

“The Wise Seek Him”
Matthew 2:1-12
Christmas Eve 5:00 PM 2022

Matthew’s account surrounding the birth of Jesus **Reveals the Attitudes/Response to Jesus’ Birth**. Identical Attitudes/Response exist today around Christmas.

Herod - Opposed The King!

Religious Leaders & Citizens of Jerusalem - Ignored the King!

The Magi - Seek the King!

Thought Of Our Passage: “God Encourages Us to Seek Him Because Jesus Is Accessible And Will Be Found By The Wise”

1. Verses 1-10 The Wise Will Seek Him

2. Verses 11-12 The Wise Will Find Him

1. Verses 1-10 The Wise Will Seek Him:

Matthew 2:1 Now - Matthew 1 covered Jesus’ **lineage** (His rite to the throne) then His **supernatural advent** (born of a virgin) The King is “The King of Kings”

after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea This is all that Matthew says about the birth details. **Luke 2:1-20** gives details as to the very night!

in the days of Herod the king, Herod – reigned for 33 years, 37 BC to 4 BC.

Magi - our modern word “*magistrate*” is derived from the word **Magi**. These professionals were brilliant and highly educated scholars who were trained in **medicine, history, religion, prophecy** and **astronomy**.

from the east, (Babylon or Persia) suggested that they were “**Oriental Scientists**”

arrived in Jerusalem, The Magi would have swept into Jerusalem with pomp. At a minimum **full military escort along with their servants**.

Matthew 2:2 "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? Isaiah 9:6-7, Daniel 9 They understood that the Messiah would come to save the Jews.

For we saw His star in the east, could have been the prophecy of Balaam. **Numbers 24:17** or possibly a comet, possibly a super-nova.

in the east, (Babylon or Persia) that means at least over 1000 miles **and have come to worship Him."** These men were seeking 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; Matthew 7:7-8

God tells us to seek Him because He is accessible to us. God is not hard to find and is not hiding from us.

Matthew 2:3 he was troubled, literally "to agitate" and all Jerusalem with him. Herod was a man that would never dwell with a rival.

all Jerusalem with him. Why would Jerusalem troubled? Herod was worried because there was a rival throne.

Matthew 2:4 all the chief priests – the ruling party.

and scribes these were the experts of the Law. They were the theologians.

Matthew 2:5 They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea Jacob buried Rachel (**Gen. 48:7**) Boaz married Ruth (**Ruth 1:22**) The house of David (**1 Sam 16:1-13**)

Bethlehem – "*House of bread*" **John 6:35 "I am the bread of life;**

From Jerusalem to Bethlehem is about 5 miles South!

Matthew 2:6 700-year-old prophecy Micah 5:2

Religious leaders had the knowledge but no interest themselves.

Matthew 2:7 and determined from them the exact time the star appeared. Matthew 2:16

Matthew 2:8 that I too may come and worship Him." At Christmas Herod shows up! Talking God, quoting Scripture,

Matthew 2:9 they went their way; and the star, which they had seen in the east, went on before them as they started toward Bethlehem, they saw the star again.

until it came and stood over *the place* where the Child was. How does a star stand over a house? "By God!"

Matthew 2:10 God guides in His time.

2. Verses 11-12 The Wise Will Find Him:

Matthew 2:11 After coming into the **house** Notice that the family was in a house not a stable.

they saw the Child with Mary His mother; Note **Child** – “*little child*” 1 to 2 years of age.

and they fell to the ground and worshiped Him. Worshiped – “*to fall upon the knees and touch the ground with the forehead as an expression of profound reverence*”

they presented to Him gifts were symbolic, but gifts fit for a King.

Gold – Deity Of Jesus Gold most precious of metals a gift fit for a King

Frankincense - Ministry Of Jesus Used by the priest in sacrifice.

Myrrh – Humanity Of Jesus Used to embalm the dead.

These gifts were a result of Divine Revelation and great love.

Matthew 2:12 And having been warned by God in a dream not to return to Herod, Joseph had a dream by which God communicated to him, not to stay but leave.

Application:

- 1.** God Encourages Us To Seek Him Because He Is Accessible To All.
Isaiah 55:6; 1 Timothy 2:4
- 2.** God Loves Us And Died So We Could Experience Forgiveness.
John 3:16-17
Romans 10:9-10