

Chesswood Baptist Church

Where Everybody is Somebody

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MINISTRY OF THE WORD

WHERE IS HE THAT IS BORN KING OF THE JEWS?

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SUNDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 29, 2019

SCRIPTURE READING: **MATTHEW 2:1-8**

Matthew 2:1-5, 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, **2:** Saying, **Where is he that is born King of the Jews?** for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. **3:** When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. **4:** And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, **he demanded of them where Christ should be born.** **5:** And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet,

1. BACKGROUND

Refer to the Evening message December 29, 2019

2. INTRODUCTION

- a. Our text is taken from the **Book of Matthew**. It is very sparse about the actual birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.
- b. We find the genealogy of Jesus in **Matthew Chapter 1** the first seventeen verses.
- c. **Matthew 1:18-25** talks about the angel announcing the birth of Christ to Joseph.
- d. **Matthew Chapter 2** tells us of Jesus' birth. Last Sunday we established beyond a reasonable doubt that Jesus Christ was born of a virgin. The virgin's name was Mary, well known as the mother of Jesus. Lest we are confused there are six Mary's identified in the New Testament: 1. Mary the mother of Jesus, 2. Mary Magdalene, 3. Mary the mother of James called the less, and Joses (this was the wife of Alphaeus – called Cleophas and a sister of Mary the mother of Jesus), 4. Mary of Bethany – sister of Martha and Lazarus, 5. Mary the mother of John-Mark and sister of Barnabas, 6. Mary – Paul's helper in Rome - **Romans 16:6**, *Greet Mary, who bestowed much labour on us.*
- e. Our text today deals with the wise men following a star to find the Lord Jesus Christ whose birth had been prophesied by the prophets.
- f. They encounter a man by the name of Herod who was King of the Jews. The wise men tell him they are seeking the King of the Jews.
- g. This infuriated King Herod because he was threatened in his position, so he wanted to find out more about Jesus being born.
- h. We know that it had been prophesied that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem of Judea according to **Micah 5:2**, *But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah,*

though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting. NIV – Micah 5:2, But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, **whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.** A careful analysis of these two verses would indicate that they do not say the same thing. As a matter of fact, they are miles apart. The KJB substantiates the fact that Jesus had no beginning and no ending. **Hebrews 5:9-10**, And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all

Them that obey him; **10**, Called of God an high priest after the order of Melchisedec. The NIV on the other hand not only leaves room for doubt but states emphatically **whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.** This does not fit well with the verses that say Jesus is the beginning and the ending. **Revelation 1:8**, I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty. **Revelation 1:11**, Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea. **Revelation 21:6**, And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. **Revelation 22:13**, I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.

- i. Too often we find error in most of our manger scenes. They show the wise men and shepherds hovering over the Lord Jesus in a manger.
- j. That is an error because the shepherds went immediately to the manger since they were in the local area. However, the wise men came from afar. **Luke 2:8-16**, And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9: And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. 10: And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. 11: For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. 12: And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. 13: And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, 14: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. 15: And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. 16: And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.
- k. **It took one-and-a-half to two years for the wise men to arrive**, and they did not go to the stable. **They went to the house. Matthew 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.
- l. The Bible tells us that they followed the star in the east and came to worship the Lord Jesus. **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.

- m. It tells us **the star led them and stopped over the house where Jesus lived.**
- n. They presented gifts to Jesus; gold, frankincense, and myrrh.
- o. Herod was infuriated at the announcement that the wise men were seeking the King of the Jews, so he sent out a decree to destroy all children under two years old in Bethlehem and the surrounding area. **Matthew 2:16**, *Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wrath, 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 inquired of the wise men.* The aforementioned is extremely clear that all children from two years old and under, not just males as some have been taught.
- p. Joseph was warned by God to flee to Egypt with Jesus and His mother, Mary, until the death of Herod. **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.*
- q. After the death of Herod, we find Joseph takes Mary and the Lord Jesus to the City of Nazareth where Jesus lived until he was an adult. **Matthew 2:19-20**, *But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeareth in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, **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.*
- r. Let's review several points to the message.

3. TWO POINTS TO THE MESSAGE.

a. Herod the king was troubled.

- 1. **Matthew 2:1&3**, *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, **3**: When **Herod the king** had heard these things, he **was troubled**, and all Jerusalem with him.*
- 2. Herod the Great got his name because of his military victories and because he had rebuilt cities and important buildings.
- 3. We also find he had been kind to the Jews, although he was not a Jew. He built a temple for them that was referred to as Herod's Temple.
- 4. Herod had a history of trying to protect his throne, which is the reason why he was so infuriated by the news from the wise men.
- 5. Herod murdered anyone who was suspected of trying to take his throne, to include his wife and her relatives and his oldest son.
- 6. He held on to his power from a very cruel and domineering perspective.
- 7. By the time Jesus was born, he had been on the throne ruling in Judea for more than thirty years.
- 8. Lest we are confused, let's review several members of the Herod family.
 - a. The man here is **Herod the Great** who died shortly after the Lord Jesus Christ was born. **Matthew 2:16**, *Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wrath, 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 inquired of the wise men.* **Matthew 2:19**, *But when Herod was dead,*

- behold, an angel of the Lord appeareth in a dream to Joseph in Egypt,*
- b. We also find **Herod Archelaus** who was the son and successor to Herod the Great as a Roman ruler in Judea soon after the birth of Christ. This is recorded for us in **Matthew 2:22**, *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:*
 - c. There is **Herod Antipas** who granted his wife's request that John the Baptist be executed. This was the same Herod that returned Jesus to Pilate for sentencing. **Luke 23:6-12, vs11**: *And Herod with his men of war set him at nought, and mocked him, and arrayed him in a gorgeous robe, and sent him again to Pilate.*
 - d. There is **Herod Phillip** who ruled in extreme northern Galilee at the time Jesus began his public ministry. **Luke 3:19-20, vs19**: *But Herod the tetrarch, being reprov'd by him for Herodias his brother Philip's wife, and for all the evils which Herod had done,*
 - e. Then there is **Herod Agrippa I** who persecuted the Apostles and executed James, leader of the Jerusalem church. **Acts 12:1-9, vs1**: *Now about that time Herod the king stretched forth his hands to vex certain of the church.*
 - f. There is also **Herod Agrippa II**, before whom Pilate made his defense at Caesarea. **Acts 25:13-26, 32 vs 13**: *And after certain days king Agrippa and Bernice came unto Caesarea to salute Festus.*
9. I give you this background because you will read about other Herod's in the Scripture and I do not want you to think there is a conflict in the Word of God. The Preserved Word of God is extremely clear when it is rightly divided.
 10. According to the Scripture, Herod asked the wise men about the star. He also called the religious rulers, the Scribes and Pharisees, to find out where Jesus was to be born. **Matthew 2:5-6**, *And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet, 6: 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.*
 11. According to **Micah 5:2**, *But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.* He was to be born in Bethlehem. **Hosea 11:1** says he was to be called out of Egypt. *When Israel was a child, then I loved him, and called my son out of Egypt.* **Jeremiah 31:15**, *There will be weeping in Ramah, and* **Isaiah 11:1**, *He was the root from the stem of Jesse and therefore to be called a Nazarene.*
- b. Where is he that is born King of the Jews?**
1. **Matthew 2:2,4-8**, *Saying, **Where is he that is born King of the Jews?** for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. 4: And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. 5: And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet, 6: 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. 7: Then*

Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. 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.

2. The wise men learned of Jesus from the star.
3. *It does not say in the Scriptures that there were three wise men.*
4. On the contrary, I think this was an impressive delegation of wise men.
5. They not only disturbed Herod, but the entire city of Jerusalem was troubled.
6. These wise men were an educated class of people who were responsible for preserving and transmitting learning and counseling to rulers. This is recorded for us in **1 Chronicles 27:32**, *Also Jonathan David's uncle was a counsellor, a wise man, and a scribe: and Jehiel the son of Hachmoni was with the king's sons.*
7. Herod was a superstitious man who diligently asking the wise men questions about Jesus and where His birthplace was to be.
8. *The striking contrast between Herod and the wise men is that the wise men were seeking Jesus to worship Him and Herod was seeking Jesus to destroy Him with his destructive plan for his own selfish reasons.*
9. Scripture tells us that, *Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem.*
10. We find these wise men were in the east. This was not an eastern star. They did not go east. They went west following the star.
11. If they had gone east, they would have ended up in India or China, not in Bethlehem.
12. How did the wise men know about the star? I believe **Numbers 24:17** provides the answer. *I shall see him, but not now: I shall behold him, but not nigh: there shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel, and shall smite the corners of Moab, and destroy all the children of Sheth.*
13. The wise men in the east knew about the prophecy and were able to associate that star with the King that was identified to come out of Israel, so they were in search of the King of the Jews.
14. We also find that in **Esther 4:11** that the sceptre and the star go together, which enables us to come up with some information with respect to the wise men and their move to the west seeking the King of the Jews. *All the king's servants, and the people of the king's provinces, do know, that whosoever, whether man or woman, shall come unto the king into the inner court, who is not called, there is one law of his to put him to death, except such to whom the king shall hold out the golden sceptre, that he may live: but I have not been called to come in unto the king these thirty days.*
15. The Bible says in **John 1:11**, *He came unto his own, and his own received him not.*
16. The Jewish people, like Herod, did not receive the Lord Jesus, but these wise men were Gentiles coming from the east traveling many, many miles from their homeland, risking their lives to find our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.
17. This is the reason we need to seek Christ for salvation this day and hour. **Acts**

4:12, *Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.* Are you seeking the Saviour my friend or are you wrapped up in the commercial aspect of Christmas? Have you replaced Merry Christmas with Happy Holidays? I find no salvation in Happy Holidays. It is Christ that saves and there is no salvation in any other. **John 14:6**, *Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.* **Deuteronomy 30:19**, *I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live:*

18. **Luke 13:28-29**, *There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrust out. 29: And they shall come from the east, and from the west, and from the north, and from the south, and shall sit down in the kingdom of God.*
19. We must press into the Kingdom. We must seek the Lord Jesus Christ as the only means of salvation. **John 14:6**, *Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*
20. Notice Herod privily called the wise men and enquired of them diligently about the star.

4. CONCLUSION

- a. Christ died on the cross to pay the penalty for your sin and mine. He physically rose from the dead, ascended into Heaven, and presented His blood at the Throne of God.
- b. Today we can have salvation if we trust Christ as our personal Saviour.
- c. In the words of a great song, "Oh, come let us adore Him. Oh, come let us adore Him. Oh, come let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord."
- d. He is the living Saviour today, sitting at right hand of the Throne of God making intercessions for you and I.
- e. **1 Timothy 3:16**, *And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up in glory.*
- f. **Romans 3:23**, *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*
- g. **Romans 3:10**, *As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:*
- h. **Romans 10:9-10**, *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10: For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*
- i. **Let's reflect on some verses on eternal security. The Bible plainly teaches that once you are saved and born again, you are saved forever!** **1 Peter 1:4**, *To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, **John 10:27-29**, My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: 28: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. 29: My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. **2 Timothy 1:12**, For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to*

keep that which I have committed unto him against that day. **Romans 8:38-39**, For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, **39**: Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. **1 John 5:13**, These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

- i. Would you come to Jesus today for your salvation?
- j. Please stand.

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