

Matthew 2

Three Kings of Christmas

Mele Kalikimaka! > Wish you God's RICHEST Blessings this Christmas!

So GLAD you are Here!

We have Followed His Star from MANY Nations and Come to Worship Him

MT: UNIVERSAL Significance Jesus' Birth > Gentiles from EAST Worship

Matthew chapter 2 carries Forward 2 themes from Ch. 1:

1. The Kingship of Jesus
2. The Salvation of Gentiles

Wherever they're FROM? These Gentiles: Very First to Worship KING Jesus
Bible doesn't say what Country these Men were from > "East" / MIDDLE East

Matthew says Nothing about Homage of Jesus' Parents or Jewish Shepherds

Turn page from Matthew 1 to Matthew 2 we jump forward about 2 years

Mary and Joseph MADE A HOME in David's City of Bethlehem

about 10 kms Southwest of JERUSALEM

Joseph and Mary and Jesus were living in a house in Bethlehem.

Maybe Joseph the Carpenter found a lot of Work in Bethlehem.

Maybe WAITING for Baby Jesus grow Stronger > 140 kms back home to Naz.

3 Kings of Xmas: 1. Scheming King / 2. Searching King / 3. Suffering King

1. The Scheming King

vs. 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 saw his star when it rose and have

come to worship him.” When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him

HEROD – Not really JEW OR a KING > Ethnic IDUMEAN Descendant of Esau

"KING" by Roman Senate: Vassal of Roman Caesar's to HUMILIATE JEWS

ROME had his BACK to the WEST > but he FEARS Attack from EAST

FEARSOME REPUTATION for his RUTHLESS Rule

LAST Decade of Herod's Reign > INCREASINGLY PARANOID

Had 10 WIVES whose Children FOUGHT for their Father's THRONE

EXECUTED Several of his WIVES AND SONS Out of FEAR of their Position

Caesar Augustus reportedly said *“Rather be Herod's PIG than his SON!”*

v. 3 FEAR of Herod & LACKEYS > MAYBE the REAL King HAS Been Born

They were FULLY AWARE they were just PLAYING at Being REAL RULERS

Meet this Morning in CAPITAL CITY of most Populous Nation of World

BABY Jesus CONTINUING to make RULERS HERE Nervous TOO

CHILD Born FAR from here, So LONG Ago – Exceeded 15 minutes of FAME!

a. Knows the Bible

vs. 4-6 ...assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: ““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.””

NT Not Plan B since OT did not Work – OT Book of PROMISE >> FORWARD

Jews realize a MESSIAH must Come and Fulfill Promise of Hebrew Scripture

1st C Atmosphere of ISRAEL, ELECTRIC with MESSIANIC EXPECTATION

Matthew PROVES to Readers of Hebrew Scriptures > **It all POINTS to Jesus Augustine** > “New in Old concealed, Old is in New Revealed”

SPECIFICALLY the PROPHET Micah Answers the Magi's Inquiry

v. 2 "Where," they ask, "is the one who has been born king of the Jews?"

Scholars answer from MICAH Chapter 5 > "In Bethlehem in Judea"

THIS MEANS > Jesus is SHEPHERD Greater than DAVID from Bethlehem
 Jesus SON of David born in CITY of David to RULE People of God FOREVER
 REVERSAL of Fortunes was seen in Bethlehem – Tiny Town hosts One of
 Greatest Events in Human History – so Baby Jesus will Save the World

ROYALS TOO Busy to Travel 10 k's Down Road see SON sent from HEAVEN
 So many MALLS to See, Good Shows on TV.... God knows they were BUSY!!

b. Kills the Babies

Herod tries to HIDE his RAGE & POSES Seemingly INNOCENT REQUEST...

vs. 7,8 Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. 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.”

Herod's FEAR and REJECTION at Beginning of Jesus Life

FORESHADOWS Ultimate Rejection of Jews at End of JESUS' Life

vs. 16-18 Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: “A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and loud lamentation,

Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be comforted, because they are no more.”

HEROD – Not just IGNORE this TRUE KING > tries to EXTERMINATE Him
Bethlehem’s Population less 1000, Several DOZEN Boys? 1 was Too Many!!

How many who UNDERSTAND DEMANDS of Gospel done Terrible Things to
TRY & ESCAPE the INESCAPABLE TRUTH of God as SOVEREIGN KING

KILL Babies Today ABORTION, Protect NAME of Family, Daughter, Future
TERRIBLE – My Country # Abortions INSIDE Church almost Same OUTSIDE

King Herod’s heart to kill the Savior > Satan was a murderer from Beginning
Kingdom of Satan will always try to destroy the kingdom of God.

Matthew quotes Weeping of Rachel > Another Perilous Time in Jewish History
God led them THRU Terrible SADDNESS THEN and will DO SO AGAIN!

Greater is He that is in Us, than he that is in the World

Satan’s kingdom Never Defeat King Jesus > Herod died, Jesus lives Forever!

EPISODE Pictured by APOSTLE JOHN in Revelation 12

Power of Darkness tries to destroy Work of God @ Beginning of Jesus’ Ministry

Satan is most active in first 5 minutes after WORSHIP SERVICE

Seed of Word is STOLEN by Birds Before it can takes ROOT and GROW!

HEROD – OR None of Us in this Church - Can PLEAD Ignorance before God

2. The Searching Kings

Xmas CAROLS guys CALLED **3 Kings** > MAYBE NOT Kings, Maybe Not 3!?

MAGI = MAGICIANS – PRIESTLY Cast from Ancient Persia – Zoroastrians?

Leading Figures in RELIGIOUS Court > Scientists, Diplomats, and Wizzards!

DOUBTFUL Matthew made this Up! Church that stood Against ASTROLOGY

Wise People everywhere are SEARCHING & RESTLESS if Don't KNOW God

Not just POOR Seek for GOD – Even POWERFUL bow Before God's POWER

POOR man Looks into Refrig – EMPTY says “There is Nothing to Eat!”

RICH man Looks into Refrig FULL of FOOD says “There is Nothing to Eat!”

People we THINK have it All Together often MOST EMPTY and CURIOUS

HAVE IT ALL – STILL MISERABLE – NONE OF IT FILLS THEIR SOUL

If MEN they were NOT Kings when they CAME, they WERE when they LEFT

May all kings bow down to him and all nations serve him. Psalm 72.11

a. Found by Grace

Ch 1 – Matthew great DETAIL to Establish Jesus as TRUE King in David's Line

GREAT NEWS Not just for ISRAEL > Church sent DISCIPLE ALL NATIONS

Even these GENTILE WIZZARDS invited to FIND God's SAVING GRACE

BABYLON their Homeland, Met JEWS Remained from EXILE stayed Yrs ?

NO HOPE in their SYSTEM – No Salvation on their OWN DOING

PAGAN Kings learned DISTINCTIVE Promises of JEWISH SCRIPTURES

DAVIDIC DELIVERER promised PROPHET EZEKIEL who lived in Babylon:

“This is what the Sovereign LORD says...”I will save my flock, and they will no longer be plundered. I will judge between one sheep and another. I will place over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he will tend them; he will tend them and be their shepherd. I the LORD will be their God, and my servant David will be prince among them”
Ezekiel 34.20-24

Just as TODAY even ENEMIES of Gospel ADMIRE its PROMISES

Many COMMUNISTs Attracted to Jesus > Fear Coming out of PARTY

Some – like Joseph of ARIMETHEA & NICODEMUS – Boldly TAKE Stand

MANY just WAITING and WISHING for STAR to GUIDE Them

“I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star.” Revelation 22.16

Relationship to God TODAY is not being Born into Jewish Family

Being BORN AGAIN into Jesus Family –

We have Relationship with Him not by RACE, but by GRACE thru FAITH

b. Follow by Grit

vs. 9-11 After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.

STAR that had led them 1000 Miles led them 10 k's MORE Miles to Bethlehem

Greek word Not Restricted to "Star" > could be any Heavenly Phenomena

Comet?? Supernova?? Planetary Conjunction??

CHINESE & KOREAN Astronomers > SUPERNOVA – March to April 5 BC

Magi spoke of seeing "His Star" - belonging to "one born king of the Jews"

NOT Clear HOW Star was Sent or HOW MUCH Christology they Understood

What is CLEAR God met them WHERE they were At > Led them DEEPER

HEARTS were OPEN to MEET this JESUS and BOW their KNEE to Him

Matthew gives NO INDICATION they WORSHIPPED Mary > Only her SON

Their Zeal to Worship the Child stark contrast to Indifference of Royal Jews

Star heralds the coming of Israel's King

"A star will come out of Jacob; a scepter will rise out of Israel" Numbers 24.17

"Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn."

Isaiah 60:3

Magi speak of him Not just Destined to Become King, but King from His Birth

That's why they come to Worship Him

If FOLLOWING Continued ALL their LIVES will see them with King Jesus

the city...the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. By its light will the nations walk, and *the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it*

Revelation 21.22,23

3. The Suffering King

a. Sovereign Glory

SMALLEST PERSON in this Chapter is the MOST SIGNIFICANT ONE who MOST VULNERABLE & HELPLESS is in FULL CONTROL

EVERYTHING Points to JESUS

vs. 13-15 Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt I called my son."

VULNERABILITY of Jesus is EXPOSED > No Soldiers, No Security Guards

Holy Family FLED 80 miles South from Bethlehem to EGYPTIAN Border

EGYPT Normally means TROUBLE for God's People > Were SAFE even Here Was THRIVING Jewish Community in EGYPT during FIRST Century

Matthew Reminds JEWISH Reader of God's Deliverance of BABY MOSES

Deliberate DEPICTION of Jesus as NEW MOSES

Moses Father told in DREAM, SON would DELIVER his People out of EGYPT

v. 15 HOSEA > God delivered People OUT of Egypt during the EXODUS

Jesus Inaugurates NEW EXODUS words about PAST are Pointing to FUTURE

Matthew > Jesus is TRUE ISRAEL AND SON of God, Delivered TO SAVE

As Moses' life was threatened by Pharaoh, so is Jesus' by Herod

Exodus & Passovers just SYMBOLS > Full & Final SALVATION Now in X

CLEARLY God is in CONTROL > STARS in SKY to DREAMS in our SOULS

Series of DREAMS thru BIRTH Narratives – Mary, Joseph, Wise Men

UNUSUAL Divine Communication as FOUNDATION of Salvation is Laid

God is not Endorsing Astrology, but MEETING People where they are AT

Today God speaks thru Dreams to Gentiles > Testimonies in Muslim World

They FOLLOW that Call from HEAVEN to FIND Jesus and Worship HIM

LUKE tells us Much about MARY > Matthew tells us MORE about JOSEPH

WILD RIDE of Faith – PROTECT and PROVIDE for Son who is NOT HIS

Son he will LOVE and SERVE because He is the CHILD of his Beloved Wife

Dad, wanna know how to LISTEN to God and LOVE your Family? > JOSEPH

Joseph Found TRUE PLACE as HUMBLE SON of his HANAI SON

b. Grows to Suffer

vs. 19-23 But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, “Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead.” And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled: “He shall be called a Nazarene.”

Jesus DODGED a BULLET as a BABY only to become a MAN of SORROWS

HELPLESS CHILD lays Claim to ISRAEL'S THRONE – Great DANGER

JUDEA was NOT SAFE Place for BABY JESUS or JESUS the MAN >

He would die there in 30 years

HOLY FAMILY probably EXILED in Egypt for about a YEAR

Before his Death – Herod DIVIDED his Kingdom between 3 Remaining Sons

19 yr old ARCHELAUS Reputed to be as EVIL and CRUEL as Father Herod

17 yr old HEROD ANTIPAS ruled GALILEE > will Execute BAPTIZER

NAZARETH in Hill Country of LOWER GALILEE – pop. About 500 PEOPLE

People NOT have LAST NAMES > Matthew identifies Jesus OF NAZARETH

GOSPEL of Matthew FILLED with Quotes from OT, but this is NOT Quote

"through the prophets" > No Particular OT Passage in View

v. 23 NOT a QUOTE from O.T. but a THEME from O.T. > REJECTION

Nathaniel asked: “Can ANYTHING GOOD come out of NAZARETH?”

Hebrew word NEZER = BRANCH – One of PROPHETIC Titles of David

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him

Isaiah 11.1,2

DUAL NOTION in Word Nazarene – ROYALTY (Branch) & REJECTION

Adds to TITLES of Matthew – Emmanuel (God with us) / Jesus (Savior)

ROYAL SON AND the REJECTED SAVIOR

Many Friends SEND OUT Once a Year Letter @ Christmas – READING Now...

SHOCKS All at Once > Who DIED, DIVORCED or DENIED their FAITH

Nobody is GETTING YOUNGER! Or MORE HEALTHY!!

Not Trying to be CRUEL but CLEAR > Our HOPE is Not in this WORLD

No Matter WHO is President > Kingdom of God will not come Ballots or Bullets

We are CALLED to Follow a NAZARENE – EMBRACE His Cross and DIE

2 Realities in Matthew 2 –

We are in Desperate Need of Salvation

Jesus is God's Only Answer to that Need

DESPISED NAZARENE is Now King of Kings and Lord of Lords

1st Sermon Preached in Hawaii > Rev. Hiram BINGHAM on OAHU

Announced this ADVENT JOY on April 23rd, 1820

"Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people"

Luke 2.10, quoted by Rev. Hiram Bingham on Oahu, 23 April, 1820

Still TRUE today 197 yrs LATER > DISTANT Islands or Distant LANDS

JOY in JESUS Christ > GREATER than Anything World OFFERS

Who will you tell?

Matthew 2:¹Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ²saying, “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.” ³When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵They 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.”” ⁷Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸And 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.” ⁹After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. ¹²And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way. ¹³Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” ¹⁴And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt ¹⁵and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, “Out of Egypt I called my son.” ¹⁶Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. ¹⁷Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: ¹⁸“A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be comforted, because they are no more.” ¹⁹But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, ²⁰saying, “Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead.” ²¹And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. ²²But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. ²³And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled: “He shall be called a Nazarene.”

