

Wise Men Seek Jesus

Matthew 2

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Using This Study

❶ EXAMINE His Word

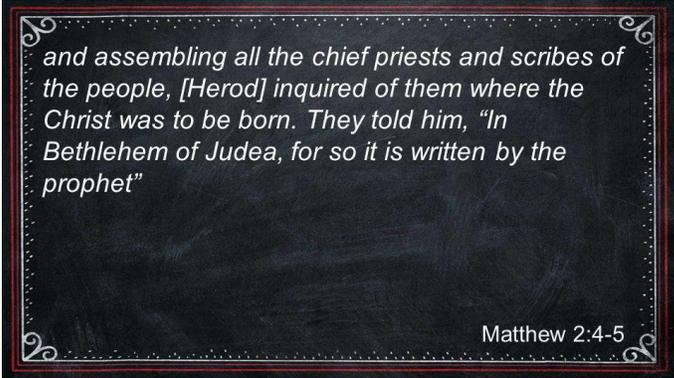
What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.



and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, [Herod] inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet"

Matthew 2:4-5

This week we celebrated the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It is a special time of year when we remember that the God of all creation came as a child so that he might grow up and become the sacrifice for our sins. This week we will look at the second chapter of the book of Matthew. Here we see the wise men come from the East to worship the child. King Herod feels threatened by a child that is born King of the Jews. During Herod's misguided hunt for the child God intervenes and leads Joseph and his family out of Bethlehem under the cover of darkness. Being on the run in a foreign country is probably not what Joseph had envisioned for his young family. However, the blessing of the Christ child is at hand. Join us this week as we talk about seeking Jesus and finding real peace.



MATTHEW 2

The Visit of the Wise Men

1 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, in the time of King Herod, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem 2 saying, “Where is the one who is born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” 3 When King Herod heard this he was alarmed, and all Jerusalem with him. 4 After assembling all the chief priests and experts in the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born. 5 “In Bethlehem of Judea,” they said, “for it is written this way by the prophet:

6 *‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are in no way least among the rulers of Judah,
for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.’*”

7 Then Herod privately summoned the wise men and determined from them when the star had appeared. 8 He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and look carefully for the child. When you find him, inform me so that I can go and worship him as well.” 9 After listening to the king they left, and once again the star they saw when it rose led them until it stopped above the place where the child was. 10 When they saw the star they shouted joyfully. 11 As they came into the house and saw the child with Mary his mother, they bowed down and worshiped him. They opened their treasure boxes and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. 12 After being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back by another route to their own country.

The Escape to Egypt

13 After they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother and flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to look for the child to kill him.” 14 Then he got up, took the child and his mother during the night, and went to Egypt. 15 He stayed there until Herod died. In this way what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet was fulfilled: *“I called my Son out of Egypt.”*

16 When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he became enraged. He sent men to kill all the children in Bethlehem and throughout the surrounding region from the age of two and under, according to the time he had learned from the wise men. 17 Then what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled:

18 *“A voice was heard in Ramah,
weeping and loud wailing,*

*Rachel weeping for her children,
and she did not want to be comforted, because they were gone.”*

The Return to Nazareth

19 After Herod had died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt 20 saying, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.” 21 So he got up and took the child and his mother and returned to the land of Israel. 22 But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. After being warned in a dream, he went to the regions of Galilee. 23 He came to a town called Nazareth and lived there. Then what had been spoken by the prophets was fulfilled, that Jesus would be called a Nazarene.

● EXAMINE His Word (Observation) (For personal preparation)

What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in the foregoing passage.

1. Who is involved in the text? Author, audience, main characters.
2. Where and when is this taking place? Geography and timeline.
3. What actions are carried out or commanded? Look for the verbs.
4. Is there anything repeated?
5. What is emphasized?

6. Is there anything in these passages that is related to other areas of scripture?

7. Are there things to be noted that are alike or unlike such as similes and metaphors?

🕒 EXPLORE His Word (Interpretation) (For Community Group discussion)
What does God MEAN?

8. Why was Herod and all of Jerusalem alarmed?

9. Did Herod believe the child that was born King was the Christ? Explain your answer.

10. How did the scribes know Jesus was in Bethlehem?

11. Why would Herod want to kill the Christ child?

12. What prophecies are fulfilled in this passage?

13. Why do you think God did not just kill Herod?

③ EMBRACE His Word (Application) (For Community Group discussion)
Why does this MATTER to me?

14. Joseph had been obedient to the Lord yet he still had to flee with his family in the middle of the night when he feared for their lives. How do we reconcile this with the idea that obedience brings blessing?

15. Herod sought to kill the child partly because he felt threatened by someone who could claim the throne. What is an example of something today that people may feel they could lose if they allow God to rein in their lives?

16. I'm sure Joseph had not planned on living part of his life on the run in Egypt. What do we need to do when life presents unforeseen challenges?

Summarize your thoughts on the passage

Write about what God wants you to KNOW, to FEEL, and to DO...

Sermon Notes