

Matthew 2

Jesus

- **Chapter 2:** Jesus now about **2 Years old**

I. Wise Men Seek Him

¹ Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem...

Wise men from the east head east to Jerusalem 6 miles north of Bethlehem
Searching for Someone special... ask around

² "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him."

- Star prophesied over 1000 yrs. earlier...by Balaam the Donkey Whisperer

Numbers 24:17 "I see Him, but not now; I behold Him, but not near; **A Star shall come out of Jacob; A Scepter shall rise out of Israel...**

- **A King is coming...**
 1. I see Him...but He is not here yet
 2. When He is born His Star will appear

Wise men follow this Star. Who are these Wise Men/Magi?

- **Daniel taken to Babylon** 600 years after Balaam's prophesy
- **Daniel shares** prophesy w/wise men of Babylon; i.e. Chaldeans

One day a Star will lead you to a Great King

- For 400 yrs. wise *man after wiseman* in Babylon searched the sky
- Finally, a future generation of Chaldeans **see the Star**
 1. Follow star from Babylon in the East
 2. Leads them to Jerusalem in the West

Q. Who are these wise men? **A.** Descendants of the Babylonian wise men of Daniel's day

- **Searching the sky:** Big Dipper/? How we don't know all /Planetarium

We search the sky waiting for Bright and Morning Star to appear

Revelation 22:16b I am the Root and the Offspring of David/Bright and **Morning Star**

Philippians 3:20 ...our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also **eagerly wait** for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ...

Titus 2:13 [We are...] looking for the blessed hope and **glorious appearing** of our great

God and Savior Jesus Christ...

- **Wise guys now in Jerusalem**

1. Where is He who has been born **King of the Jews**?
2. We are here to worship Him. [Wise men. Every knee bow to King of Kings]

3 When Herod the king heard *this*, **he was troubled**, and all Jerusalem with him.

Why are people looking for the King of the Jews? I'm the king of the Jews

- **King Herod the Great:** Illegitimate king of Israel

1. Not Jewish but Idumean; **Edomite**.
2. Bought position from Rome
3. Great: Master at Ruling/Building/Cruelty
4. Quote: "...safer to be Herod's pig than Herod's son



"He had no sooner come to the throne than he began by annihilating the Sanhedrin...he slaughtered three hundred court officers...he murdered his wife Mariamne, and her mother Alexandra, his eldest son Antipater, and two other sons, Alexander and Arisobulus."

When Herod is troubled...all Jerusalem is troubled!

4 And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them **where the Christ was to be born**.

- **Gather Religious leaders of the day:** Chief Priests and Scribes

Where is the Messiah going to be born?

- **Herod knew stuff...**

1. ...knew the Christ [Messiah] was coming
2. ...knew the term "King of the Jews" spoke of Messiah
3. ...knew the Messiah was going to be "born" a man
4. ...knew how to find the location of His birth.....**from Scripture**

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]

Get your Bibles out and tell me where the Messiah is to be born

5 So [religious leaders] said to [Herod], "In **Bethlehem** of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet: *6 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.'*" [Micah 5:2]

Able to talk **about Jesus...** but not willing to bow **to Jesus**

- **Herod's fears realized:** Messiah is here. Has been for 2 years

Herod: This town ain't big enough for the both of us!

7 Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, **determined from them what time the star appeared.**

- When did the first star appear/**What was the day of His birth? A. 2 yrs. ago**

8 And [Herod] sent [the wise men] to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found *Him*, bring back word to me, **that I may come and worship Him also.**"

Find out where He is/tell me so I can "worship" Him. No promises from Magi

9 When [the wise men] heard the king, they departed; and behold, the **star which they had seen 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 exceedingly great joy.**

**Star reappears in mid-air guiding them. Stands still over Jesus house
Rejoiced over the Savior of the World...their Savior**

11 And when [the wise men] had 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 gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Wise men arrive/see Jesus

- **Into the house:** Not newborn but 2 yrs. old. [Shepherds not wise men at birth]
- **Worshipped Him:** Knew his deity. Gave Him gifts...

1. Gold	King	King of Jews	King of Kings
2. Frankincense	Priest	Great High Priest	Mediator God/Man
3. Myrrh	Prophet	God's Word	His Own Death

Luke 24:7 [Jesus of His death] 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.' "

Myrrh burial spice speak of the true reason for the Season.
God sent His Son to die that we might live

- **Second Coming** ... one gift of the three is missing

Isaiah 60:6 They shall bring **gold** and **incense**, And they shall proclaim the praises of the Lord.

- Jesus sacrificial death was sufficient. No myrrh required. **It is finished.**

12 Then, being **divinely warned** in a dream that they should not return to Herod, [the wise men] departed for their own country another way.

Divinely Warned by God: Mission Accomplished

- Coronation/Worship of King, Wise men flee back to Babylon
- **Things heat up...**

13 Now when they had departed, behold, **an angel of the Lord appeared** to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise, **take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt**, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him."

God's Specific Direction

- **We need God's specific direction at this time**

Isaiah 30:21 Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "**This is the way, walk in it,**" Whenever you turn to the right hand Or whenever you turn to the left.

- **My sheep hear My voice:** They Listen for My voice, Listen to My voice, Obey My Voice

Leave Bethlehem...Take the gold...Go to Egypt till I give your Word to come back

- **God warns Joseph with precise instructions...**
 1. Take Mary and Jesus
 2. Flee to Egypt where lived million Jews at the time
 3. Wait there and listen for My Voice

14 When [Joseph] arose, he took the young Child and His mother **by night** and departed for Egypt, ¹⁵ and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, "**Out of Egypt I called My Son.**"

- **Hosea 11:** As Israel went to Egypt and left so Jesus would do same
- **Family flees to Egypt by night:** Note Jesus is mentioned before Mary

16 Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was **exceedingly angry**; and he sent forth and **put to death** all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, **from two years old** and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men.

Now we know why Jerusalem was troubled when hearing Herod was troubled

- Herod knew Jesus was born about 2 years before
- Make sure the Child was included in the massacre

Exceedingly Angry: Anger of Satan himself

- **Herod** slaughtered male children to retain control as did Pharaoh 1500 yrs. earlier

Exceeding Anger: Satanic hatred of Jews, Israel, Messiah, God's people
Get rid of God so I can do my thing. Psalm 2: Tear off His chains...God's beautiful chains

17 Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying:
18 "A voice was heard in Ramah, Lamentation, weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, refusing to be comforted, because they are no more." [Jeremiah 31:15]

- **Jeremiah** prophesied this event 600 years before it happened

Problem? Ramah was not Bethlehem

Thus...Herod murdered all children within a **10-12-mile radius of Bethlehem!**

19 Now when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, **20** saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the young Child's life are dead." **21** Then he arose, took the young Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel. **22** But when he heard that **Archelaus** was reigning over Judea instead of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being warned by God in a dream, he turned aside into the region of **Galilee.**

- **After killing all his close associates...**

Herod the Great died in Jericho after an excruciatingly painful, putrefying illness of uncertain cause, known to posterity as "Herod's Evil". Herod's death was preceded by a lunar eclipse and followed by Passover. Herod suffered throughout his lifetime from depression and paranoia. Josephus stated that Herod was so concerned that no one would mourn his death, that he commanded a large group of distinguished men to come to Jericho, and he gave an order that they should be killed at the time of his death so that the displays of grief that he craved would take place; but his son Arche-la-us and sister Salome did not carry out this wish.

- Son Arche-la-us [also Herod] takes his place in Judea: Incompetent/Violent ruler
- **God still directing Joseph in a dream...**

1. Leave Egypt/Bypass Jerusalem/hard right north to region of **Galilee**
2. Specifically, settle in **Nazareth** hometown of Mary

23 And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, "**He shall be called a Nazarene.**"

- **Nazarene not a Nazarite;** i.e. Vow of no wine/not cutting hair
- **Called a Nazarene:** Heb *Netzer* Lit. Branch or Shoot...Isaiah 1

Isaiah 11:1 There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of [King David's father] Jesse, And a **Branch shall grow out of his roots.**

- **Jesus as a Child...**

Isaiah 53:2 For He shall grow up before Him as a **tender plant**, And as a root out of dry ground. He has **no form or comeliness**; And when we see Him, **There is no beauty** that we should desire Him.³ He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.

- **No physical beauty**...common/plain...yet most beautiful Person ever

Psalms 27:4 [David] One thing I have desired of the Lord, That will I seek: That I may dwell in the house of the Lord All the days of my life, To behold the **beauty of the Lord**, And to inquire in His temple.

- **Despised/Rejected** by men: Not what they hoped...but what they needed
- **Man of Sorrows/Experiencing grief**: Pain of loss, suffering beyond any other

God came as a man and walked in our shoes that He would know EXPERIENTIALLY every need, pain, hurt, suffering we are going through. Jesus literally walked in our shoes and is now our High Priest advocating for us...

Psalms 139:1 O Lord, You have searched me and known me. You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off. You comprehend my path and my lying down, And are **acquainted with all my ways**. For there is not a word on my tongue, But behold, O Lord, You know it altogether. You have hedged me behind and before, And laid Your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is high, I cannot attain it.

God understands what it is like to be human because He lived it...

- **Mental Anguish**: Ridicule/Sweating drops of blood
- **Physical Pain**: Beatings/Punching/Beard torn out/Cross
- **Emotional Pain**: Death of friend/Betrayals/Left completely alone to suffer

Apart from sin...God in Jesus knows experientially every hurt/loss we have/go through
This Child is now our Great High Priest who can/does sympathize with our pain