

"The Wise Seek Him"
Matthew 2:1-12
Christmas Eve @ 6:00 PM December 24, 2013

Matt 2:1-12

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 Seek Him

2. Verses 11-12 – The Wise Worship Him

1. Verses 1-10 – The Wise Seek Him:

Matthew 2:1

Matthew 1 – covers Jesus' lineage (His right to the throne).

"after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea" – Luke 2: 1-20 gives details.

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

Magi – Our modern word "magistrate" is derived from the word Magi; highly educated scholars who were trained in medicine, history, religion, prophecy and astronomy.

Matthew 2:2

"Where is He who has been born King of the Jews?" – Isa 9:6-7, Daniel 9

These Wise Men, Magi, who were scientists, did not see a conflict between Science and Scripture! God wants us to worship Him with our minds.

Albert Einstein said, "Science without religion is lame. Religion without science is blind."

"For we saw His star in the east," – Num. 24:17

"in the east," – (Babylon or Persia) at least 1000 miles.

Have you noticed how many passages in the Bible encourage us to seek God and promise that we will find Him?

Isa. 55:6-7

Jer. 29:13

Zeph. 2:3

Amos 5:6

Matt. 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 "agitated"; "and all Jerusalem with him."

Matthew 2:4-5

"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. He was an individual, not the nation.

Matthew 2:7

Matthew 2:16

Matthew 2:8-9

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

Matthew 2:10

2. Verses 11-12 – The Wise Worship Him:

Matthew 2:11

“And they came into the house” – a house, not a stable.

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

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

Gold – Deity Of Jesus; Gold, most precious of metals, a gift fit for a King (Matthew’s 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 scarified before the foundation of the world.

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: Jer. 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: Isa. 55:6.