

Text Outline**Matthew 2**

- I. ² After
 - A. Jesus
 1. was born
 - a) in Bethlehem
 - b) in Judea,
 - c) during the time of King Herod,
 - B. Magi from the east
 1. came to Jerusalem
 2. ² and asked,
 - a) “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews?”
 - b) We
 - (1) saw his star when it rose
 - (2) and have come to worship him.”
 - C. ³ When
 1. King Herod heard this
 - a) he was disturbed,
 - b) and all Jerusalem with him.
 2. ⁴ When
 - a) he
 - (1) had called together all the people’s
 - (a) chief priests
 - (b) and teachers of the law,
 - (2) he asked them where the Messiah was to be born.
 - b) ⁵ “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written: ⁶ “But
 - (1) you,
 - (a) Bethlehem,
 - (b) in the land of Judah,
 - (c) are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
 - (2) for out of you
 - (a) will come a ruler
 - (b) who will shepherd my people Israel.”
 3. ⁷ Then Herod
 - a) called the Magi secretly
 - b) and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared.
 - c) ⁸ He sent them to Bethlehem and said,
 - (1) “Go and search carefully for the child.
 - (2) As soon as
 - (a) you find him,
 - (b) report to me,
 - (c) so that I too may
 - (i) go
 - (ii) and worship him.”

- D. ⁹ After they had heard the king,
1. they
 - a) went on their way,
 - b) and the star they had seen when it rose
 - (1) went ahead of them
 - (2) until it stopped over the place where the child was.
 2. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were overjoyed.
 3. ¹¹ On coming to the house,
 - a) they saw the child with his mother Mary,
 - b) and they
 - (1) bowed down
 - (2) and worshiped him.
 - c) Then they
 - (1) opened their treasures
 - (2) and presented him with gifts of
 - (a) gold,
 - (b) frankincense
 - (c) and myrrh.
 4. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.
- II. ¹³ When they had gone,
- A. an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream.
1. "Get up," he said,
 2. "take
 - a) the child
 - b) and his mother
 3. and escape to Egypt.
 4. Stay there until I tell you,
 5. for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him."
- B. ¹⁴ So he
1. got up,
 2. took the child and his mother during the night
 3. and left for Egypt,
 4. ¹⁵ where he stayed until the death of Herod.
- C. And so was fulfilled what the Lord
1. had said
 2. through the prophet:
 3. "Out of Egypt I called my son."
- III. ¹⁶ When
- A. Herod
1. realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi,
 2. he was furious,
 3. and he gave orders to kill all the boys
 - a) in Bethlehem and its vicinity
 - b) who were two years old and under,
 - c) in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi.

- B. ¹⁷ Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:
1. ¹⁸ “A voice is heard in Ramah,
 - a) weeping
 - b) and great mourning,
 2. Rachel
 - a) weeping for her children
 - b) and refusing to be comforted,
 - c) because they are no more.”
- IV. ¹⁹ After Herod died,
- A. an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt ²⁰ and said,
1. “Get up,
 2. take
 - a) the child
 - b) and his mother
 3. and go to the land of Israel,
 4. for those who were trying to take the child’s life are dead.”
- B. ²¹ So
1. he
 - a) got up,
 - b) took
 - (1) the child
 - (2) and his mother
 - c) and went to the land of Israel.
 2. ²² But
 - a) when
 - (1) he heard that Archelaus was reigning in Judea in place of his father Herod,
 - (2) he was afraid to go there.
 - b) Having been warned in a dream, he withdrew to the district of Galilee,
 - c) ²³ and he
 - (1) went
 - (2) and lived in a town called Nazareth.
 3. So was fulfilled
 - a) what was said through the prophets,
 - b) that he would be called a Nazarene.

Conceptual Outline

Theme: The birth of King Jesus is a fulfillment of O.T. prophecies. God is in sovereign control and will guide us.

I. Magi's search for Jesus

A. **Timing: after His birth Location: Bethlehem**

B. **They asked Herod for help**

C. **Herod's response**

1. **he was disturbed**
2. **he consulted the spiritual leaders who identified the city according to O.T. prophecy**
3. **Herod's scheme to kill**

a) he found out the exact time of the star's appearance

b) he sent the Magi to search

D. **Magi were led to Jesus**

1. **reappearance of the star**
2. **they were overjoyed**
3. **They**

a) witnessed the child with his mother

b) they bowed & worshiped

c) they presented him with gifts

4. **being warned in a dream, they returned to their country by another route**

II. The Escape to Egypt

- A. The angel appeared to Joseph in a dream commanding him to escape to Egypt
- B. Joseph obeyed the command
- C. O.T. prophecy was fulfilled

III. The Massacre of infants

- A. Herod's command to kill all boys in Bethlehem who were 2 y/o and under
- B. Jeremiah's prophecy was fulfilled

IV. Return to Nazareth

- A. An angel appeared in a dream to Joseph after Herod's death with command to return to Israel
- B. Joseph's response
 - 1. Joseph obeyed the command
 - 2. Joseph's practical judgment & another dream prompted him to settle in Nazareth
- C. O.T. prophecy was fulfilled

Questions:

Read Matthew 2

1. Have you even been at a cross road feeling lost, confused, and frustrated not knowing how to go on and which direction to turn? What helped you find your way?

Matthew 2 is a familiar story of how magi from the east came to worship Jesus at His birth. From the very beginning of His life, we are told who He is. Yet His life is a controversy from the start. From this passage, we will consider the various people & ways they either seek and find God or ignore and reject God.

Read vs. 1-12

2. Who are the different people or groups of people described in these verses?
3. Let consider first, the magi & see how the birth of Jesus change their lives & directions. Let's find all the verbs & phrases that described what they did to search for Jesus? From this list, what can we learn about them? Let's identify the ways God led them to find Jesus. What were God's parts and what were the magi's parts? What did they do after they found Jesus? What prompted them to worship the child Jesus since they hardly knew him or the Jewish religion? Do you recall where the title they gave to Jesus reappeared in the gospels? (Why did God make the star disappear & reappear again?)
4. Now let's consider King Herod. What were the different verbs that tell us about his response to Jesus' birth? What did he rely on in his search? What was the major difference between his search and the magi's search? How did this difference affect him? How did he handle his emotions? How did his rejection of God & his insecurity shape his kingship & the people he serve?
5. Next, let's consider the religious leaders. How were they described in the passage? From the descriptions, can we tell who were their masters? What was their level of knowledge compared to that of Herod & the magi? How did their knowledge serve them and the people they served? Why didn't the information from the magi and their knowledge lead them to worship?
6. How has your knowledge about Jesus affected you when you first heard of him? How has your increased knowledge now affect your search in life?

Read vs. 13-23

7. The next person we'll learn from is Joseph. What were some of the ways God led him as the leader and protector of his new family? When there's no clear divine leading, how did Joseph make his decisions? Joseph is usually portrayed as low-key, passive person lacking in character in Christmas pageants, what stands out here in this passage about Joseph's character?
8. Let's turn to the star of this passage, Jesus. We have been considering who Jesus is in our series of Bible studies. From the very beginning, how is He described? What kind of king is He? What is the source, nature, and scope of His Kingship?

9. From the start, Jesus' life was filled with struggles and controversies. His parents & his lives were in great danger, pursued, went into hiding, and many innocent children died indirectly because of him and of the magi's search. Why did God intend it that way? How many times were O.T. prophecies quoted and recorded as fulfilled in the passage? What were they? What did their fulfillment prove?
10. What principles about God's leading can we draw from this record about Jesus' birth?
11. The four different groups of people we studied have their different levels of knowledge & searches for Jesus. What can you learn from each of the groups in your search of God and His leading in your life?

Questions & Potential Answers:

Read Matthew 2

1. Have you even been at a cross road feeling lost, confused, and frustrated not knowing how to go on, which direction to turn? What helped you find your way?

Matthew 2 is a familiar story of how magi from the east came to worship Jesus at His birth. From the very beginning of His life, we are told who He is. Yet His life is a controversy from the start. From this passage, we will consider the various people & ways they either seek and find God or ignore and reject God.

Read vs. 1-12

2. Who are the different people or groups of people described in these verses?

- Magi
- Herod
- Religious Leaders
- Joseph & Mary
- Jesus

3. Let consider first, the magi & see how the birth of Jesus change their lives & directions. Let's find all the verbs & phrases that described what they did to search for Jesus? From this list, what can we learn about them?

vs. 1-3 came, asked, saw his star, have come to worship, vs. 9-12 - heard, went, saw, overjoyed, saw, bowed down, worshiped, opened their treasures, presented, being warned, returned

- saw, heard, asked - they were observant & inquisitive
- came, come, went - they would take actions appropriate to what they knew. They left their family, job, & homeland to seek God
- overjoyed, bowed down, worshiped, opened, presented - passionate emotionally, humble & respectful with cross-cultural appreciation, worshipful attitudes, generous, thoughtful & planful in preparation in the success of their journey & their gifts

Let's identify the ways God led them to find Jesus. What were God's parts and what were the magi's parts?

- Through their education, training, & knowledge (combination of God's gift & learning), star (divine revelation 2X), search with educated hypothesis (logical reasoning), answer from OT prophecy (divine)

What did they do after they found Jesus? What prompted them to worship the child Jesus since they hardly knew him or the Jewish religion?

- They worshiped Him and presented Him with gifts fitting for a king.

- From the series of event starting from the appearance of the star, they knew that Jesus was the "king of the Jews." The supernatural event & the fulfillment of OT prophecy probably helped them recognize Him as God. At any rate, they were the 1st to worship Jesus.

Do you recall where the title they gave to Jesus reappeared in the gospels?

- "king of the Jews" appeared 18 times in the gospels. With exception of this one from the magi, the rest were intended to mock, insult, or condemn Jesus. This is the official charge against Him that crucified Him on the cross. Insult or not they were all uttered by gentiles, not Jews.

(Why did God make the star disappear & reappear again?)

- This is hard to understanding as God seems to have intentionally led them to Herod which eventually caused the massacre of many innocent children. Yet they were all to fulfill the Scriptures.

4. Now let's consider King Herod. What were the different verbs/phrases that tell us about his response to Jesus' birth?

- v. 3 heard...disturbed, v.4 called ...the people's chief priests., v.7 called the magi secretly...found out...the exact time, v. 8 sent them to Bethlehem and said...(lied about his intent to worship), v.16 realized ...outwitted by the Magi...furious...gave order to kill...v.19 Herod died.

What did he rely on in his search?

- Human knowledge, his own power, scriptures

What was the major difference between his search and the magi's search? How did this difference affect him? How did he handle his emotions? How did his rejection of God & his insecurity shape his kingship & the people he serve?

- his insecurity, lust of power, pride & control...it's all in the heart.
- It causes him to be disturbed. He lied about his intent. He disturbed everyone around him with fear of him. Then, he acted to harm all the people he's called to serve & protect.
- Historic accounts of Herod the Great:
 - He killed one of his 10 wives in 29 BC, his mother-in-law 28 BC, drowned a brother-in-law who was a high priest in 35 BC, executed 3 of his sons in 7 BC, he executed 300 military men & a number of Pharisees in 7 BC
 - The first non-Christian reference to the massacre is recorded four centuries later by Macrobius (c. 395-423), who writes in his *Saturnalia*:

"When he [emperor Augustus] heard that among the boys in Syria under two years old whom Herod, king of the Jews, had ordered to kill, his own son was also killed, he said: it is better to be Herod's pig, than his son."

5. Next, let's consider the religious leaders. How were they described in the passage? From the descriptions, can we tell who were their masters?

- the people's chief priests, teachers of the law
- they were the people's servants, not God's

What was their level of knowledge compared to that of Herod & the magi? How did their knowledge serve them and the people they served? Why didn't the information from the magi and their knowledge lead them to worship?

- They were obvious well versed in the OT Bible. Right away, they could name Jesus' intended birth place, His rule, & the nature of His rule.
- Their knowledge did not cause them to seek Jesus. Their knowledge were a disservice to the people as they indirectly contributed to the massacre.
- Knowledge to them was intellectual, a function of their job, a way to sustain they lives, but has no relevance or impact to them. They were numb and had no room in their hearts for Jesus. There's no faith even though they were religious.

6. How has your knowledge about Jesus affected you when you first heard of him? How has your increased knowledge now affect your search in life?

Read vs. 13-23

7. The next person we'll learn from is Joseph. What were some of the ways God led him as the leader and protector of his new family? When there's no clear divine leading, how did Joseph make his decisions?

- v.13, 19 dreams, angel; v.14 during the night...v.15 until the death of Herod (common sense); v. 22 heard...afraid...withdrew...v. 23 went (informed, good sensitivity & alert but not disabling, caution, common sense, obedience)

Joseph is usually portrayed as low-key, passive person lacking in character in Christmas pageants, what stands out here in this passage about Joseph's character?

- careful, wise, courageous, willing to take decisive actions, spiritually sensitive, responsible, obedience, great protector, no trace of grumbling or complain

8. Let's turn to the real star of this passage, Jesus. We have been considering who Jesus is in our series of Bible studies. From the very beginning, how is He described?

- v. 2 born king of the Jews
- v.5 ruler
- v. 5 will shepherd my people Israel
- v. 11 worshiped by magi
- v. 14 my (God) son
- v. 23 a Nazarene

What kind of king is He? What is the source, nature, and scope of His Kingship?

- source: Born king not made king, God's son,
- nature: compassionate & loving ruler, shepherd, humble king from an unknown place, Nazareth
- scope: universal, worshiped by gentiles even though He's king of the Jews

9. From the start, Jesus' life was filled with struggles and controversies. His parents & his lives were in great danger, pursued, went into hiding, and many innocent children died indirectly because of him and of the magi's search. Why did God intend it that way? How many times were O.T. prophecies quoted and recorded as fulfilled in the passage? What were they?

- Fulfillment of OT prophecies
 - i. Micah 5:2,4 about Bethlehem
 - ii. Hosea 11:1 out of Egypt I called my son
 - iii. Jer. 31:15 Rachel weeping
 - iv. Nazarene - It could be that Matthew was referring to several Old Testament references to the despised character of Jesus (i.e., [Psalm 22:6, 13](#); [69:10](#); [Isaiah 49:7](#); [53:3](#); [Micah 5:1](#)). There could be a play on words that Matthew was referring to. In [Isaiah 11:1](#) it says, "Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse, and a branch from his roots will bear fruit." In Hebrew, the word for "branch" is netzer, "NZR" which letters are included in NaZaReth. It seems that Matthew was referring to the branch, the Nazarene, in turn a reference to God's raising up of the Messiah. Clearly, Matthew was not exegeting Isaiah, but it seems he was referring to the Branch.

What did their fulfillment prove?

- God is fully in control of all events in history & will accomplish His plan.
- Jesus is the son of God, the promised Messiah.
- No wicked/evil force can change God's plan.

10. What principles about God's leading can we draw from this record about Jesus' birth?

- God can lead us in many different ways (natural, scriptural, or supernatural) or a combination of ways to accomplish His will.
- God leading requires sensitivity, faith, obedience, & sacrifice from our part.
- God is consistent in fulfilling His plan.
- We can reject Him & His plan but we'll suffer loss because of our poor choice.

11. The four different groups of people we studied have their different levels of knowledge & searches for Jesus. What can you learn from each of the groups in your search of God and His leading in your life?