

Series "The King And His Kingdom"
"Wise Seek The King"
Matthew 2:1-12
Study-3

Matthew 2:11 they fell to the ground and worshiped Him.

Our Characters:

Herod - Feared The King!

The Jewish Priests/Leaders - Ignored The King!

The Magi - Sought The King!

Matthew is concerned that the Jewish readers would know that even Gentiles in the very beginning came to worship Jesus, The King! **Matthew 27:11**

Thought Of Our Passage: "God Encourages Us To Seek Him Because Jesus Is Accessible And Will Be Found By The Wise That Seek Him."

- 1. Verses 1-2 Wise Seek Him:**
- 2. Verses 2-8 Wise Serve Him:**
- 3. Verses 9-12 Wise Worship Him:**

1. Verses 1-2 Wise Seek Him:

Matthew 2:1 Now

Context - Matthew continues his account of the birth of the king.

Matthew has covered His **lineage** (His right to the throne), then His **supernatural advent** (born of a virgin Deity God in The Flesh)

after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea

This is all that Matthew says about the birth details.

Luke 2:1-20 gives details.

in the days of Herod the king, Herod –

He reigned for 33 years and his later years at the time of Christ were his most vicious years. He reigned from **37 BC** to **4 BC**.

His early years, he accomplished some great feats:

His latter years at the time of Christ were his most vicious years.

Magi from the east, (Babylon or Persia?)

Magi – word means "great, powerful ones, wise men"

Magi – we derive our word "magistrate"

These professionals were brilliant and highly educated scholars who were trained in **medicine, history, religion, prophecy** and **astrology**. Since these men thought deeply about life, it certainly makes sense to call them "**Wise Men.**" Someone has suggested that they were "**Oriental Scientists.**" They were highly influential men serving as advisors to the king. While they were not kings themselves, it would not be far from the truth to call them "**Kingmakers**"

Magi – plural more than one.

arrived in Jerusalem,

The Magi would have swept into Jerusalem with pomp

Matthew 2:2 Wise Enough To Seek Information:

"Where is He who has been born King of the Jews?"

Isaiah 9:6-7; Daniel 9:24-26

They understood that the messiah would come from and save the Jews.

Magi were **scientists who did not see a conflict between science and Scripture!** God wants us to worship Him with our minds.

For we saw His star in the east,

Prophecy of Balaam. **Numbers 24:17**

in the east, (Babylon or Persia?) Mesopotamia?

1000 miles, some suggest this could have taken two years for them to arrive.

Note that these were Gentiles!

Matthew makes clear that Jesus came to save all!

Everyone can have a relationship with God.

Many passages in the Bible encourage us to seek God and promise that we will find Him? Isaiah 55:6; Jeremiah 29:13; Zephaniah 2:3; Amos 5:6

God tells us to seek Him because He is accessible to us.

God is not hard to find and is not hiding from us. John 1:11-12

2. Verses 2-8 Wise Serve Him:

Matthew 2:2 and have come to worship Him."

These men were seeking God.

Worship and Service cannot be separated!

Service comes out of real worship.

Matthew 2:3 he was troubled,

Literally "*agitate, trouble of the mind, to terrify*"

all Jerusalem with him.

Why would Jerusalem be troubled?

Herod was worried because there was a rival king, Jerusalem was the same, and another king could disrupt

Matthew 2:4 Gathering together all the chief priests –

The ruling party. Sanhedrin, the Jewish supreme court.

Oversight of the temple and its worship.

and scribes

These were the Jewish scholars of the Law. The experts of the Law.

he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.
Scholars of Scriptures

Matthew 2:5 They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea
This was the place that Jacob buried Rachel (**Genesis 48:7**)
This is where Ruth married Boaz and lived there (**Ruth 1:22**)
This was the house of David (**1 Samuel 16:1-13**)

Bethlehem – "House of bread" John 6:35

From Jerusalem to Bethlehem is about 5 miles south!
(What good is Bible prophecy if it does not lead to action?)
2 Timothy 3:7

Matthew 2:6 AND YOU, BETHLEHEM, LAND OF JUDAH,
Prophecy – Special Revelation:
(722 B.C. 700-year-old prophecy, Micah 5:2)

ARE BY NO MEANS LEAST AMONG THE LEADERS OF JUDAH; Judah – "Praise"

FOR OUT OF YOU SHALL COME FORTH A RULER, WHO WILL SHEPHERD MY PEOPLE ISRAEL." Prophecy given by Jacob to Judah **Genesis 49:8-12**

Matthew 2:7 Then Herod secretly called the magi,
Should tell us something of his motive.

determined from them the exact time the star appeared.
Matthew 2:16 from two years old and under,
Herod wanted to know how old the child was?

Matthew 2:8 and when you have found Him, report to me,
Deception, use the Magi to find Christ.
so that I too may come and worship Him."
So phony. **Psalms 2:2-4**

3. Verses 9-12 Wise Worship Him:

Matthew 2:9 Star – General Revelation:
and the star, which they had seen in the east, went on before them
What we see here is the leading of the Lord.

Obedience To Revelation:
until it came and stood over the place where the Child was.
How does a star stand over a house?

Matthew 2:10
When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.
"Magi had an overflowing joy, couldn't contain, their faces, their actions"

When they saw the star,
God guides when the time has come.

Matthew 2:11 After coming into the house

Notice that the family was in a house not a stable.

and saw the Child with Mary His mother;

Note **Child** – word means "*Little Child*" a year to 2 years of age.

Magi Wise Enough To Worship Jesus:

and they fell to the ground and worshiped Him.

Worship – "*to fall upon the knees and touch the ground with the forehead as an expression of profound reverence*"

Then, opening their treasures, they presented to Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

These gifts are symbolic in intent but were practical gifts fit for a king.

Gold - The Metal of Kings – gifts of gold,

Symbolizes God's divine nature, heavenly majesty, and purity. Because it does not tarnish or rust, it represents eternal life, incorruptibility, and the unblemished glory of the divine. A gift fit for Deity/King **Psalm 72:15** (Matthew Gospel: Jesus the King). Jesus is the King of Kings. **Speaks of His Deity.**

Incense - The Worship of God - frankincense,

Used by the priest in sacrifice. Jesus is our high priest.

Leviticus 2:1-2 (Prayer compared to incense that would ascend to God).

Jesus' life was a sweet fragrance to God. He was our intercessor on our behalf.

Hebrews 7:25 Speaks of His Ministry.

Myrrh - The Gift of Death - and myrrh.

Used for embalming the dead.

Jesus is the lamb sacrificed before the foundation of the world.

Exodus 30:22-33 Jesus would be the ultimate sacrifice. **Speaks of His Humanity. Gift of Faith Jesus would die for the sins of the world.**

Psalm 22:1; Isaiah 53:5

Matthew 2:12 the magi left for their own country by another way.

When you worship Jesus, He will lead you on a different path!

Application:

1. The Magi Were Wise Not Because Of Their Education Or Intelligence, But Because Of Their Actions In That They Sought The Lord:
2. The Wise Both Serve And Worship Jesus. Worship And Service Cannot Be Separated Because Service Is The Result Of Real Worship:
3. The Magi Did Not Return To Report To Herod Because When You Worship Jesus, He Will Lead You On A Different Path: