

MATTHEW 2:7 - 3:2

- A. Matthew 2:7-8 - Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. Matt. 2:8 And he sent them to Bethlehem, 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.

*Herod, jealous and fearful of another king coming, tries to hide this. Herod privately asks the wise men about the timing of the star. He plots and lies so he can **use** them to find the child-king (no longer a babe).

- B. 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.

1. The wise men are given directions to go to Bethlehem. While on their way there, the **star** reappears to guide them to where Christ truly was.
2. [the star] It appears, disappears, then reappears again! If it was a ball of gas in the universe, why did it not **al**ways shine, or how could it lead to a house?

Answer: More than likely, it was an **angelic** presence that led them (Mary and Joseph had already met Gabriel). **Angels in the Bible are sometimes called **stars**.

Job 38:4, 6-7 - Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding. Job 38:6 Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof; Job 38:7 When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?

Revelation 1:20 - The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches. (*After the Rapture)

3. This star could be an angel, or some manifest presence of God, to lead them. **Perhaps **only** they could see it! (I Cor. 2:14, John 3:3)

C.

Matthew 2:10-11 - When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. Matt. 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.

1. They are excited when the star reappears. Surely when they were in King Herod's place, they had the presence of mind to **sense** the evilness of Herod and the religious leaders!
2. Notice that when they arrive, it is a house and a young **child** - with no babe or stable.

Christ here is **not in Bethlehem. That is also why the star appeared to guide them to where they were.

- a. Where is the Christ child? Think! Christ was born in Bethlehem and after **41** days, they went up to Jerusalem.

Luke 2:21-22 - And when eight days were accomplished for the circumcising of the child, his name was called JESUS, which was so named of the angel before he was conceived in the womb. Luke 2:22 And when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were accomplished, they brought him to Jerusalem, to present *him* to the Lord;

- b. After Mary's purification (**40** days), they went up to Jerusalem to present Christ to the Lord and to offer a sacrifice for **Mary**.

Leviticus 12:1-4 - And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Lev. 12:2 Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, If a woman have conceived seed, and born a man child: then she shall be unclean seven days; according to the days of the separation for her infirmity shall she be unclean. Lev. 12:3 And in the eighth day the flesh of his foreskin shall be circumcised. Lev. 12:4 And she shall then continue in the blood of her purifying three and thirty days; she shall touch no hallowed thing, nor come into the sanctuary, until the days of her purifying be fulfilled.

Luke 2:23-24 - (As it is written in the law of the Lord, Every male that openeth the womb shall be called holy to the Lord;) Luke 2:24 And to offer a sacrifice according to that which is said in the law of the Lord, A pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.

- c. Mary and Joseph, after receiving blessings from Simeon in the temple, go home to Nazareth in Galilee (**63** miles N. of Jerusalem).

**I believe it is here that the wise men in Matthew 2 find Jesus, at his home, and that is where the star guided them to - not Bethlehem!

3. Also interestingly, it says in verse 11 - "young child with Mary", in verse 13 - "young child and his mother", and in verse 14 - "young child and his mother".

Christ is always listed **first in this passage but, in paganistic religions, it is Madonna first - mother and child!

4. Note: They came to worship **Him**, not His mother. There is no stable, manger, shepherds, angelic hosts praising, or a babe.
5. Notice the typology of the gifts given by the wise men.
- gold - to a **King** - royalty
 - frankincense - to a **Priest** - burn in temple as incense
 - myrrh - to a **Prophet** - for sufferings

D.

*God sends the wise men a dream to warn them and protect them from having anymore contact with

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.

evil Herod. They go to their own homeland a **different** way to avoid Herod. They do not go back to tell Herod where Christ lived.

E.

Matthew 2: 13-15 - And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him. Matt. 2:14 When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt: Matt. 2:15 And was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Out of Egypt have I called my son.

1. God also protects Christ, Mary and Joseph by telling them to flee to Egypt for safety. God **knew** of Herod's wicked plan to kill all the young children in his surrounding area. Herod wants **no** competition to his throne.
2. Joseph and Mary immediately **obey**. After seeing the supernatural works of God, there is no hesitation.
3. ***Someone said**, "God never gives December grace in June". If God had told Mary & Joseph to flee **before** the wise men's visit, Joseph probably would have worried how they would **financially** live in Egypt. But the wise men had given them gold and valuable perfume. God's timing is always on time! "Where God guides, God provides."
4. Mary, Joseph, and child are forced to flee to Egypt. Christ is **exiled** from Israel until Herod dies and the threat on His life is over.
5. Matthew says this was also a fulfillment of prophecy, when Christ returns to Israel after Herod's death.

Hosea 11:1 - When Israel *was* a child, then I loved him, and called my son out of Egypt.

6. Verse 15 also pictures a nation (Israel) that should have received Christ, but **rejected** Him, and even **forced** Him out to be exiled (Acts 7).

Luke 19:11-14 - And as they heard these things, he added and spake a parable, because he was nigh to Jerusalem, and because they thought that the kingdom of God should immediately appear.

Luke 19:12 He said therefore, A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return. Luke 19:13 And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come. Luke 19:14 But his citizens hated him, and sent a message after him, saying, We will not have this *man* to reign over us.

F.

*Herod, being paranoid, ruthlessly orders the death of all males that were born from the time the star had

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 Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently enquired of the wise men.

appeared (2 years old and under). Christ could have been close to **two**-years-old when the wise men had visited Him.

G.

Matthew 2:17-18 - Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy the prophet, saying, Matt. 2:18 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.

1. It is interesting how history **repeats** itself. When another Israelite leader-deliverer-savior was born, the forces of Egypt's evil attacked the babies of Israel. Pharaoh was also filled with envy and fear. He, like an assassin, tried to exterminate Hebrew **male** children - but God protected Moses.
2. Here Matthew quotes Jeremiah 31:15. Jeremiah was talking about Israel going into Babylonian **captivity**. The prisoners taken by the Babylonians would be marched past Rachel's tomb and that, they believed, would be cause for the mother of Israel to weep. It's like we would say, "It's enough to make a person roll over in their grave".

- a. **What Herod did is inexcusable, but his evil actions would only hasten his **own** death!
- b. Someone said: "Modern-day Herods may appear to win battles against goodness, but the **final** victory rests with God".

H.

Matthew 2:19-21 - But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeareth in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, Matt. 2:20 Saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and go into the land of Israel: for they are dead which sought the young child's life. Matt. 2:21 And he arose, and took the young child and his mother, and came into the land of Israel.

*God calls Joseph to take his family and return to Israel. All of those who had sought to **harm** them were now dead. It is safe to return.

I.

Matthew 2:22-23 - But when he heard that Archelaus did reign in Judaea in the room of his father Herod, he was afraid to go thither: notwithstanding, being warned of God in a dream, he turned aside into the parts of Galilee: Matt. 2:23 And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, He shall be called a Nazarene.

1. As they return, God reveals that Herod's evil roots would also be in his son Archelaus. Joseph did not want to be too close to him, so they returned to Nazareth.
2. Nazareth means the place of **rejection**. From Christ's very beginning, there was **no** room for the King. This also does **not** mean He was a Nazirite. He was one who lived in Nazareth.
3. [spoken by the prophets,] This actually hadn't been written down in the O.T. It is an additional statement that the prophets had made, not in writing, but by **oral** statements. We would not know that the prophets said this, except for Matthew writing it down under inspiration.

Matthew 3:

J.

Matthew 3:1 - In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea,

1. [In those days]

Jesus is now about **30** years old, but nothing has changed in Israel. She is **still** apostate, in idolatry and **unbelief**.

2. John the Baptist's arrival was not **un**expected. It says [preaching in the wilderness].

Malachi 3:1 - Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts.

Isaiah 40:3 - The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

3. John's birth-coming had been prophesied, anticipated, and looked for by the remnant of people in Israel. His coming would signify to Israel that Messiah's coming would **soon** follow.

4. Remember, John's ministry doesn't have **anything** to do with us today. His message and dealings were strictly with the nation of Israel. In John 1:6-8, it says of John the Baptist [a man sent from God]. John was sent by direct revelation as a prophet to Israel. He had received his message of **baptism** from heaven to Israel.

Matthew 21:25-26 - The baptism of John, whence was it? from heaven, or of men? And they reasoned with themselves, saying, If we shall say, From heaven; he will say unto us, Why did ye not then believe him? Matt. 21:26 But if we shall say, Of men; we fear the people; for all hold John as a prophet.

5. Gabriel said this of John in Luke 1:15-17 - [For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb. Luke 1:16 And many of the children of Israel shall he turn to the Lord their God. Luke 1:17 And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.]
6. Zacharias, John's father, said and prophesied in Luke 1:76-77 - [And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest: for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways; Luke 1:77 To give knowledge of salvation unto his people by the remission of their sins,]
7. John's message for sins is in Luke 3:2-3 - [Annas and Caiaphas being the high priests, the word of God came unto John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness. Luke 3:3 And he came into all the country about Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins;]

For **400** years, there had not been a prophet to Israel (no Word from God!) until John.

Understand:

K.

Matthew 3:2 - And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

1. John is saying that the promised earthly king-

dom was "at hand". With the start of John the Baptist, a

new opportunity was made available to the nation of Israel that she did not have previously.

Up to this moment God had taught, prophesied, and made details with time schedules of the coming Kingdom. But **never had there been a time where God said they could now prepare for it.

2. But now John was to go out there and tell the people that the prophesied kingdom was at hand. It was within their grasp.

With John, there were the Law and prophets. Now added was the **Kingdom at hand. God's timetable for the establishment of the Kingdom was near.

3. So the Promise and Law dispensation has **added** the Kingdom is at hand with John the Baptist.

- a. Deuteronomy 11:21 - That your days may be multiplied, and the days of your children, in the land which the LORD sware unto your fathers to give them, as the days of heaven upon the earth.

*The Kingdom will be heaven on earth.

- b. Daniel 2:44 - And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, *but* it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.

*The God of heaven will set up a Kingdom on earth that will replace **all** of the kingdoms of this world.

Revelation 11:15 - And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become *the kingdoms* of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.

- c. Daniel 7:13-14 - I saw in the night visions, and, behold, *one* like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. Dan. 7:14 And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom *that* which shall not be destroyed.

*God's kingdom will be brought in by Messiah when He **re**turns to earth.

4. The Kingdom will be a literal, physical, visible, earthly kingdom that will be ruled by Messiah.

Matthew 3:2 - Anybody listening to John the Baptist understood it **that way.