

The Infancy of Jesus

Matthew 2:1-23, Luke 2:49

Intro:

A. We know many things about the coming of Messiah.

1. That He is of the lineage of Abraham and David.
2. That Mary was His mother.
3. That Mary was virgin.
4. That Joseph and Mary were espoused.
5. That His name was to be Jesus.
6. That He was to be born in Bethlehem.

B. The birth of Jesus, Immanuel.

1. He was born in the days of Herod. Herod was not a king but was allowed to call himself one. He depended upon the Roman Emperors for his power.
2. His birth was accompanied by celestial signs.

I. The Visit Of The Magi. 2:1

A. They came from the East. V.1

1. wise men = μάγος = these were philosophers, astronomers, priests. They were counselors.
2. They were from Persia or Arabia.
3. They came to Jerusalem.

B. They had come to acknowledge His advent. V.2

1. They had heard the rumor of the Jews.
2. The Jews had counted the time in Daniel 9:25. The date is in Nehemiah. Using 360 day years as we find in Revelation, we see that there were 432 years until the triumphal entry of Jesus.
3. They were concerned, knowing the power and influence of David. All the world is interested in who becomes President of the USA.
4. They came to "worship" Him.
5. worship = προσκυνεω - "to prostrate one's self."

II. Herod And Jesus. Vs.3-8

A. **He heard all these things. V.3**

1. troubled = ταρασσω = "to stir up", "to agitate as water in a pool." "to disturb with any emotions."
2. His reaction. Demanded = πυνθανομαι = to ask, to inquire by asking, to ask for information. **V.4**

B. **The concern of the Sanhedrin.**

1. They were apprehensive. **V.5**
2. They knew the answer. **V.6**

C. **Herod's plan. V.7**

1. He sent for the wise men.
2. privily = λαθρα = "secretly," "by stealth."
3. He desired to know two things, when they had first seen the star and to know where He could be found.
4. He lied about desiring to "worship". He is not the last politician to use his "religion" to advance his cause.

III. The Magi Find The Child.

A. **They are guided by the star. Vs.9-10**

1. They left for Bethlehem.
2. They again saw the star.
3. It guided them to Him.
4. It was a divine act. It is of little consequence to be able to identify it in history as a comet, etc.

B. **The Magi in His presence. V.11**

1. They paid homage to Him.
2. He was a king and they offered gifts.
3. frankincense = λιβανος = from Hebrew for white, a resinous substance produced by cutting a tree that grows in the east, esp. Arabia. It is highly fragrant when burned. It was also used in worship services.
4. myrrh = σμουρα = A substance taken from a small, thorny tree. It hardened into a bitter, aromatic gum and was used in

incense, perfume and the embalming process.

5. To Him they opened their treasures.

C. **God warned them. V.12**

1. χρηματιζω = "to do or carry on business, to speak as an oracle.
2. God used the methods they knew.

IV. The Flight Into Egypt. **Vs.13-15**

A. **Joseph is instructed, "flee into Egypt." V.13**

1. Joseph obeyed, he departed by night.
2. "and be thou there till I bring thee word..."
3. He stayed till Herod died.
4. Hosea 11:1 - "**When Israel was a child, then I loved him, and called my son out of Egypt.**"

B. **The anger of Herod.**

1. mocked = εμπαιζω = to allude, to deride, to delude, trick, deceive. **V.16**
2. coasts = οριον = a bound, or limit, the frontiers, the area, not sea coasts.
3. diligently = ακριβωω = "to know accurately".
4. He gave enough lee-way to make sure that he slew the king. Some 30 or 40 children slain. 3,000 to 4,000 inhabitants.

C. **The lamentation in Bethlehem.**

1. This too was prophetic. **Vs.17,18**
2. Jer. 31:15 - The original prophecy was to describe the sorrowful departure of the people of Israel into captivity after the conquest of Jerusalem by Nebuzaradan. The captives were assembled at Rama, Jeremiah himself being in chains. The mourning and weeping was to be the same.

V. The Return From Egypt.

A. **Herod died! V.19**

1. This will ultimately end the reign of every king. We often wonder why it doesn't happen sooner, before the infants

are slaughtered, before God's people must flee to Egypt.

2. Death and judgment await every political tyrant but only on God's terms and only in God's time.

B. Joseph receives more instruction. V.20

1. "go into the land of Israel."
2. "they are dead which sought the young child's life."
3. Joseph obeyed. **V.21**

C. Joseph's fears. V.22

1. Herod's son reigned in Judea.
2. God warned him to go to Galilee.

D. He came and dwelt in Nazareth. V.23

1. This also fulfilled prophecy.
2. Numbers 6:2
3. This was small, unimportant village.