

** All scripture referenced in this sermon are from the New King James Version*

Matthew 2:1-3

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, saying, “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.” When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

1. Called himself King of the Jews
2. Edomite, Idumean
3. Usurper
4. 2nd Temple, Herodian, Masada
5. Extremely paranoid to lose his power

He was a clever and capable warrior, orator, and diplomat. . . . But Herod was also cruel and merciless. He was incredibly jealous, suspicious, and afraid for his position and power. Fearing his potential threat, he had the high priest Aristobulus, who was his wife Mariamne’s brother, drowned-after which he provided a magnificent funeral where he pretended to weep. He then had Mariamne herself killed, and then her mother and two of his own sons. Five days before his death (about a year after Jesus was born) he had a third son executed.

- John MacArthur

Augustus the Roman emperor at the time said it was safer to be Herod’s pig than Herod’s son

1. Troubled
2. I’m the King
3. Jerusalem Trouble
4. Our Own little Kingdom
 - a. Home
 - b. Work
 - c. Church

This trouble is again testimony to the greatness of Jesus, even as a young child. “Jesus of Nazareth is so potent a factor in the world of mind that, no sooner is he there in his utmost weakness, a now-born King, than he begins to reign. Before he mounts the throne, friends bring him presents, and his enemies compass his death.”

- Charles Spurgeon

Matthew 2:4-6

And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. So they said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet: ‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.’ ”

1. Right place to find the answer
2. Right people to look
3. Christ, Messiah
4. Well aware of the Jews hope

Matthew 2:7-9

Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found Him, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also." When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was.

1. Secret meeting
2. Timeline
3. False Worship
4. Facts not Faith

Matthew 2:10-12

When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way.

1. God protected
2. Their allegiance is to God

1 Timothy 6:13-16

I urge you in the sight of God who gives life to all things, and before Christ Jesus who witnessed the good confession before Pontius Pilate, that you keep this commandment without spot, blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ's appearing, which He will manifest in His own time, He who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honor and everlasting power. Amen.

Matthew 2:13-18

Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him." When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, "Out of Egypt I called My Son." Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying: "A voice was heard in Ramah, Lamentation, weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, Refusing to be comforted, Because they are no more."

1. Herod helped to fulfil
 - a. Out of Egypt
 - b. Horrible infanticide
2. Can't even imagine
3. Moms
4. Soldiers

Matthew 2:19-20

Now when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the young Child's life are dead."

1. Happens to all men
2. How many know the facts

Galatians 5:13-16

For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another! I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

1. Exact opposite
2. Worried about his flesh
3. Not devour

“The Witness of the Christmas Wise Men”

Craig Crawshaw

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Matthew 2:1-12 *Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him.” When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with Him. Gathering together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for this is what has been written by the prophet: “And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the leaders of Judah; for out of you shall come forth a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.”*

Then Herod secretly called the magi and determined from them the exact time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the Child; and when you have found Him, report to me, so that I too may come and worship Him.” After hearing the king, they went their way; and the star, which they had seen in the east, went on before them until it came and stood over the place where the Child was.

When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.

After coming into the house, they saw the Child with Mary His mother; and they fell to the ground and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they presented to Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned by God in a dream not to return to Herod, the magi left for their own country by another way.

VERSE ONE

- ✓ The timeframe of the visitation – before Herod’s death and after Jesus’ birth
- ✓ The “who” of the visitation – “magi”
- ✓ The apparent beginning of the magi

Daniel 2:48-49 *Then the king promoted Daniel and gave him many great gifts, and he made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon and chief prefect over all the wise men of Babylon. And Daniel made request of the king, and he appointed Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego over the administration of the province of Babylon while Daniel was at the king’s court.*

- ✓ The origination of the Christmas magi – “from the east”

VERSES TWO to FOUR

- ✓ Whom the magi sought
 1. King of the Jews
 2. One worthy of worship
 3. Messiah
- ✓ Their guiding light – “His star”

I recommend: BethlehemStar.com
- ✓ Herod’s agitation and cluelessness

VERSES NINE to TEN

- ✓ The clue of “before them”
- ✓ The clue of “stood over the place”
- ✓ The joy of the magi

VERSES ELEVEN to TWELVE

- ✓ The place of the Child - *“the house”*
- ✓ The literal meaning of “Child” – “young one”
- ✓ Upon first seeing Jesus - worship
- ✓ Their “treasures”
 - Gold – fit for a King
 - Frankincense – fit for a Priest
 - Incense – fit for the Lamb of God
- ✓ Their civil disobedience

SUMMARY – The witness of the Christmas magi

1. WISDOM observes and acts on godly signs.
2. WISDOM diligently seeks Deity.
3. WISDOM worships God’s Anointed One.
4. WISDOM rejoices in God’s guidance.
5. WISDOM disregards immoral authority.