

“Seeking The Christ Of Christmas” Matthew 2:1-12

Matthew’s account of the birth of Jesus (Advent of Christ) Reveals the Attitudes/Response to His coming.

Herod – Opposed The King!

Religious Leaders & Citizens of Jerusalem – Ignored The King!

The Magi – Seek The King! “Seeking The Christ of Christmas!”

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’s lineage (His right 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; “Oriental Scientists.” While they were not kings themselves, you could call them “Kingmakers.”

“arrived in Jerusalem,” – At a minimum full military escort along with their servants. The total party more than 300 people.

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.

“in the east,” – Babylon or Persia; that means at least over 1000 miles; that it could have taken up to 2 years for them to arrive.

“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 live with a rival.

Herod was a descendant of Esau, Genesis 25:19-34. Spiritual versus the flesh, the godly versus the worldly.

“all Jerusalem with him.” – Why would Jerusalem be troubled? Another king could disrupt the system in place.

Matthew 2:4 – “all the chief priests” – the ruling party; Sanhedrin the Jewish supreme court.

“and scribes” – these were the experts of the Law. They were the theologians.

Matthew 2:5 – “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?

Matthew 2:6

700-year-old prophecy, Micah 5:2. Religious leaders interpreted this passage as literal.

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

Matthew 2:8-9

“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

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” – Gift’s were symbolic but gifts fit for a King.

“Gold” – Deity Of Jesus; Gold, most precious of metals; a gift fit for a King. Matthew, Gospel; Jesus the King. Jesus is the King of Kings.

“Frankincense” – Ministry Of Jesus; Used by the priest in sacrifice. Jesus is our High Priest. Jesus’ life was a sweet fragrance to God. He lived a perfect life.

“Myrrh” – Humanity Of Jesus; Used to embalm the dead. Jesus is the lamb sacrificed before the foundation of the world.

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

Matthew 2:12

Application:

1. God Encourages Us To Seek Him Because He Is Accessible To All.
God Is Not Difficult To Find If We Will Seek Him With All Of Our Heart:
Jeremiah 29:13.
2. The Wise Men Teach Us That True Wisdom Is Not Based Upon One’s IQ Nor Education But One’s Actions To Seek And Worship Jesus:
Isaiah 55:6.