



3

Matthew 2:1-2

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, 2 saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

4

Matthew 2:3-7

3 When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; 4 and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.

5

Matthew 2:3-7

5 They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

6 "And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel."

6

Matthew 2:3-7

7 Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. 8 And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him."

7

King Size Impact

1. Wise men (Magi) travel great distances to witness his birth
2. A Host of Angels herald his arrival
3. A group of people gather to witness the birth
4. Herod, the King of Israel, was troubled and all the elite of Jerusalem with him.

8

King Herod



Herod “the Great” ruled as king of the Jews under Roman authority for thirty-three years, from 37–4 BC. Herod was a strange mix of a clever and efficient ruler and a cruel tyrant.

9

King Herod

“On the one hand, Herod was distrustful, jealous, and brutal, ruthlessly crushing any potential opposition. The Jews never accepted him as their legitimate king, and this infuriated him. He constantly feared conspiracy. He executed his wife when he suspected she was plotting against him. Three of his sons, another wife, and his mother-in-law met the same fate when they too were suspected of conspiracy.”

--Mark Strauss, Four Portals—One Jesus

10

Wise Men [Magi] – Royal advisors

Magi were intensively trained from a young age to be political, military, economic and religious advisors. They were prophets to ancient Kings. Babylon had perfected this practice into a council of advisors. It included “magicians, enchanters, sorcerers, and astrologers” (Daniel 2:2). This council became known as the Magi.

11

Now It's Personal

The Lord had Magi tell this paranoid ruler that a new king of Jews is being born as ancient prophecies foretold. Now all Herod's paranoia and cruelty is focused on the birth of a baby in a village just 6 miles south of His capital city Jerusalem. Herod had uncovered a "divine conspiracy".

12

Planning for Baby's Arrival

Human	The Lord
Most comfortable	Most austere
Serenity	Tumultuous
Safest	Most Dangerous
Quickest path to delivery	Long arduous trip to delivery
Notify all the family and friends	Notify foreigners and outcasts [Shepherds]

13

Every Detail is Planned

Every detail of Jesus' birth was planned from the very beginning to prepare him for His calling. The location, the parents, the lineage, the humble circumstances and the proximity to the highly paranoid and extraordinarily cruel King Herod were all carefully planned to communicate God's intentions and character.

14

Strategy vs Incidental

Vulnerability is a strategy, not simply a necessary, yet undesirable aspect of God's plan. We think that vulnerability just comes with the package, like an occasional brain freeze when eating ice cream. It kinda happens and we hope it doesn't happen with the death by chocolate waffle cone we're currently enjoying.

15

The Lord's Strategy

God choses Vulnerability and Helplessness as a covering for His great strength. The Lord choses the same strategy as a covering for His strength in the lives of His people.

16

Philippians 2:5-8

5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 Who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

17

Philippians 2:5-8

7 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 8 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ...

18

2 Corinthians 4:7

But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.

19

God became Breakable and Fragile

Christmas teaches us that God became breakable and fragile. God became someone we could hurt, a vulnerable baby, in a very dangerous and hostile world. Yet God's son was never in any real danger because he was under God's sovereign care...and so are all His sons and daughters.

20



21
