

REACTIONS TO THE MESSIAH MT. 2:1-12

Matthew 2:1 Now when Jesus was born in Beth-lehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem,

Matthew 2:2 Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.

Matthew 2:3 When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

Matthew 2:4 And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born.

Matthew 2:5 And they said unto him, In Beth-lehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet,

Matthew 2:6 And thou Beth-lehem, 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.

Matthew 2:7 Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, inquired of them diligently what time the star appeared.

Matthew 2:8 And he sent them to Beth-lehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.

Matthew 2:9 When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was.

Matthew 2:10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.

Matthew 2:11 And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.

Matthew 2:12 And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.

Matthew 1:21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

Matthew 1:22 Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying,

Matthew 1:23 Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

ISRAEL AT THE TIME OF JESUS

1ST CENTURY AD



Matthew 2:1 Now when Jesus was born in Beth-lehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came **wise men (μῶγοι)** **from the east** to Jerusalem,
Matthew 2:2 Saying, **Where is he that is born King of the Jews?** for we have seen his star in the east, **and are come to worship him.**

1. Wise men came **seeking** Him!

Matthew 2:1 Now when Jesus was born in Beth-lehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came **wise men (μάρτυροι)** from the east to Jerusalem, Matthew 2:2 Saying, **Where is he that is born King of the Jews?** for we have seen his star in the east, **and are come to worship him.**

Wise men (μάγος): wise men, counsellors, scholars, astronomy, astrology, charlatan, tricksters...magi / magicians...

From the east = probably from Mesopotamia or Persia (Parthia then, Iran today)

The home of Daniel, Nehemiah, Ezra, & Jews in large numbers until quite recently.

Acts 2:8 And how hear we every man in our own tongue (ἕκαστος τῇ ἰδίᾳ διαλέκτῳ ἡμῶν ἐν ᾗ ἐγεννήθημεν), wherein we were born?

Acts 2:9 Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judaea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia,

The wise men:

- **Came**
- **Came from great distance**
- **Came at great cost**
- **Came with very limited knowledge / information**
- **Came to worship**
- **Came to worship Him & Him alone**
- **Came with costly gifts**

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Him, not them or her! Him & Him alone!

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Matthew 2:16 Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and **sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Beth-lehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently inquired of the wise men.**

2. Herod the Great came **opposing** Him!

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Herod the Great was great in most ways:

- **A great survivor**
- **A great builder**
- **A great paranoid**

➤ **A great murderer**

**But Pastor Warren, what about salvation? Forgiveness?
Peace? Hope?**

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3. The Scholars came ignoring Him!

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Psalm 45:1 My heart is inditing a good matter: I speak of the things which I have made touching the king: My tongue is the pen of a ready writer.

Psalm 45:2 Thou art fairer than the children of men: Grace is poured into thy lips: Therefore God hath blessed thee for ever.

Psalm 42:1 As the hart panteth after the water brooks,
So panteth my soul after thee, O God.

Psalm 42:2 My soul thirsteth for God, for the living
God: When shall I come and appear before God?

John 10:27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them,
and they follow me: