

The Gospel of Matthew

Lesson 1

The Genealogy, Birth and Infancy of the King

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Outline

1A. The Genealogy of the King (1:1-16)

1B. The King was identified as the “son of David” (fulfillment of the Davidic covenant) and as the “son of Abraham” (fulfillment of the Abrahamic covenant). Jesus Christ was the great King who was promised out of the line of David and He was the seed of blessing promised out of the line of Abraham. (1:1)

2B. Fourteen generations from Abraham to David (1:2-6)

Note the unusual mention of four women: Tamar (Tamar) the harlot, Rachab (Rahab) the Gentile harlot of Jericho, Ruth the Gentile of Moab, (Bathsheba) the wife of Urias, the willing victim of David’s adultery

3B. Fourteen generations from David to the Babylonian captivity (1:6-11)

4B. Fourteen generations from the Babylonian captivity to Christ (1:12-16)

Note: In verse 16 the pronoun “of whom” is feminine singular, referring to Mary. Christ was not born of a man; He was born of a woman. He had no human father. Jesus was born of Mary, not of Joseph. This verse protects and proclaims the doctrine of the virgin birth.

5B. Summary statement (1:17)

This threefold grouping contains some gaps or omissions in the genealogical record. Matthew’s purpose was not to include every father and son. The threefold grouping into sets of fourteen was perhaps given as an aid to memorizing. This genealogy is that of Joseph’s line; Luke 3 gives the lineage of Mary’s line.

2A. The Birth of the King (1:18-25)

1B. The miraculous birth—conceived by the Holy Spirit (1:18-20).

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2B. The Purpose of the Birth—to provide a Saviour (1:21). The Saviour must die. God by His very nature cannot die. He is immortal and not subject to death. To be our Saviour, Christ had to become a man (John 1:14). God cannot die, but the God-Man could die and did die for our sins (1 Cor. 15:3).

3B. Fulfillment of prophecy (1:22-23)

4B. Joseph's obedience and purity (1:24-25)

3A. The Infancy of the King; Herod and the Wise Men (2:1-23)

Note the following:

The wise men search and find.

The Jewish religious leaders know where to find (2:5-6) but they refuse to go and search and find.

Herod searches to find the Child for the wrong reason, but does not find.

Principle: God is a rewarder of those that diligently seek Him (Heb. 11:6).

Introduction

The very first verse of the very first book of the New Testament presents us with JESUS CHRIST, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham. The Person of Christ is front and center. He takes His rightful place at the very front of the stage. All of the other characters step back far into the background as He steps forward. "But when the fulness of time was come, God sent forth His Son, made of a woman, made under the law" (Gal. 4:4) .

As we begin the Gospel of Matthew the fulness of the time has come, God's Son has been sent and Matthew presents Him to us. The spotlight is upon Him. The attention is focused upon Him. He is front and center on the stage in the great drama of redemption. Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of God's plan and program for saving sinful men, and now it is the time to bring that plan to fulfillment by the birth, life, death and resurrection of the Son of God.

Where did this important Person come from? Jesus Christ came from and out of the nation of Israel. Notice the genealogy. It begins with Abraham the father of the Jewish people (this is different from the genealogy in Luke 3 which goes all the way back to Adam, presenting Christ as the perfect "Son of Man") and it goes through David, Israel's great king. Jesus Christ came out of the nation of Israel,

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descended from Israel's patriarch and from Israel's greatest king. The genealogy proves that Jesus qualifies to be the King of the Jews.

The nation of Israel is where God's promises and predictions and program and plan have been deposited. Think of a bank. Israel is the bank, and God has deposited into this bank His promises and predictions and program and plan.

God's gracious deposit to Israel can be illustrated in class by using an object lesson. Some kind of container is needed (to serve as the place where these things are deposited). It can be a box or a basket or a large bowl or anything else that would serve as a container. Then on index cards or on strips of paper the teacher can write down some of the things which have been deposited in Israel, things which have been given to Israel to point this nation to the Saviour who would one day come into the world. Such things are as follows:

1) The Word of God

The Word of God was given to Israel and deposited there for safekeeping. "What advantage then hath the Jew? or what profit is there of circumcision? Much every way chiefly because that unto them were committed (entrusted) the oracles (sayings, words) of God" (Romans 3: 1-2) . [The teacher can take the paper or index card which says WORD OF GOD and place it into the container.] None of the other nations were given God's Word but Israel was. And in God's Word was found...

2) The Promises

From the very beginning God promised that one day He would send a Saviour into the world. The first such promise is found in Genesis 3:15, indicating that the Saviour would be born of a woman and would destroy the devil. To Abraham special promises were given. We call this the Abrahamic Covenant. Included was the promise that in Abraham (referring to Abraham's seed, Jesus Christ) all of the families of the earth would be blessed (Genesis 12:3).

To David special promises were given. We call this the Davidic Covenant. Included was the promise that from David's seed would come the King who would reign forever.

Along with the promises, Israel was given special predictions...

3) The Predictions

God gave to Israel specific and detailed predictions about the Saviour who was to come. For example, Isaiah 9:6 predicted that the Mighty God would be born as a

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child. Isaiah 7:14 predicted that He would be born of a virgin apart from any human father. Micah 5:2 predicted that He would be born in the small shepherding village of Bethlehem. Isaiah 53 promised that the Messiah would suffer for man's sins. These are just a few of the many predictions which God gave to Israel concerning the Saviour who was to come.

4) The Tabernacle

To Israel was given a very special tent in the wilderness (later to be replaced by the temple) which gave the children of Israel a wonderful picture of heavenly realities.

The Lord Jesus Christ was beautifully portrayed by every article in the tabernacle. These articles pointed to His Person and His Work, and how a sinful man could meet with a holy God based upon sacrifice. The tabernacle was a wonderful object lesson pointing to Jesus Christ and His work on the cross.

5) The Purpose

Approximately 58 times in the book of Ezekiel, the LORD said words to this effect, "and they shall KNOW that I am the LORD" (Ezekiel 6:7; 7:4; 11:10; 12:15; etc.) . God's purpose is that people might come to know Him. Israel was to know God so that they could be a testimony and a witness to the whole world. God's purpose of making Himself known was brought to fulfillment with the coming of the Saviour into the world, the One who said, "he that hath seen Me hath seen the Father" (John 14:9).

6) The Plan

God's plan of salvation was not an afterthought or a last minute decision by God. God's plan of salvation was devised before the world ever was ("whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world" Rev. 13:8; see also 1 Peter 1:20). And this plan involved the nation Israel because "salvation is of the Jews" (John 4:22). Out of this nation the Saviour would come.

All of these things and more were deposited with the nation Israel. All of these things pointed to the same Person, the Saviour who should come into the world. As we come to the Gospel of Matthew it is now time for this main Person to be presented. He is to take His place front and center on the stage, as the One who is the fulfillment of all of these promises.

These things had been deposited with Israel for centuries. After the last book in the Old Testament was written (Malachi) there was a period of 400 silent years when there were no prophets and no word from God. It appeared to some as though the things promised would not come to pass. Heaven seemed strangely

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silent.

The Israelites should have been looking for and expecting the Saviour and waiting eagerly to receive Him. This was true of a few (Anna and Simeon are good examples; see Luke 2:25,36) but sadly it was not true of the great majority. Most of the Jews would reject the Saviour: "He came unto His own, and His own received Him not" (John 1:11). They should have received Him with open hearts and open arms, but they did not. The rejection of the nation is even seen in Matthew chapter 2, as we shall see.

God's trustworthiness and faithfulness is proved and revealed in the Person of Christ the Saviour. Is God really trustworthy? Yes! And the sending of His Son proved this! Does God really keep His Word? Yes! Every promise and prediction was fulfilled at just the right time. God is never late. "When the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth His Son" (Gal. 4:4).

Matthew chapter 1 emphasizes how the predictions given by the Old Testament prophets were literally fulfilled (especially Isaiah 7:14).

Israel's terrible unbelief and rejection of God is revealed clearly in Matthew's Gospel. Israel responded in the wrong way to the Saviour whom God sent. Even Gentiles (the wise men of chapter 2) responded in a better way than Israel did! We must not blame God for the problem of Israel's unbelief. Israel was at fault. They failed to take God at His Word. And yet we are thankful that among the Jews there was a small, faithful remnant of believing Jews. Many of these were made ready and had their hearts prepared through John the Baptist's ministry.

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So as we come to the beginning of the Gospel of Matthew, we are presented immediately with Jesus Christ. He is the grand fulfillment of all that God deposited with Israel. He is front and center on the stage. He is presented as the Son of David (His kingly position, the Ruler whom God promised would come from the line of David), and He is presented as the Son of Abraham (His covenant position as the promised "seed" through whom all the families of the earth would be blessed). See Matthew 1:1.

Notice the genealogy list in chapter 1. This is the record of the line of Joseph and differs from Luke 3, which is the line of Christ through Mary. Both Joseph and Mary were descended from David, but through different sons (Joseph through Solomon; Mary through Nathan).

In the genealogical listing we find even the names of Rahab and Ruth, both of whom were Gentiles and outside of the nation Israel. In God's grace they came to know the God of Israel and they became Jewish proselytes or converts. The list

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includes Jews and Gentiles, good and bad (for example, good kings and evil kings), rich and poor, known and unknown (for example, we all know about David and Abraham, but who knows anything about Azor, Sadoc or Achim? verse 14).

This Saviour belongs not just to the Jews but to the entire race--to all men. As the promised seed or "son of Abraham," He is the One who is the source of blessing for all the families of the earth. As the promised seed or "son of David" He would be the One who would be the great King and rule over the Kingdom. And what is the purpose of the kingdom? It is more than an end in itself. The fulfillment of God's program and plan and purpose involves far more than peace on earth and wolves dwelling peacefully with lambs (Isaiah 11:6-8). God's ultimate goal and purpose is seen in 1 Corinthians 15:24-28 "when He (Christ) shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father. . .and then shall the Son also be subject unto Him that put all things under Him, *that GOD MAY BE ALL IN ALL.*" The purpose is that all might be given and brought back to God, that He might receive all the glory and be all in all! In the eternal ages to come, God must be front and center on the stage.

Jesus Christ is presented as the Son of Man by way of Mary (verse 16--"of whom" is feminine and refers to Mary). He was virgin born. Joseph had nothing to do with the Saviour's birth. This birth was made possible by a supernatural miracle by way of the Holy Spirit (verses 18 and 20--"with child of the Holy Ghost" "conceived...of the Holy Ghost"). The One who was eternally the Son of God was born and became a Man.

Just as His physical birth was by way of the Holy Spirit (Matt. 1:18,20), so our spiritual birth must be by way of the Holy Spirit (John 3:5; Titus 3:5). By His physical birth He steps into our world; by our spiritual birth, we step into His world.

His Name is identified as "JESUS" (verses 21 and 25) because "Jesus" (Hebrew "Yeshua" or "Joshua") means "Saviour," and salvation is the reason He came (1 Tim. 1:15; John 3:17).

He is also called "Emmanuel" (Matt. 1:23), another Hebrew word which means "God with us." No one can qualify as mankind's Saviour unless He is God, and Jesus fully qualifies (John 1:1; 5:18; 10:30). He is the great God and He is our Saviour (see Titus 2:13).

Matthew Chapter 2

Matthew chapter 1 presents His Person (Who He is) and places Him front and center on the stage. Matthew chapter 2 shows us how to get to this Person, how to find this Saviour. The seeking heart will find Him.

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God gave a special star to guide the wise men. God did use a star, but today He guides by means of the Scriptures. To find Christ today, do not go to the telescope, but rather go to the Bible! The wise men had seeking hearts and God makes this promise:

"And ye shall seek Me, and find Me, when ye shall search for Me with all your heart" (Jer. 29:13; compare Heb. 11:6).

Israel had a Jewish religious system (Judaism) which was hindering, not helping them to find God. It was a religious system of their own choosing. Religion is man's vain attempt to please God by his own works. It is never successful.

To help the wise men find the Saviour, God used the star and God used the Scriptures. If you are in the darkness and really want to see, God has light. The problem is that many people do not even want to see: "And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved" (John 3:19-20).

The wise men asked the *right question*: Where is He? (Matt. 2:2) and they had the *right reason*: "We have come to worship Him" (Matt. 2:2). If people are to find Him today, they must desire to find Him. They must come to God on His terms, not on their own terms. We must let God be God and honor Him for Who He is (Hebrews 11:6—"He that cometh to God must believe that He is"). Many people want to know God for the wrong reasons. They want to come to Him in their own way at a time that is convenient for them. It is the wrong approach. [People today may want to come to Him, not to worship Him, but to get something from Him, such as healing or some other benefit.]

The attitude of the Jewish religious leaders was very sad but very instructive (Matt. 2:4-6). They had the right answer for the question asked by the wise men. They searched the Scriptures which correctly told them that the Messiah must be born in Bethlehem. They knew what the Bible taught. This truth helped the wise men but it did not do anything for these Jews. It is helpful to note that these religious leaders were in Jerusalem which was only about six miles away from Bethlehem where Christ was born. In less than two hours they could have walked there! Yet these Jews did not make the effort to go and worship their King. The wise men came from afar to worship, but the Jews who were very close could care less.

How near and how close is Christ to you? Compare Romans 10:6-8. He is so very near! All a person needs to do is to open up the Bible, yet most could care less. Sometimes those who do not have a Bible are more eager to find Christ than those who have Bibles.

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Note that being religious does not save. These Jews were religious leaders. They prayed. They could quote the Scriptures. They knew the Bible and had memorized many verses. They could properly interpret the Scriptures and give correct answers to Bible questions. They possessed the truth but the truth did not possess them. They did not do anything with the truth they had. The wise men had just a little bit of light (the star) but they followed what they had. These Jews had a great amount of light (the Scriptures which God had deposited into their care—Romans 3: 2) but they did not follow the light they had. What truth and light has God given to you? What are you doing with it?

The wise men searched and found. God rewards those who diligently seek after Him.

The Jews found the right answer in the Scripture but did not search further.

Herod searched for the wrong reason (Matthew 2: 13—to destroy) and God did not allow him to find what he wanted to find.

What kind of a seeker are you?

In Matthew chapter 2 we notice the intense persecution against Christ. The attempt was made to destroy the Christ Child. Herod was the instrument of the devil. Satan tried to attack Christ from the beginning, "to devour her child as soon as it was born" (Rev. 12: 4). Christ was front and center on the stage and Satan tried to remove Him from the stage, but was unsuccessful.

Since he could not remove Christ, Satan seeks to blind the minds of unbelievers (2 Cor. 4:3-4). Satan wants to keep people in the dark. But God, by His miraculous power, is able to open the eyes of the blind: "To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they might receive forgiveness of sins" (Acts 26: 18). Are you still in the dark or have you received sight? Is God findable? Have you found Him?

By a miracle of the Holy Spirit Jesus Christ came into our world. By a miracle of spiritual birth (the new birth) brought about by this same Holy Spirit, we can be brought into His world and made His child (John 1: 12-13). Jesus said, "I am the light of the world." Light has come into our darkness. By believing on Christ and receiving Him, we can come into God's light. The problem is that most people prefer to stay in the dark (John 3: 18-20).

The God who brought light into the world in the Person of His Son is the same God who wants to bring light into your life. His name is "JESUS," the One who was sent to save us from our sins and to bring that LIGHT into our LIFE. Will you remain in the dark or will you come to the light? Is finding the Saviour important to you or are you like the Jewish religious leaders who could care less? What are you

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doing with the light that God has given to you?

Notes for Further Study

Who was Matthew? Matthew was a tax collector who followed Jesus and became one of the twelve disciples (Matthew 9:9; 10:3). His other name was Levi (Mark 2:14).

Matthew 1:1—Jesus was the “son of David.” One day Jesus asked the Pharisees a question that baffled their minds and which they could not answer. He asked, “How can Christ [the Messiah] be both David’s Lord and David’s Son?” (see Matthew 22:41-46.) This question can only be answered when we realize that Jesus was both God and man. As God He existed long before Bethlehem and He was David’s Lord and Master (Rom. 1:4, “the Son of God”); as Man He was David’s son, that is, He descended from the line of David (Rom. 1:3—“made of the seed of David according to the flesh”).

Matthew 1:1—Jesus was “the son of Abraham.” Abraham’s immediate son was Isaac who was offered up on the altar of sacrifice. Isaac thus foreshadowed the death and resurrection of Christ (Genesis 22:1-14; Heb. 11:17-19).

Matthew 1:14—Jechoniah (Jechoniah) is mentioned in this verse. Jechoniah was in the kingly line of David and an ancestor of Joseph. In Jeremiah 22:24-30 this man was cursed by God (his name appears in this passage as “Coniah”). According to this curse, no descendant of Jechoniah would ever have the right to sit upon the throne of David. If Jesus had been the real son of Joseph, then He would have had no right to sit on the throne of David. Mary was a descendant of David also, but not through Solomon and not through Jechoniah. She was a descendant of David’s son Nathan. Thus the Virgin Birth made it possible for Christ to qualify as the rightful King. If He had been born of Joseph and Mary, He would have been disqualified, due to Jechoniah’s curse.

Matthew 1:18—Jesus Christ was born! This is a historical fact. Every time we write down the date, we are bearing witness to the fact that Christ was born. Our calendars have made His birth the starting point. We celebrate Washington’s birth, Lincoln’s birth, Martin Luther King’s birth, etc. but we do not start our calendars based on these dates. Christ is the unique Person in history.

Matthew 1:18-19—Joseph made a shocking discovery. One day he learned that Mary was pregnant. He made this discovery after they were engaged but before they came together in marriage. They were engaged but not married. In the days of Joseph and Mary, the engagement was far more binding than it is today. Today in our society is not legally difficult to break an engagement. The engagement of Mary and Joseph was very binding. It was considered a marriage in every way

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except for the physical union. In those days, to break an engagement would require a divorce ("put her away"—verse 19).

Matthew 1:19—Joseph: What do we learn about the character of Joseph from these two chapters of Matthew? He was righteous, thoughtful, did not act in haste, kept himself sexually pure, etc. Why does the Bible say so little about Joseph? [Contrast the Joseph in the Old Testament where we have several chapters detailing his life.] In John's Gospel there are about 40 times where Jesus speaks of His "Father," and in not one of these places was He referring to Joseph. God never wants us to forget who the Lord's real Father was. Joseph is mentioned when Jesus was twelve years old (Luke 2:42-43), but after this he is never mentioned again. Joseph must have died when Jesus was in His teen years or in His twenties.

Matthew 1:20—God spoke to men in various ways (Heb. 1:1); one of these ways was by dreams. See also Matthew 2:12 and 19. Today if we want to hear from God, we don't go to sleep; we open the Bible!

Matthew 1:21—He will save His people from their sins (in Matthew 2:6 "His people" are defined as Israel). It is not the birth of Christ that saves us. "The goal of Bethlehem was the Place of the Skull. The mystery of the Virgin Birth can be read only in the blazing light of Calvary. The Incarnation of our blessed Lord was the first historic step of the eternal God on His solemn march to the judgment of the Cross. The Manger and the Cross are joined inseparably in the redemptive purpose and plan of God. And what God hath joined together let no man put asunder" (Alva McClain, theology notes).

Matthew 1:23—By all the laws of nature, a virgin birth is impossible. There must be the seed of a man united to the egg of a woman. But with God all things are possible (Luke 1:37).

Matthew 1:25—The Roman Catholic Church teaches that Mary was a virgin throughout her life. However, this verse teaches that she was a virgin until she had given birth to Jesus. After this she and Joseph had at least six children—four sons and at least two daughters (Mark 6:3).

Matthew 2:1—Herod the Great was a great monster of a man. He was great in wickedness and great in cruelty. He also had a great lust for power. He was a royal wicked wretch! The Emperor Augustus himself said, "It's better to be Herod's hog than to be his son." He ruthlessly murdered his closest family members including one of his nine wives. He was also famous for his building projects, especially for the reconstruction of the Jewish temple.

Matthew 2:1—The "Wise Men" were learned men. The Greek word is "maji" from which we get our English word "magician." But "magician" conveys the wrong kind

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of connotation. Actually, "wise men" is a very good translation. These learned men were skilled in astronomy and other sciences. They were from "the East" (v.1). We are not told exactly where they were from—perhaps Persia or Arabia or Babylon. They must have been Gentiles. How many were there? All we know for sure is that there were at least two because the plural is used (two or more). The reason for the traditional number of three is probably because of the three gifts mentioned in verse 11. If each wise man had one gift, then there would have been three men. However, this is just an assumption. Twelve men could have brought three gifts. There could have been three men, but the text does not say so. We sing the carol, "We Three Kings," but we are not sure there were three and the text does not say they were kings. We must be careful to get our understanding from the Bible rather than from Christmas cards. There is always the danger in valuing tradition more than truth. Also the wise men were never at the stable and never saw Christ in the manger. When they visited Jesus, the child was in a house (verse 11).

Matthew 2:2—They saw "His star," the King's star. Often it is called the star of Bethlehem, but more properly it should be called Messiah's star or the star of the King. This was no ordinary star: it was supernatural. Some suppose it was a manifestation of the Shekinah Glory (similar to the cloud by day and fire by night which guided the children of Israel in the wilderness). When the wise men were in the East, they saw this star, but then at some point they lost sight of it. It disappeared from view. Then in verse 10 the star reappeared. From the point of view of the wise men, this star appeared, disappeared and reappeared. The star could not have been far away in the distance like normal stars because it was able to lead them to the very house where the Christ Child was (verses 9 and 11). So it must have been a star that was low in the sky. Verse 8 tells us that the star would both move ("went before them") and stop ("stood over where the young child was"). We assume from Herod's question in verse 7 that the star first appeared to the wise men at the time Christ was born.

Matthew 2:3—Herod was troubled because he felt threatened by a rival king. Everyone else was troubled because Herod was troubled. When the monster is upset, watch out! There is no telling what he might do.

Matthew 2:5-6—The Micah 5:2 prophecy is truly amazing. It was written about 700 years before Christ was born and was literally fulfilled. Bethlehem was not a large city. It was a small shepherding village. Also it was not even the town of Joseph and Mary. They lived in Nazareth. They just happened to be in Bethlehem due to the Emperor's edict (Luke 2:1-4). Such a prediction that Israel's Ruler would be born in this insignificant town could never be possible apart from supernatural revelation. God knows the end from the beginning. Think of someone living 700 years ago (before Columbus) predicting the exact town where our President was born!

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Matthew 2:6. "O little town of Bethlehem," you are not so little after all! You are not insignificant. You are not unimportant. You are one of the leading cities of Judah because out of you will come Israel's Ruler! The word "governor" means "ruler, leader, one who governs." The word "rule" means "shepherd" (verb), as a shepherd would shepherd (feed, tend, lead) his sheep. The Lord Jesus Christ is the great Shepherd King!

Matthew 2:7. Herod had one simple question: WHEN? He wanted to know the time. When did the star first appear? If he knew the answer to that question, then he would know how old the Child was. He assumed that the star first appeared when the Child was born. The answer the wise men gave him is not recorded. Did they see the star six months ago? A year ago? Two years ago? In verse 16 we find a clue as to what the wise men said. Jesus could not have been more than two years old, and probably He was much younger. Herod would want to make sure that the child was caught in the slaughter. He would want to make sure that the Child would not escape, and thus he would want to leave an ample margin. In other words, even though the Child was much younger, he would want to kill all children two years old and younger to make sure to get Him. He wanted to make his net big enough to be sure to catch Him.

Matthew 2:11—Notice that the wise men worshiped Jesus and not Mary. Mary was right there, but they did not worship her. Roman Catholics should take note of this.

Matthew 2:11. Gold speaks of His kingship. He was the King of Kings. Frankincense speaks of the fragrance of His unending life. The King would reign forever and ever. Myrrh was used to embalm the dead. In John 19:39 Nicodemus prepared the body of Jesus for burial by using myrrh. Myrrh reminds us that the King must die. In Isaiah 60:6 (a millennial passage) Gentiles bring gold and incense to King Jesus, but myrrh is not mentioned. In His first coming Jesus had to die, but this will not be the case with His second coming, and thus there is no place for myrrh in the Kingdom reign of Christ.

Use your sanctified imagination: Suppose that 30 plus years later the wise men return to Jerusalem and ask a question similar to what they asked in Matthew 2:2, "Where is He that was born King of the Jews?" They would find the King of the Jews with a mock crown of thorns on His head (Matt. 27:29). They would find Him crucified on a tree (Matt. 27:31). No star would be needed to point Him out, because over His head was a sign which clearly read: "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews" (Matt. 27:37). And not long after this Nicodemus would come along and present his gift of myrrh in order to embalm the body of the King (John 19:39).

The wise men fell down and worshiped the Christ child. How we need to fall down and worship the One who died on Calvary's cross for us!