

Matthew 2 – The Cycle of Life’s Grand Design – 11 August 2019

Introduction –

What are you put here on earth for? What’s your purpose? God initiates this conversation with us, to reveal YOUR purpose.

Everyone has knowledge of God, some have little, some much. The question is, what do we do w/ it?

What actions do we take based on knowing who God is and what He wants from us and for us?

We aren’t acting in a vacuum; God has a grand design and plan for individuals and for the world that He’s working out. God will respond to our actions.

Today, we’re going to talk about the 4 steps in life’s grand design.

Matthew 2 gives us both godly and ungodly examples of those who enter into a great relationship w/ the Lord and those that don't.

Read Vs 1-2

1. Don't know how many wise men
2. Prophecy of Star and of the Messiah
 - a. Numbers 24:17 - A star and a king to come
 - b. Daniel would have been a great influence
 - c. Prophecy that is later fulfilled
 - i. All things of Christ to come not recorded in the Bible – Luke 24:27, John 21:25
 - d. Matt more than other Gospels shows fulfilled prophecy – Matt 1:22, 2:15, 3:3.....

1st Step in life's grand design is when knowledge of God is given

1. Wise Men led from what they know seek to worship

2. God is seeking worshipers not servants
3. Go with what you know, even if not perfect knowledge (They went to Jerusalem)
4. Knowledge of God isn't just given to those who would seek God....read verse 3.

Read Vs 3

1. Discuss King Herod – an Edomite raised in / forced into the Jewish religion. Not a true worshipper.
2. God is looking for people to worship Him in Spirit & in Truth
3. He was troubled b/c of threat to his power/rule.

Read Vs 4-7

1. Herod had all the true spiritual knowledge available to him. He had all ability to know God...but didn't'

2. We're held accountable for the knowledge of God that we do receive.
 - a. Luke 12:47-48
 - b. Some are given much knowledge of God (Herod)
 - c. Some are given little knowledge of God (Wise Men)

Vs 8-11

2nd Step in life's grand design is when we take action unto obedience or selfishness

Both Wise men and Herod acted on new Biblical revelation.

1. Read Vs 8 - Herod used his knowledge to deceive/trick others for his pride ultimately leading to murder.
 - a. Read Rom 1:21

- b. Jacob used his knowledge of God and His ways to steal the birthright from Esau
- 2. Read Vs 9-11 – Wise Men used their knowledge to obey and worship
 - a. Turn to Prov 2:1-5
 - b. Use the little that you do know
 - i. Don't stop from serving the Lord b/c you're not a scholar.
 - ii. Worship God IAW all that you currently know of Him, b/c you'll never know it all!
 - iii. Vs 11
 - 1. “Come into the house” – up to 2 yrs after birth
 - 2. Gifts – For king, priest, prophet
 - c. Worshipers actions are used to thwart rebels' actions.
 - i. Gifts used by Jesus' family to flee to Egypt thwarting Herod's plan!

Vs 12-15

3rd Step in life's grand design is when God takes action toward fulfilling His purposes

1. Read Vs 12 – The Wise Men are now being led directly by God!
 - a. B/c of obedience/worship and faithfulness with little knowledge, wise men rewarded with a true relationship w/ God & further revelation of Him!
 - b. Read II Chr 16:9
 - c. As God takes action toward fulfilling His purposes toward those who worship Him, this builds relationship.
 - i. This is eternal life to know and experience God from day to day. (John 17:3)
2. Vs 13-15 – Herod Thwarted
 - a. B/c of pride/disobedience to much revealed knowledge, Herod's plan was thwarted by a move or act of God.

- b. As God takes action toward fulfilling His purposes toward those who DON'T worship Him, this hardens them toward a relationship with Him.
- c. Turn to Psm 95:6-8 – It's a relationship of worship or a hardening.

Vs 16-23

4th Step in life's grand design is when fruit of the interaction appears

You can't have an interaction with God and not be affected!

- 1. Read Vs 16-18 – Herod Frustration
 - a. Without the blessings and favor of God in our lives, all our efforts and resources are not strong enough to succeed.
 - b. Herod had much power but was powerless to thwart God's plan.

- c. Herod had wars constantly.
 - i. Read Jam 4:1-2
- d. The fruit of rebellion to God will always be striving and frustration.
- e. God's Word will be fulfilled, will you choose to be for Him and be blessed or against Him and live a defeated life?
- f. Read II Chr 16:9
- 2. Read Vs 19-23 – The Godly Have Peace
 - a. The blessing of God, from obedience, leads to triumph and peace
 - b. Wise men and Joseph/Mary constantly had the peace of knowing God was leading them step by step.
 - c. To be at peace takes a walk of faith.
 - i. Read Rom 5:1, Mark 5:34, Luk 7:50, 8:48

Conclusion –

The 4 steps in the cycle of life's grand design are

1. **Knowledge of God is given**
 - a. When given much or little be faithful to obey what you do know
2. **Our actions unto obedience or selfishness**
 - a. Choose you THIS DAY whom you will serve. New chance every day!
3. **God's actions toward fulfilling His purposes**
 - a. God WILL finish His work, want to be on His side?
4. **Fruit of the interaction unto peace or striving**
 - a. Just abide in Jesus and naturally produce the precious fruit that God has desired all along