

the  
*Incarnation*  
of Jesus



# RESPONDING TO JESUS

*Matthew 2:1-12*

the  
*Incarnation*  
of Jesus

# *I. A LITTLE ABOUT...*

*the*  
*Incarnation*  
*of Jesus*

# I. A LITTLE ABOUT...

## A. *Herod the Great*

the  
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# I. A LITTLE ABOUT...

## A. Herod the Great

*i. He Was One of the Worst Tyrant Kings Israel  
Ever Had*

# I. A LITTLE ABOUT...

## A. Herod the Great

- i. He Was One of the Worst Tyrant Kings Israel Ever Had
- ii. *He Was Incredibly Ambitious*

# I. A LITTLE ABOUT...

## A. Herod the Great

- i. He Was One of the Worst Tyrant Kings Israel Ever Had
- ii. He Was Incredibly Ambitious
- iii. *He Was Completely Paranoid*

# I. A LITTLE ABOUT...

A. Herod the Great

B. *The Magi*

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# I. A LITTLE ABOUT...

A. Herod the Great

B. The Magi

*i. They Were Part of the Priestly, Ruling Class of  
Astrologers from Persia or Babylon*

# I. A LITTLE ABOUT...

A. Herod the Great

B. The Magi

- i. They Were Part of the Priestly, Ruling Class of Astrologers from Persia or Babylon
- ii. *They Were Wise at Interpreting the Stars*

# I. A LITTLE ABOUT...

A. Herod the Great

B. The Magi

- i. They Were Part of the Priestly, Ruling Class of Astrologers from Persia or Babylon
- ii. They Were Wise at Interpreting the Stars
- iii. *They Were Despised by Israel*

“Official Israel deeply despised the magicians and astrologers of the Gentiles and felt that God had rescued his people from the tyranny of the stars and from those who claimed to know its secrets. Biblically faithful Israel felt about the Magi roughly the way theological orthodoxy felt in the past about Gnosticism and feels in the present about New Age spirituality.”

Frederick Dale Bruner, *The Christbook, Matthew 1-12*

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“A star will come out of Jacob,  
and a scepter shall rise out of Israel.”

*Numbers 24:17*

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# I. A LITTLE ABOUT...

- A. Herod the Great
- B. The Magi
- C. *The Chief Priest and The Scribes*

# I. A LITTLE ABOUT...

- A. Herod the Great
- B. The Magi
- C. The Chief Priest and The Scribes
  - i. *Israel's Religious Ruling Class*

# I. A LITTLE ABOUT...

- A. Herod the Great
- B. The Magi
- C. The Chief Priest and The Scribes
  - i. Israel's Religious Ruling Class
  - ii. Experts in the Hebrew Scriptures

# I. A LITTLE ABOUT...

- A. Herod the Great
- B. The Magi
- C. The Chief Priest and The Scribes
  - i. Israel's Religious Ruling Class
  - ii. Experts in the Hebrew Scriptures
  - iii. *The Ultimate Insiders*

## II. THREE DIFFERENT RESPONSES TO THE PERSON OF JESUS

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## II. THREE DIFFERENT RESPONSES TO THE PERSON OF JESUS

A. *Those Who Are Actively Seeking Him – The Magi*

## II. THREE DIFFERENT RESPONSES TO THE PERSON OF JESUS

- A. Those Who Are Actively Seeking Him – The Magi
  - i. *Their Understanding of the Creation Led Them to Jerusalem*

## II. THREE DIFFERENT RESPONSES TO THE PERSON OF JESUS

- A. Those Who Are Actively Seeking Him – The Magi
  - i. Their Understanding of the Creation Led Them to Jerusalem
  - ii. *The Scriptures Led Them to Jesus*

## II. THREE DIFFERENT RESPONSES TO THE PERSON OF JESUS

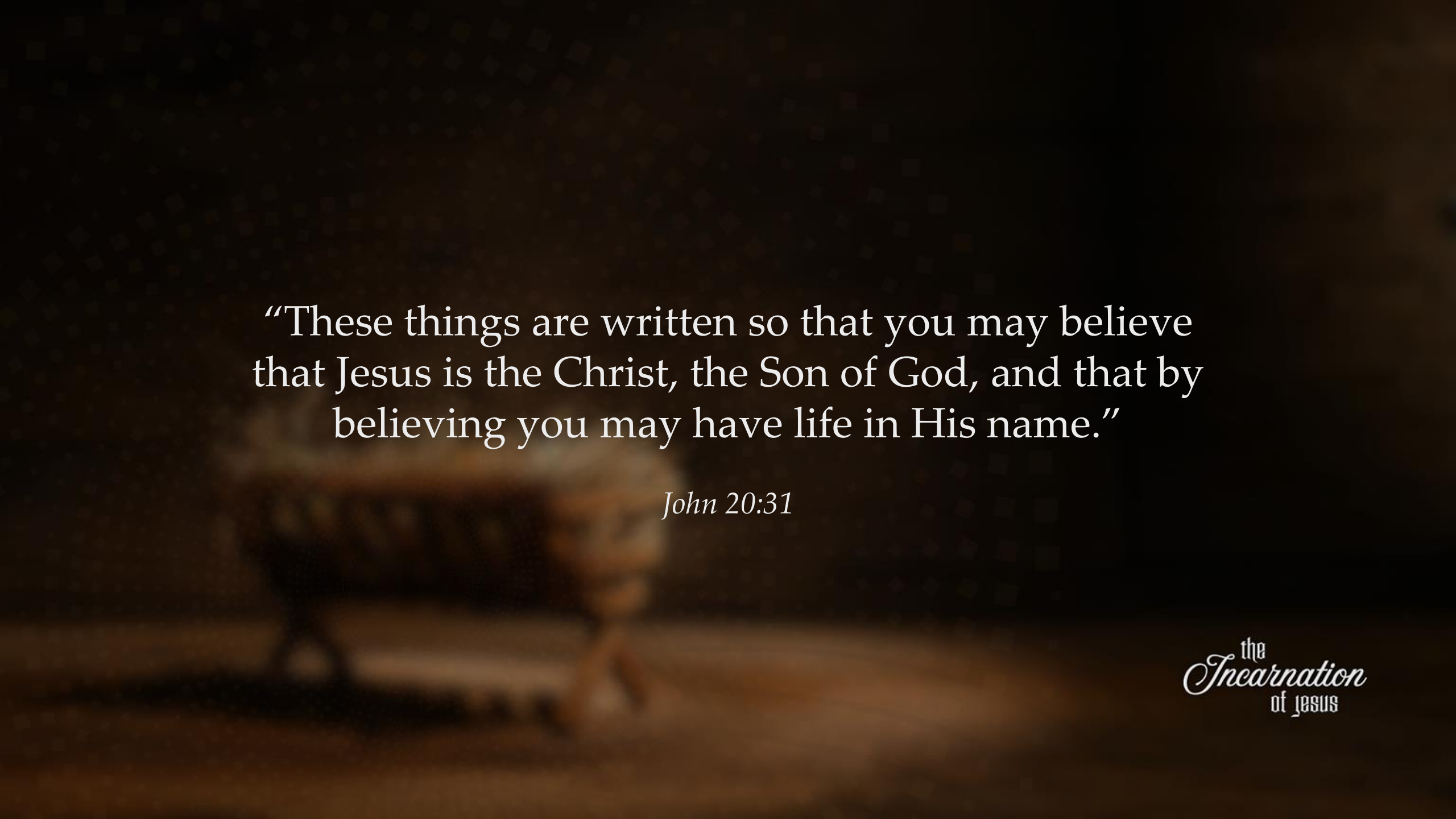
- A. Those Who Are Actively Seeking Him – The Magi
  - i. Their Understanding of the Creation Led Them to Jerusalem
  - ii. The Scriptures Led Them to Jesus
  - iii. *If You Are Actively Seeking Jesus, What You Need is the Wisdom of the Word of God.*

“God’s revelation in creation raises the questions and begins the quest; God’s revelation in Scripture gives a preliminary answer and directs the quest toward the goal. Finally, God’s revelation in Christ satisfies the quest. Creation’s revelation can bring human beings only halfway; scriptural revelation has the power to bring us home – to Christ.”

Frederick Dale Bruner, *The Christbook, Matthew 1-12*

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“These things are written so that you may believe  
that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by  
believing you may have life in His name.”

*John 20:31*

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## II. THREE DIFFERENT RESPONSES TO THE PERSON OF JESUS:

- A. Those Who Are Actively Seeking Him – The Magi
- B. *Those Who Are Apathetic Toward Him – The Religious Dudes*

## II. THREE DIFFERENT RESPONSES TO THE PERSON OF JESUS:

- A. Those Who Are Actively Seeking Him – The Magi
- B. Those Who Are Apathetic Toward Him – The Religious Dudes
  - i. *The People Who Knew the Most Cared the Least. Yikes!*

## II. THREE DIFFERENT RESPONSES TO THE PERSON OF JESUS:

- A. Those Who Are Actively Seeking Him – The Magi
- B. Those Who Are Apathetic Toward Him – The Religious Dudes
  - i. The People Who Knew the Most Cared the Least.  
Yikes!
  - ii. *The Outsiders Believe the Word, the Insiders Ignore it.*

## II. THREE DIFFERENT RESPONSES TO THE PERSON OF JESUS:

A. Those Who Are Actively Seeking Him – The Magi

B. Those Who Are Apathetic Toward Him – The Religious Dudes

*iii. Head Knowledge Apart from Heart Conviction is Deadly.*



## II. THREE DIFFERENT RESPONSES TO THE PERSON OF JESUS:

A. Those Who Are Actively Seeking Him – The Magi

B. Those Who Are Apathetic Toward Him – The Religious Dudes

iii. Head Knowledge Apart from Heart Conviction is Deadly.

iv. *If You Are Apathetic Toward Jesus, What You Need is to Let the Uniqueness of Jesus Challenge You.*

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## II. THREE DIFFERENT RESPONSES TO THE PERSON OF JESUS:

- A. Those Who Are Actively Seeking Him – The Magi
- B. Those Who Are Apathetic Toward Him – The Religious Dudes
- C. *Those Who Are Actively Opposed to Him – Herod*

## II. THREE DIFFERENT RESPONSES TO THE PERSON OF JESUS:

- A. Those Who Are Actively Seeking Him – The Magi
- B. Those Who Are Apathetic Toward Him – The Religious Dudes
- C. Those Who Are Actively Opposed to Him – Herod
  - i. *If You Are Actively Opposed to Jesus, You Must Let the Sacrifice of the King Melt You.*

“This is how God showed His love among us: He sent His one and only Son into the world that we might live through Him. **This is love:** not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.”

*1 John 4:9-10*

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