

Matthew 2 - The Wise Men Came

1/26/2020

review: Matthew presents Jesus as the King. Chapter one presented both his human heritage (v 1-17) and his divine heritage (v 18-25). Chapter two opens with the homage to the King.

I. Homage to the King

v 1 - 11

v 1 *wise men* - Esther 1:13

from the east - Gen 9:26

note : - p 68 *Newton's History of Ancient Kingdoms*

Master Books, 2009

- p 25 John Blanchard, *Does God Believe in Atheists ?*

Evangelical Press, 2000

- p 80 & 84 Don Richardson, *Eternity in their Hearts*

Regal Books, 1981

v 2 This is the first question in the New Testament.

Wise men ask the right question ! *Where is...King of the Jews ?*

his star - the prophecy = Num 24:17

God used angels (*stars*) to guide the wise men, Rev 1:20 & Heb 1:14.

we are come - Isa 60:3

to worship him - not Mary ! God's word is about Jesus.

v 3 *Herod...was troubled, and all Jerusalem*

Both political leaders and religion are troubled when Christ shows up.

spir truth: The gospel of Christ *troubles* people.

v 4 *where Christ* hx: Herod (1) was familiar with the term "Christ" ;

(2) knew the scriptures would have prophecy about Him.

spir truth: People today are aware that the Bible has information about Christ,
but they are willfully ignorant its contents.

They don't want to read it or hear it, but they *know* it's unique.

v 5-6 The scribes loosely 'quote' the prophet Micah, who wrote ~ 710 BC :

*But thou, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah,
yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel;
whose goings forth have been from old, from everlasting.* Micah 5:2

hx: (1) The scribes knew the scriptures, but did not care to know the Saviour.

(2) The prophecy specifies the Bethlehem of the south which was the birthplace of king David, see Ruth 1:22 & 4:11. (north Bethlehem was in Zebulun, Joshua 19:15)

spir truth: Today's "scribes" (so-called Christian scholars) know neither Christ nor the scriptures.
Their cheap perversions change the word everlasting to "ancient times" ;
thus denying the deity of Christ.

v 7 *the Herod ... privily called... enquired diligently ... what time the star appeared*

hx: Herod learned it had been ~ 1 to 2 years ago; so he says "young child" in v 8.

note: Shushan Palace to Jerusalem ~ 1,035 miles

spir truth: (1) *privily* (15x) is usually a bad word in scripture. Pr 1:11, Ps 64:5; 2 Pet 2:1

(2) It takes effort and labor to do evil or to do good. Pr 4:14-16, 6:12-14; Ps 94:20
Herod *enquired* the wrong way, Zep 1:6; not the right way, 1 Pet 1:10

v 8 *And he sent them... and said, Go and search for the young child*

Note the markedly different response in Luke 2:15-16.

v 9 - 10 God's divinely appointed light directed them to *where the young child was*.

He was in *Bethlehem* which means 'the house of bread' a fitting place for the birthplace of "the Bread of Life", John 6:48.

note: *the young child* occurs 9 times in 7 verses in Matthew chapter 2.

This early scene typifies much of Matthew's Gospel. This book previews how it is that in most of the New Testament we see Israel as 'cast off by God'; and the Church has superseded the Jewish Theocracy. This is the result of Israel rejecting their Messiah. Here, the wise men have come far from the East to worship the Christ child while the resident Jewish leaders are indifferent to the coming of their Messiah within walking distance. Additionally, the political ruler is so filled with hatred and rage, he is plotting a way to put the child to death - foreshadowing the crucifixion.

Today our rulers oppose the King and most of the public ignores the King; but wise men still come and seek the King. They come *from the east* (and west and north and south) *saying : Where is he that is born King of the Jews ?*

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v 11 *into the house ... not a stable or a manger, i.e. its later than Luke 2*

the young child ... always precedes his mother, note vv 13, 14, 20, 21

fell down, and worshipped him cf 14:33, 28:9 Heb 1:6 Rev 5:8 & 12

they presented unto him gifts - Exo 25:1-2

the gift	His office	nature of work	manifestation
myrrh	the Prophet	redeeming ministry	a 'dying' man
frankincense	high Priest	reconciling ministry	the resurrection & ascension
gold	The King	reigning ministry	His Return in Glory

II. Hostility toward the King

v 12 - 23

From the start, Jesus faced adversity, hostility and danger. Satan attempted, through many minions, to destroy Christ; yet God delivered and protected him every step of the way.

Danger # 1 (v 12) Herod had plotted to find the Christ child (v 7-8); but God used a dream to warn the wise men *not to return to Herod*. Proverbs 16:17
The wise men obeyed God rather than Herod, Acts 5:28-29

Danger # 2 (v 13-18) Herod attempted to *destroy* the Christ child.

v 13 - 14 Again God steps in by a dream to Joseph. The instructions would have been impossible without the wise men's gifts, Joseph and Mary were poor (Lk 2:24). But now they have the gold for the trip. spir appl = Phil 4:19

Joseph & Mary were uprooted despite being God's servants caring for God's child. They neither grumbled nor disputed, rather they instantly obeyed. That's great faith !

v 15 Scripture is fulfilled as quoted in Hosea 11:1 (see notes in Hosea ch 11)
hx: Jesus was sent into Egypt, a type of the world, just as his children are sent into the world to live, John 20:21, 2 Cor 5:20.
spir : Jesus was "*called out of Egypt*" as are we in command: 1 John 2:15-16

v 16 - 18 *Herod ... slew all the children*

hx: One of the cruelest recorded acts by a political leader.

spir : The devil has used infanticide literally in before, Exo 1:15,16 & 22

He uses it today two ways : (1) abortion

(2) public education - designed to disannul (Job 40:8) God's word

Dr. Charles M. Pierce, MD, Harvard Professor of Education & Psychiatry- charge to teachers :
"Every child in America entering school at age five is mentally ill because he believes in ... a supernatural being. It's up to you, as teachers, to make all these sick children well - by creating the international child of the future." source : *HUMANISM, The Religion of Public Education*
cf: Mt 18:6 1 Cor 1:21

v 17-18 Scripture is fulfilled = Jeremiah 31:15

hx: Ramah is ~ 5 miles north of Jerusalem, while Bethlehem is ~ 5 miles south.

Herod drew a radius around Jerusalem and slew thousands of innocents.

The return to the land of Israel :

v 19 - 21 Joseph had to wait on God (Lam 3:25 - 26) for about seven years.
 spir: Believers should do the same, this is part of our obedience.

Danger #3 (v 22) Herod's son, Archelaus, now reigns in Judah.

God now directs Joseph again...i.e. step by step.

spir lessons: (1) This keeps the disciple close to God
 (2) It strengthens our faith
 (3) We realize that God has all trials in hand.

v 23 ...*he dwelt in Nazareth...called a Nazarene*

{ Notes from Isaiah Chapter 11 }

Christ is called a *branch* six times in the Bible -

The Hebrew word for *Branch* is 'netzer' the root of *Nazarene* (Matthew 2:23).

references

- (1) *The Book of Matthew*, Dr. Ruckman, 1970 Pensacola Bible Institute Press
- (2) *Preachers Sermon Bible*, vol 1, 1998 Leadership Ministries Press
- (3) *Bible Exposition Commentary*, vol 1, Warren Wiersbe, 1989 Victor Books
- (4) *Thru the Bible*, vol 4, J. Vernon McGee, 1983 Thomas Nelson

Civil Government Rulers in the New Testament

Major Rulers

I.	Caesar Augustus	Roman Emperor	27 BC - 14 AD	Lk 2:1
II.	Tiberius Caesar	Roman Emperor	14 - 37 AD	Lk 3:1 - Lk 23:2
	appointed :			
	Pontius Pilate	Governor Judah	26 - 37 AD	Lk 3:1 - Mt 28:1
	note: Caligula Caesar ruled from 37-41 AD, he's not mentioned in scripture			
III.	Claudius Caesar	Emperor	41 - 54 AD	Acts 11:28 - 28:19
IV.	Nero Caesar	final Julian Emperor	54 - 68 AD	2 Tim post-script

Minor Rulers

1.	Herod the Great	king of Judah	37 BC - 4 BC	Mt 2:1 Lk 1:5
2.	Herod Archelaus	tetrarch Judah	4 BC - 6 AD	Mt 2:22
	{ these two were brothers }			
3.	Herod Antipas	tetrarch Galilee	4 BC - 39 AD	Lk 3:1 - Lk 23:6-12
4.	Herod Agrippa I	king Judah	40 AD - 44 AD	Acts 12: 1-23
5.	Herod Agrippa II	tetrarch Judah	40 AD - 70 AD	Acts 25:13 - 26:32

Note: (1) Coponius / Marcus Ambivulus / Annius Rufus / Valerius Gratus
4 tetrarchs of Judah after H. Archelaus 6 AD till P. Pilate 26 AD

(2) Herod Agrippa I was the father of Agrippa II : Both were appointed by Caligula.
51 y.o. when appointed /// only 13 yo, so he was accompanied by his older sister
Bernice, with whom he had incestuous relations.