

Matthew 2:1-16 The Tale of Two Kings

Setting:

- In the garden right after the fall of man, God made a promise.

So the Lord God said to the serpent: Because you have done this, you are cursed more than any livestock and more than any wild animal. You will move on your belly and eat dust all the days of your life. I will put hostility between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring. He will strike your head, and you will strike his heel. -- **Genesis 3:14-15 (CSB)**

- Since that promise was made the ultimate battle between good (God) and evil (Satan) has been waging. One side is the unfolding of this promise and the other trying to stop it. The Kingdom of the World against the Kingdom of God.
- The birth, life, death, resurrection, ascension, and coming return of King Jesus is the fulfillment of this promise and is the death blow of Satan and the Kingdom of this World.

Now since the children have flesh and blood in common, Jesus also shared in these, so that through his death he might destroy the one holding the power of death — that is, the devil — and free those who were held in slavery all their lives by the fear of death -- **Hebrews 2:14-15 (CSB)**

When the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations at the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them for battle. Their number is like the sand of the sea. They came up across the breadth of the earth and surrounded the encampment of the saints, the beloved city. Then fire came down from heaven and consumed them. The devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet are, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. -- **Revelation 20:7-10 (CSB)**

- The Kingdom of God is built on people.

You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by everyone. You show that you are Christ's letter, delivered by us, not written with ink but with the Spirit of the living God — not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts. -- **2 Corinthians 3:2-3 (CSB)**

As you come to him, a living stone — rejected by people but chosen and honored by God — you yourselves, as living stones, a spiritual house, are being built to be a holy priesthood to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in Scripture: See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and honored cornerstone, and the one who believes in him will never be put to shame. So honor will come to you who believe; but for the unbelieving, The stone that the builders rejected — this one has become the cornerstone, and a stone to stumble over, and a rock to trip over. -- **1 Peter 2:4-8 (CSB)**

- The choice we have is what king will we follow? The one true King, the eternal King, the good King, King Jesus; or continue to follow the temporal offerings, the fleeting satisfactions, the pleasure for a season offered daily by the kings of this world.
- This is the story of the Magi. They are presented with two kings, which one will they follow?

SCENE 1: Two Kings

- “wise men from the east”
- We do not know how many there were.
- We do not know where they were from.
- Biblical historians suspect they were from a priestly tribe of people from among the Medes.
- They were known to be skilled in astronomy and astrology.

- It is believed that the wise men who lived near Babylon during the time of Daniel were exposed to the prophecy of the Jewish Messiah.
- Verse 11 they found them in a house so Jesus could have been as old as two.

The Chaldeans answered the king, "No one on earth can make known what the king requests. Consequently, no king, however great and powerful, has ever asked anything like this of any magician, medium, or Chaldean --

Daniel 2:10 (CSB) Magician translated "MAGI" or astrologer.

1. King Herod

- Born in 73BCE to an Edomite father and an Arab mother.
- Appointed by Rome as King of Judea in 37BCE replacing his father.
- Seven wives, numerous children, and had extreme paranoia. He had his 3 eldest sons and one of his wives executed because he thought they were trying to take his overthrow him.
- Josephus records that he died from a sudden disease that included a burning fever, ulcerated entrails, foul discharges, convulsions, and stench.

2. King Jesus

- Born in Bethlehem (Micah 5: 2)
- Born King of the Jews.

*Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth take their stand, and the rulers conspire together against the Lord and his Anointed One: "Let's tear off their chains and throw their ropes off of us." The one enthroned in heaven laughs; the Lord ridicules them. Then he speaks to them in his anger and terrifies them in his wrath: "I have installed my king on Zion, my holy mountain." -- **Psalms 2:1-6 (CSB)***

- Jesus had a star to announce His birth. Many have tried to explain this star from some natural phenomena, but this seems to be supernatural as it directs them.
- Worthy of worship.

SCENE 2: Two Responses

1. Hostility

- Deeply disturbed
- Secretly
- Lied and murdered.

*Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, because I came from God and I am here. For I didn't come on my own, but he sent me. Why don't you understand what I say? Because you cannot listen to my word. You are of your father the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he tells a lie, he speaks from his own nature, because he is a liar and the father of lies. -- **John 8:42-44 (CSB)***

*"If the world hates you, understand that it hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own. However, because you are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of it, the world hates you. Remember the word I spoke to you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. -- **John 15:18-20 (CSB)***

2. Worship

- Seeking

*I have asked one thing from the Lord; it is what I desire: to dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, gazing on the beauty of the Lord and seeking him in his temple. -- **Psalms 27:4 (CSB)***

*“Therefore I tell you: Don’t worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Isn’t life more than food and the body more than clothing? Consider the birds of the sky: They don’t sow or reap or gather into barns, yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Aren’t you worth more than they? Can any of you add one moment to his life span by worrying? And why do you worry about clothes? Observe how the wildflowers of the field grow: They don’t labor or spin thread. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was adorned like one of these. If that’s how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and thrown into the furnace tomorrow, won’t he do much more for you — you of little faith? So don’t worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be provided for you. -- **Matthew 6:25-33 (CSB)***

- Fell to their knees.

*Come, let’s worship and bow down; let’s kneel before the Lord our Maker. For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, the sheep under his care. -- **Psalms 95:6-7 (CSB)***

*When they did this, they caught a great number of fish, and their nets began to tear. So they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them; they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink. When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus’s knees and said, “Go away from me, because I’m a sinful man, Lord!” -- **Luke 5:6-8 (CSB)***

Then I turned to see whose voice it was that spoke to me. When I turned I saw seven golden lampstands, and among the lampstands was one like the Son of Man, dressed in a robe and with a golden sash wrapped around his chest. The hair of his head was white as wool — white as snow — and his eyes like a fiery flame. His feet were like fine bronze as it is fired in a furnace, and his voice like the sound of cascading waters. He had seven stars in his right hand; a sharp double-edged sword came from his mouth, and his face was shining like the sun at full strength.

*When I saw him, I fell at his feet like a dead man. He laid his right hand on me and said, “Don’t be afraid. I am the First and the Last, and the Living One. I was dead, but look — I am alive forever and ever, and I hold the keys of death and Hades. -- **Revelation 1:12-18 (CSB)***

Emerald City: Application

1. **The kings of this world come and go. Some are appointed, some work their way to the top, some are elected. They all offer temporal things and promise more. They all eventually disappoint. Vs 19a “After Herod died...” They all die.**
2. **There is another king. He willingly died.**

*“I am the good shepherd. I know my own, and my own know me, just as the Father knows me, and I know the Father. I lay down my life for the sheep. But I have other sheep that are not from this sheep pen; I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. Then there will be one flock, one shepherd. This is why the Father loves me, because I lay down my life so that I may take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down on my own. I have the right to lay it down, and I have the right to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.” -- **John 10:14-18 (CSB)***

There is only one King who rose from the dead. Which King will you follow?

Announcements 12/10

1. Feather Sound Christmas! - See all of our Christmas Events at feathersoundchurch.com/christmas
2. Christmas Caroling 12/15 - Get ready to embrace the spirit of the season at Feather Sound Church's upcoming Caroling Event! 5:30 - 7pm this Friday!
3. Ugly Sweater Sunday 12/17 - Wear your ugliest Christmas sweater to church! Get your picture taken in the lobby and vote on the ugliest sweater on social media! Winner will receive a prize!
4. Church Clean Up Day 12/16 - Help us maintain our church buildings and grounds!
5. Christmas Eve Morning Services: 9am and 11am
6. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 12/24 at 6pm - Invite everyone!