

Matthew Chapter Two

Worshipping the King

I. Introduction (Matthew 2:2)

- A. Chapter Two in Matthew begins with quite a bang! Men from 600 miles away come looking for a baby who will not *become king* one day, but IS already King at His birth.
- B. The birth of this King will result in the deaths of all children under two years of age.
- C. Jesus’ parents will flee to Egypt for a while until Herod’s threat subsides.
- D. Then, Joseph, Mary and Jesus head back up to Galilee where Jesus will grow up in a small town called Nazareth, and will begin His earthly ministry.
- E. Chapter two presents many impossible prophecies, and problems that God easily overcomes!

II. Lesson

A. Wise Men Worship Jesus (2:1-12)

1. The Wise men – Greek, _____ – magicians – able to understand mysteries – not like modern magicians
 - a. God calls these men WISE men, not magicians
 - b. These were Shemites (Asiatics) – not true Gentiles – they were spiritually driven in nature, as all Shemites were
 - c. No number of men, but three is a good guess. These men aren’t named either
 - d. Cf 1Cor 1:26,27
2. The East
 - a. The east had many wise men
 - 1) _____ in Uz (Job 1:3)
 - 2) _____ in Ur of the Chaldees (near Babylon, Gen 11:31)
 - 3) _____ wisdom was able to exceed the wisdom of the east (1Kg 4:30)
 - b. Wisdom was in the East (1Kgs 4:30), not the West, the North, or the South – we call the area around Israel, the Middle EAST!
 - c. From Babylon is the best guess, but could be as far east as China (unlikely, because China is never mentioned in Scripture, so since Babylon played such an important role in God’s plan, it is the likely candidate)
3. The search – for the new-born King
 - a. The basis for their search
 - 1) A _____ (Gen 49:10) in the direction of Israel (Num 24:17)
 - 2) The timing from the rebuilding of the Temple (Dan 9)
 - 3) From the decree of Artaxerxes (445-446 BC) in Neh 2:1
 - 4) Matthew alone directly cites, or alludes to Old Testament Scriptures 129 times – with 89 times being preceded by the phrase, “in order that it might be fulfilled...”
 - 5) There are also _____ prophetic references in Mark, and _____ in Luke!

Prophecies Of the Messiah’s Divinity – That Jesus is God		
He pre-existed – has always existed	Gen 1:26; Micah 5:2	Jn 1:1,14; Jn 8:58; 1Jn 5:7
He would be God in the Flesh	Isa 9:6,7; 7:14; 40:9; Gen 22:8	Mt 1:23
He would be virgin born	Gen 3:15; Isa 7:14	Mt 1:18
He would be God’s Son	Ps 45:6,7; 110:1; Dan 3:25; Ps 2:7; Pr 30:4	Declared to be God’s Son (Mt 3:17; Jn 5:18; 10:36; Rom 1:3,4)

Prophecies Of His Humanity		
He would be born of a woman, and therefore have human blood	Gen 3:15	Mt 1:18; Acts 20:28
He would be born of a Virgin	Isa 7:14; Gen 3:15	Mt 1:23; Lk 1:26-35
He would be a Man, Male – not female, or something alien, like from another planet	Isa 7:14; 9:6	Mt 1:23
He would have the appearance of an ordinary man – this would be God, living as a man.	Isa 53:2	Philp 2:7,8
He would be of Abraham's lineage. He would therefore be a Jew	Gen 12:3	Jn 1:10,11
He will be of the tribe of Judah	Gen 49:10	Heb 7:14; Rev 5:5
He would be of David's lineage	2 Sam 7:13	Making Him heir to David's throne (Isa 9:6,7)
And yet He would be Lord over David	Ps 110:1	Mt 22:42-46
He would be born in Bethlehem	Micah 5:2	Mt 2:1
He would be a Nazarene (not known as <i>from Bethlehem</i> , but from the northern tribes)!	Isa 9:1,2; Judg 13:5; Amos 2:11; Lam 4:7	Mt 2:23; 4:14-16
He would be born at a particular time	Dan 9:25 – the appointed, or exact time	Gal 4:4
A star would appear just to announce His birth	Num 21:8	Mt 2:2
He will be presented with gifts	Ps 72:10	Mt 2:11
His coming would be the occasion of a massacre at Bethlehem	Jer 31:15	Mt 2:18
He would be the King of the Jews at birth	Ps 2:1, 7, 12	Mt 2:1,2
His arrival would be announced by Elijah (that's why people expected Jn the Baptist to be Elijah)	Mal 3:1; 4:5,6; Isa 40:3	Mt 11:7-11; Lk 1:17; Mt 3:3
He would be called JESUS – meaning "Jehovah is the Saviour"	Isa 12:2	Mt 1:21
He would have brothers and sisters (half) – Mary would not be a perpetual virgin!	Ps 69:8	Jn 2:12; 7:1-5; Mt 13:55,56
<i>(There are other prophecies, but these are relevant so far)</i>		

b. The focus of their search

- 1) To worship – bow down to, kiss, adore, honour as God!
- 2) To worship specifically, JESUS – not Mary or Jehovah, or anyone else
- 3) The MAN Christ Jesus is to be worshipped EXACTLY as Jehovah God is worshipped
 - a) Matt 2:11
 - b) John 5:23
 - c) John 9:38
 - d) John 20:28
 - e) Hebrews 1:6
 - f) All of this in the face of the constrictions to worship only GOD (Mt 4:10; Ex 34:14)
 - g) What are YOU searching for, and why?
- 4) Notice how Mary is always listed AFTER Jesus (2:13,14,20,21)

c. The trouble with their search

- 1) They were troubled – not being able to find the new Lord
- 2) Troubled Herod – having competition!
- 3) Troubled everyone in Jerusalem – fear of a God in action
- 4) Jesus always stirred up trouble (Mt 21:8-15)

d. The lack of information

- 1) Herod here is Herod the Great.
 - a) There were ___ Herods.
 - (i) Herod the 1st – this man
 - (ii) Herod Antipas – who had John the Baptist and James murdered
 - b) Tetrarch means "ruler of a quarter" – he was a puppet king under Caesar

- c) This man built the Temple of Christ’s day
- 2) Herod knew where to look for the answer (Jn 7:42)
 - a) He was at least a Bible believer – didn’t look to sorcery, or astrology, but to the Scriptures – the established Jewish Canon of the Old Testament
 - b) Willing to murder on the basis of the truthfulness and accuracy of the Hebrew Scriptures!
- 3) The wise men had prophecy up to the Book of Daniel in their possession, but not _____ (Micah 5:2)
- 4) Notice two things:
 - a) How selective the scribes were in their quote. Notice the part “left-out” by the scribes!
 - b) The principle is that the Scriptures are to be taken literally, not selectively!
 - c) The other versions edit the God-ness (divinity) out of Jesus

<p>Micah 5:2 (AV) But thou, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from _____.</p>	<p>Micah 5:2 (NIV) “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.”</p>	<p>Micah 5:2 (JW) “And you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, the one too little to get to be among the thousands of Judah, from you there will come out to me the one who is to become ruler in Israel, whose origin is from early times, from the days of time indefinite.”</p>	<p>Matthew 2:6 (AV) And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel. <i>(note the missing words are not quoted by the scribes)</i></p>
Clearly an eternal Being	The Messiah is just “ancient”	Whatever “indefinite” means!	The quote by the scribes is very revealing!

- 4. The Star (Mt 2:2, 9,10)
 - a. Shown for them at the first to let them know that God’s will was at work, bringing a King into this world! The world needs a perfect ruler.
 - 1) Our flesh is not a good ruler
 - 2) Other great men are despots
 - 3) Satan rules this world only wishing to destroy
 - 4) Only God can rule, and He does it as a Servant who EARNs the place of a King
 - b. The star disappeared when they got near the land of Israel – it forced the wise men to ask the local king of the new King’s whereabouts
 - c. It reappeared as they left Jerusalem
 - d. Moved, to where it hovered over where the child was laying
 - e. So – the “star” was actually an angel (Ex 3:2; Ps 104:4)
 - f. And the reason no one else noticed the star is for several obvious reasons
 - 1) Most people left star-gazing to the Magi, or smart guys
 - 2) Most people only look down – never up
 - 3) Most people don’t study anything enough to be able to tell that something is new or not
 - 4) Most of the Jews were indoors celebrating family reunions – not out walking and looking at the stars
- 5. Notice they were in a _____ – not in the stable (2:11)

B. Jesus is taken to Egypt for Safety (Mt 2:13-15)

- 1. Joseph’s Dream
 - a. God was warning Joseph
 - b. God used dreams with Joseph to speak with Joseph
 - c. God spoke directly to Mary
 - d. But! God also spoke directly with Zechariah

2. Why run?
 - a. When is it time to run?
 - b. Paul and Barnabas “ran” sometimes, and stayed around other times (Acts 9:24,25)
3. Why Egypt?
 - a. For the later coming out from Egypt
 - b. A type of the world
4. Notice the typology that Jesus is playing out – that this world is not our home, and one day we will leave for good!
5. Prophecy (Mt 2:15; Hos 11:1)
 - a. Israel referred to as the son of God
 - b. But the Messiah is referred to as God’s Son as well (Psalm 2)
 - c. God evidently MEANT to confuse Israel!
 - d. They will have to study to see the Perfect Son as pictured, not themselves!

C. Herod Massacres all Children in Bethlehem (Mt 2:16-18)

1. The hatred
 - a. Hatred blinds us to the value of others
 - b. Hatred is selfish and self serving
 - c. Hatred here was a work of the devil to attempt to kill the Messiah. Satan tries many times to kill Jesus
 - 1) On the back of a donkey in the womb of His mother
 - 2) By trying to force Jesus to step off the tip-top of the Temple
 - 3) By being forced over a hill side
 - d. The hatred by the world
 - 1) Of God’s people
 - 2) But of God’s Son the most
2. The source of all hatred and murder – Satan (John 10:10)
3. The prophecy

Jeremiah 31:15	Matthew 2:18
Thus saith the LORD; A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, and bitter weeping; Rahel weeping for her children refused to be comforted for her children, because they were not.	In Rama was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, and would not be comforted, because they are not.

- a. Ramah referred to all the people crying about the loss of their children in the area of Bethlehem which was just 5 miles from Jerusalem
- b. Rachel is referred to since she is the mother of the tribe of Benjamin which these people were from
- c. Evidently, Rachel is ALIVE and able to weep over events on earth
4. The cost of Jesus interfering in human history
 - a. When God sought to intervene in the affairs of life, Satan moves to destroy
 - b. Mankind rejects God’s interference
 - c. But it is the only way to save a sinner!

D. Jesus returns to Nazareth (Mt 2:19-23)

1. Notice that Joseph sought to move back to the area around Jerusalem
 - a. Maybe thought he would do better financially around the bigger city
 - b. Probably liked being near to Jerusalem – good business in a big city
 - c. God had other plans
 - 1) Stay out in the country
 - 2) Stay simple
 - 3) Fulfill more Scripture – wait on God

2. Nazareth will be Jesus' home for the next 28 years
 - a. He will grow up with 4 half-brothers, and two half-sisters (Mt 13:55,56)
 - b. He will learn the trade of his earthly step-father – Carpentry. Jesus will be known as the CARPENTER (Mark 6:3)
 - c. He will “lay low” so-to-speak, and not do much of anything before His “time” which would come when He gets baptized by John the Baptist.

E. Jesus' Teenage Years (Luke 2:40-52) – not listed in Matthew, but important to know

1. Other than His birth, there is only one other glimpse into the life of Christ Jesus, and that was when He was 12 years old
2. The yearly trek to Jerusalem
 - a. There were three such treks required by Law (Ex 23:14-17)
 - 1) Feast of Unleavened Bread/Passover
 - 2) The Feast of Firstfruits – Pentecost
 - 3) The Feast of Ingathering, or Tabernacles
 - b. This one was for the Passover – very important to see how Jesus connects with the celebration of the Passover, which followed the week of Unleavened Bread
3. Jesus had gone with His earthly parents to Jerusalem, every year, and at twelve years old begins to do His REAL Father's work
 - a. This proves Jesus KNEW He was God in the flesh (didn't discover it when He got baptized as some believe)
 - b. This proves just what God's business was:
 - 1) Engaging people in the truth (Cf John 18:37,38)
 - 2) Convicting people, especially grown men of their sin
 - 3) Drawing men to Jesus as Messiah and Saviour
 - 4) Honouring and lifting up not just God, but the Son

III. Conclusion

- A. Chapter Two is just like chapter One in that it lifts up and honours Jesus
- B. To the Jew, this was hard, because they already had honour for Moses, and thought THAT was enough
- C. But even Moses had said there was coming a Prophet LIKE HIMSELF that Israel needed to hear and obey
- D. That Prophet was now here, and Matthew is proving it, under the inspirational hand of the Holy Spirit.

IV. Study Questions for Chapter Two

- A. How many prophecies have been presented so far in just TWO chapters?
- B. Describe what a wise man is?
- C. Is Jesus' intervention in human history always pleasant?
- D. What is the Father's business?