



Rice Memorial MBC

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Confirming Messiah's Birth

Definitions printed in **bold** letters are from
Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible
Other definitions are from **Webster's** Dictionary, 1828 Edition,
or **Roget's** Thesaurus – **December 27, 2009**

At the above website, click [YouTube](#) for Rice Memorial & Tomberlin choir in praise !

Matthew 2:7-10, 16-23

Introduction: As we look at this week's lesson, we'll see just how much God, Jesus' Father, depended on **Joseph** to do his part in **protecting** his son **after** his **birth**. As was done when Mary was found with child, **angels** were sent to him at certain times with crucial information given in **dreams** that required Joseph to walk in God's **wisdom**: cooperating with him in order for **HIS** plans to come to pass. And we **need** to be just like him in order to fulfill our **purpose!**

Matthew 2:1-2**, Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of **Herod** the king, behold, there came **wise men** from the **east** to Jerusalem, Saying, Where is he that is born **King of the Jews?

Wise men defined 3097, magos pronounced mag'-os of foreign origin (7248); a Magian (1. a sect of philosophers in Persia 2. One of the sect of the Persian Magi, who hold that there are two principles [the cause, source or origin of any thing], one that cause of good, the other of evil), **i.e. Oriental (Eastern) scientist.**

NOTE: The king was Herod the Great, who ruled in Judea from **37 to 4 B.C.** (which is why the **birth** of Jesus is most often put near the year 4 B.C.). The Bible does **not** specify where the Magi were from, and they probably were not **kings**, but men of a **priestly** caste who specialized in **astronomy**. Tradition says they were from **Parthia**, which was near Babylon, nearly a thousand miles from Jerusalem. Tradition also says there were **three** of them, which comes from the number of **gifts** mentioned. It is possible that there were several more than this.

Source: The Bible Expositor and Illuminator, Union Press Publication- Christian Life Series

***Matthew 2:2-3** ...for we have seen his **star** in the **east**, and are come to **worship** him. When Herod the king had heard these things, he was **troubled**, and all Jerusalem with him.*

Thought 1. This information was **contrary** to Herod's **interest**. He **believes** his position is being threatened! And because of that belief, **Satan** can now influence his **mind** for harm.

***Matthew 2:4-6**, And when he had gathered all the **chief priests** and **scribes** of the people together, he demanded of them where **Christ** should be born. And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is **written** by the **prophet**, And thou **Bethlehem**, 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.*

Thought 1. Isn't it amazing that "**some people**" will **believe** **parts** of God's word; but not see the **wisdom** in **living by** "EVERY word that proceeds from the **mouth** of God?!"

***Matthew 2:7-11**, Then **Herod**, when he had **privily** called the **wise men**, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. 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. 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. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great **joy**. 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.**

Thought 1. Notice, scripture has the wise men coming to the **house**; **not** to the **manger**. Actually, Jesus is around **2 years** old. We know this because Herod, using the calculations of the wise men, determined Jesus age as **two** or **under**. Matt. 2:16

Also there were **three** different **categories** of **gifts**; not **ONE** gift from **each** group. So, Jesus was presented with **money** and things that had value that could be converted into **money**. This was God's way of **providing** the **needs** of Joseph and his family.

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.

Thought 1. God made them **aware** of Herod's plan to **kill** Jesus so they wouldn't **aid** him in his effort through **ignorance**. Knowing the **truth** about Herod's intentions made obeying God easy! It's the same with us today, God still gives **dreams** and **visions** in order to **warn** of the **Enemy's** schemes to do **harm**, or **hinder** his ordained work around this world!

However, sometimes **well-meaning** Christians **forget** or **misinterpret** the **dreams!** And Satan is able to get some things done that in fact hinder God's work! So, like Joseph, we've got to be **wise** AS serpents, but **harmless** as doves! Matthew 10:16

Matthew 2:13, 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.

NOTE: Much speculation surrounds the identity of the **"angel of the Lord."** At whatever conclusion one arrives, it is clear that the angel of the Lord spoke FOR God and AS God (cf. Gen. 16:10, 22:11-18; Judg. 2:1-5). For this and other reasons, some **believe** that the angel was the preincarnate Son of God (cf. John 1:18; Col. 1:15; 1 Cor. 10:4).

Source: The Bible Expositor and Illuminator, Union Press Publication- Christian Life Series

Thought 1. As you can see, the obvious question is if **"the angel of the Lord"** is in fact, as some believe, **Jesus** himself, how could he be a **human** child and an **angel** at the **same time?!** The truth is God created humans in a FORM **lower** than angels! Heb. 2:6-7 So, we're talking about **two** types of **beings**; both created by God for specific purposes!

We also see the **monies** and **goods** given to Jesus are about to be **used** in **traveling** to, and **living** in Egypt until the time that Joseph would bring his family back to Israel.

Matthew 2:14-15, When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by **night**, and departed into Egypt: 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.

Thought 1. This is **far** the fulfillment of a scripture spoken of Israel coming out. Hosea 11:1

Matthew 2:16, Then Herod, when he saw that he was **mocked (disrespect)** 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.

Thought 1. We see here how **dangerous** a person is who gets into **envy** and **strife**.

James 3:14-16, But if **YE** (*Christians*) have bitter **envying** and **strife** in your hearts,

(thoughts or feelings) glory not, and lie not against the truth. This **wisdom** descendeth not from above, but is **earthly, sensual, devilish**. For where **ENVYING** and **STRIFE** is, there is confusion and every EVIL work.

Envy defined 2205, emulation [rivalry accompanied with a desire of depressing another], **indignation** (**ANGER** mingled with disrespect, disgust, or HATE), **jealousy** (1. that passion of peculiar uneasiness which arises from the fear that a rival may rob us of the affection of one whom we love, or the **SUSPICION** that he has already done it; or it is the uneasiness which arises from the FEAR that another does or will enjoy some advantage which we desire for ourselves. Jealousy is the apprehension (belief, fear) of superiority. 2. Suspicious fear or apprehension (the prospect of future evil, accompanied with uneasiness of mind). Skepticism, **DISTRUST**].

Strife defined 2052, intrigue (a plot or scheme of a complicated nature, intended to effect some purpose by secret (unseen; private) artifices [stratagem; an artful or ingenious device, in a BAD sense]), **faction** (a number of citizens, whether amounting to a majority or minority of the whole, who are **UNITED** and actuated by some common impulse of passion (feeling), or of interest, adverse to the rights of other citizens, or to the permanent and aggregate (total) interests of the community. DISCORD: disagreement among persons, difference of opinions) **contention** [1. struggle; a **VIOLENT** effort to obtain something, or to resist a person, claim or injury. 2. DEBATE; angry contest; controversy [dispute; agitation of contrary opinions] cross questions & CROOKED answers).

Proverbs 13:10, Only by **pride** cometh **contention**...

James 1:19-20 ...let every man be swift to **hear**, slow to **speak**, slow to **wrath**: For the **WRATH** of **man** worketh **NOT** the righteousness of God.

Wrath defined 3709, violent passion (ire (anger), or (justifiable) abhorrence (extreme hatred, great aversion [opposition of mind; turning away]); **ANGER**.

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

NOTE: Herod was so **evil** that his **anger** caused him to act without **reason** or **self control**. History has documented his evil character and this was especially brought out against those considered to be **RIVALS** to his **throne**. He had **three** of his **SONS** and his **favorite wife** murdered because he suspected them. To order the killing of innocent children did not bother his conscience in the least.

Source: The Bible Expositor and Illuminator, Union Press Publication- Christian Life Series

Matthew 2:19-20, But when **Herod** was **dead**, behold, an **angel** of the Lord **appeareth** in a **dream** to Joseph in Egypt, 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.

Thought 1. Herod **died** shortly after Joseph left and went into Egypt! We know this because Jesus is still a **young child**. This also shows us that sometimes the **death** of an **enemy** is the only way to stop them from being a **danger** to **people** and to God's plan.

Matthew 2:21-23, And he arose, and took the young child and his mother, and came into the land of Israel. 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**... 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**.

