus' birth, sought to kill him, and enacted a massacre of children in Bethlehem, reflecting his hatred, fear, and lack of peace.
- **Herod's spiritual blindness:** Despite studying Scripture about the Messiah's birthplace, Herod did not recognize or worship Jesus but sought to destroy him to protect his kingdom.
- **Jewish priests' indifference:** The chief priests and scribes knew the Messiah's prophesied birthplace but were spiritually distant and indifferent, failing to recognize Jesus.
- **Wise men's faith and journey:** The magi from the east saw the star, traveled a long distance at great cost, rejoiced upon finding Jesus, worshipped him, and gave gifts symbolizing his kingship, priesthood, and death.
- **God's guiding hand:** God directed the wise men and Joseph through prophecy, the star, and dreams to protect Jesus and fulfill Scripture, showing divine orchestration in the events.
- **Prophetic fulfillment:** The events fulfilled Old Testament prophecies, including Jesus' birth in Bethlehem and the calling out of Egypt, and the lamentation over Bethlehem's children.
- **Contrasting responses to Jesus:** The magi sought and worshipped Jesus; Herod opposed him violently; and the priests ignored him, illustrating varied human responses to the Messiah.
- **Call to genuine worship:** The document highlights that true knowledge of Scripture leads to worship and consecration, contrasting with mere knowledge or hostile rejection.