



Matthew

2

At Bethlehem God became what He was not before, but did not cease being what He always was. Paul Lowenberg

If Jesus were born one thousand times in Bethlehem and not in me, then I would still be lost. Corrie ten Boom

Matthew 2:1-6



Matthew 2:1, After Jesus Was Born

- Matthew 2:1 Now after Jesus was born...
- How long after He was in a manger in (Luke 2:7) ?
- Matthew 2:11 After coming into the house they saw the Child...
- **<3614> οἰκία *oikia***
- **Meaning: a house, dwelling**
- **Origin: from 3624**
- **Usage: home(6), house(75), household(5), households(1), houses(7).**
- Luke 2:7...no room for them in the inn.
- There would have been after the census.

Matthew 2:1, After Jesus Was Born

- Matthew 2:1 Now after Jesus was born...
- How long after?
- Matthew 2:16...Herod...slew all the male children who were in Bethlehem and all its vicinity, from **two years old and under**, according to the time which he had determined from the magi.
- Clearly, Herod is concerned about all boys under 2 when he meets the Magi, but it doesn't tell us how long after the birth they met (days, weeks, months, or years after).

Luke 2:16+17, Baby or Child?

- Luke 2:16 So they came in a hurry and found their way to Mary and Joseph, and the **baby** [*brephos*] as He lay in the manger. Luke 2:17 When they had seen this, they made known the statement which had been told them about this **Child** [*paidion*].
- <1025> βρέφος *brephos*
- Meaning: *an unborn or a newborn child*
- ...Usage: babies(2), baby(4), childhood(1), infants(1).
- <3813> παιδίον *paidion*
- Meaning: a young child...
- ...Usage: boy's(1), Child(10), child(21), child's(2), children(17), children's(1).

Matthew 2:1, Herod the Great

- Matthew 2:1 Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king..., [*Luke 1:5*]
- 1st. Mention of “Herod”
- Lot’s of other “Herods” in Scripture.
- Herod the Great was an Edomite
- Genesis 36:1 Now these are the records of [*toledot*] the generations of Esau (that is, Edom).
- Deuteronomy 23:7 "You shall not detest an Edomite, for he is your brother; you shall not detest an Egyptian, because you were an alien in his land.

Matthew 2:1, Herod the Great

- [wikipedia.org/](https://www.wikipedia.org/)... Says “Herod was born around 74 BCE in the south ([Idumea](#) was the most southern region)....Herod was practicing Judaism, as many Edomites and Nabateans had been commingled with the Jews and adopted their customs.^[11] These "Judanzied" Edomites were not considered Jewish by the dominant Pharisaic tradition, so even though Herod may have considered himself of the Jewish faith, he was not considered Jewish by the observant and nationalist Jews of Judea...He enjoyed the backing of Rome but his brutality was condemned by the [Sanhedrin](#).^[13]...

Matthew 2:1, Herod the Great

- Herod fled to Rome to plead with the Romans to restore him to power. There he was elected "[King of the Jews](#)" by the [Roman Senate](#).^[14] Josephus puts this in the year... (40 BCE... Herod went back to Judea to win his kingdom from Antigonus and at the same time he married the teenage niece of Antigonus, [Mariamne](#) (known as Mariamne I), in an attempt to secure a claim to the throne and gain some Jewish favor. However, Herod already had a wife, Doris, and a three-year-old son, [Antipater](#), and chose therefore to banish Doris and her child..."

Matthew 2:1, Magi From The East

- Matthew 2:1...magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying...
- <3097> μάγος *magos*
- **Meaning: a Magian, i.e. an (Oriental) astrologer, by impl. a magician**
- **Origin: of Pers. or., cf. 7248**
- **Usage: magi(4), magician(2).**
- **Notes:**
- ¹ A caste of wise men specializing in astronomy, astrology, and natural science
- ^a Mic 5:2; Luk 2:4-7 ^b Luk 1:5

Matthew 2:1, Magi From The East

- Matthew 2:1... magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying,
- Same word “magoi” is used in
- Daniel 4:7 "Then the magicians, the conjurers, the Chaldeans and the diviners came in and I related the dream to them, but they could not make its interpretation known to me.
- Trained in all sciences, probably traces to Daniel

we saw his
star when it
rose & have
come to worship
him. ✨ - MATTHEW 2:2



Matthew 2:2, Born King Of The Jews

- Matthew 2:2 "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him."
- Isaiah 9:6 For **a child will be born to us**, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.
- ⁷ There will be **no end to** the increase of **His government** or of peace, **On the throne of David** and over **his kingdom**, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this.

Matthew 2:2, Elected Not Born King

- Matthew 2:2 "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews?..."
- Herod the Great was an Edomite
- "he was not considered Jewish by the observant and nationalist Jews of Judea..."
- "He enjoyed the backing of Rome"
- "Herod fled to Rome to plead with the Romans to restore him to power. There he was elected "[King of the Jews](#)" by the [Roman Senate](#).^[14]"

Matthew 2:3, Herod + All Jerusalem Troubled

- Matthew 2:3 When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.
- Not just 3 guys on camels
- 3 kings? Or king makers? With an army?



Matthew 2:4, Messiah Was To Be Born

- But no one could ever say this about him...
- A little girl asked her mother, “How did the human race appear?”
- The mother answered, “God made Adam and Eve and they had children, and so was all mankind made.”
- Two days later the child asked her father the same question. The father answered, “Many years ago there were monkeys from which the human race evolved.”
- The confused girl returned to her mother and said, “Mom, how is it possible that you told me the human race was created by God, and Dad said it developed from monkeys?”
- The mother answered, “Well, dear, it is very simple. I told you about my side of the family, and your father told you about his.”

Matthew 2:4, Kings Sought Counsel

- Matthew 2:4 Gathering together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.
- Esther 1:13 Then the king said to the wise men who understood the times-- for it was the custom of the king so to speak before all who knew law and justice
- We have the president's cabinet + war room



Matthew 2:4, Hermeneutics Of The King And His Counsel

- Matthew 2:4 Gathering together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.
- They used a literal, historical, grammatical, and prophetic hermeneutic
- Scripture never treats Scripture in any other way than the normal, literal, historical, grammatical Word of God. Never as merely an example, myth or legend. Fact, and historical narrative, almost all the time. Yes, songs and poetry, other genres, and literary devices, but they are clearly identified.

Matthew 2:5, Written By The Prophet



Matthew 2:5, Written By The Prophet, But God Is Speaking

- Matthew 2:5 They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for this is what **has been written by the prophet**
- Micah 4:6-5:2 "In that day," **declares the LORD, "I will assemble** the lame...."

Yet PC Was Alive Then

- Matthew 2:6 'AND YOU, BETHLEHEM, LAND OF JUDAH, ARE BY NO MEANS LEAST AMONG THE LEADERS OF JUDAH; FOR OUT OF YOU SHALL COME FORTH A RULER WHO WILL SHEPHERD MY PEOPLE ISRAEL.'"
- Micah 5:2 "But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Too little to be among the clans of Judah, From you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel...."
- It's not a good idea to tell wicked rulers that the wicked rulers will be replaced.

Matthew 2:7-12



Luke 2:7, Laid Him In A Manger

KING SIZE BED



Matthew 2:7, Exact Time The Star Appeared

- Matthew 2:7 Then Herod secretly called the magi and determined from them the exact time the star appeared.
- It doesn't say, "When did you notice" or "When did these stars merge into one bright one," or "How long did it take for them to merge," or "When did you finally figure out that there are stars up there," but, "the exact time the star appeared."
- Doesn't look like a process but an event.
- Star, singular, not plural.

From “Star” We Get “Asteroid”

- 792 ἀστήρ aster {as-tare'}
- Meaning: 1) a star
- Origin: probably from the base of 4766; TDNT - 1:503,86; n m
- Usage: AV - star 24; 24

- [GING] φαίνω
- —1. act. intrans. *shine, give light, be bright...*
- [GING] ἀστήρ
... Ὁ star Mt 2:2; Rv 1:16; 9:1. Perh. meteor Jd 13.
[aster, asterisk, astral]

“Shepherd” Was Dangerous Duty

- Some read vs. like this and think shepherds were softies...
- Isaiah 40:11 Like a shepherd He will tend His flock, In His arm He will gather the lambs And carry them in His bosom; He will gently lead the nursing ewes.
- Understanding is important because of promises like this...
- Jeremiah 31:10 Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, And declare in the coastlands afar off, And say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him And keep him as a shepherd keeps his flock." [*also, Ezekiel 34:5-23, John 10:2-16*]
- 1 Samuel 17:34 But David said to Saul, "Your servant was tending his father's sheep. When a lion or a bear came and took a lamb from the flock,
- Being a pastor/shepherd is Dangerous Duty also; James 3:1 Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren...

Shepherd's Dog Collar



Sheep Dog's Protective Collar

“Shepherd” Was Dangerous Duty

- *Dr. Reagan:* “Why didn't the shepherds put those collars on the sheep?”
- *Dr. Fleming:* No, it was just on the guard dogs. The shepherds needed to have the guard dog for their hearing abilities as well. These dogs were huge watch dogs. Modern day shepherds even cut the dog's ears today so that the wolves won't have the chance to bite onto something.
- The main point is this — most people don't realize how dangerous it was to be a shepherd in biblical times. When Jesus said the shepherd lays down his life for the sheep, He meant it. I'd imagine people living near grazing areas would hear every week of a shepherd being attacked. For example, David talked about killing a lion and a bear, so such attacks were pretty common then.”

Matthew 2:11, Gold, Frankincense, And Myrrh

- Matthew 2:11 After coming into the house they saw the Child with Mary His mother; and they fell to the ground and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they presented to Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.
- Song of Solomon 3:6...Perfumed with myrrh and frankincense, With all scented powders of the merchant?
- During the Millennial Kingdom, to Jerusalem... “They will bring gold and frankincense, And will bear good news of the praises of the LORD.” Isaiah 60:6

Matthew 2:11, Gold, Frankincense, And Myrrh

- My other son stepped forward wearing a bathrobe and a paper crown, knelt at the manger and announced,
"We are the three wise men, and we are bringing gifts of
- gold, common sense and fur."

Matthew 2:13, Herod Is Going To

- Matthew 2:13...for **Herod is going to** search for the Child to destroy Him.”
- God knows and controls all possibilities...
- Isaiah 46:9 "Remember the former things long past, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like Me, ¹⁰ Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying, 'My purpose will be established, And I will accomplish all My good pleasure';

Matthew 2:13, Herod Is Going To

- Isaiah 44:24 Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, and the one who formed you from the womb, "I, the LORD, am **the maker of all things**, Stretching out the heavens by Myself And spreading out the earth all alone, ²⁵ Causing the omens of boasters to fail, Making fools out of diviners, Causing wise men to draw back And turning their knowledge into foolishness,

God Even Knows The “If / Thens”

- Matthew 11:23 "And you, Capernaum, will not be exalted to heaven, will you? You will descend to Hades; **for if** the miracles had occurred in Sodom which occurred in you, it would have remained to this day.

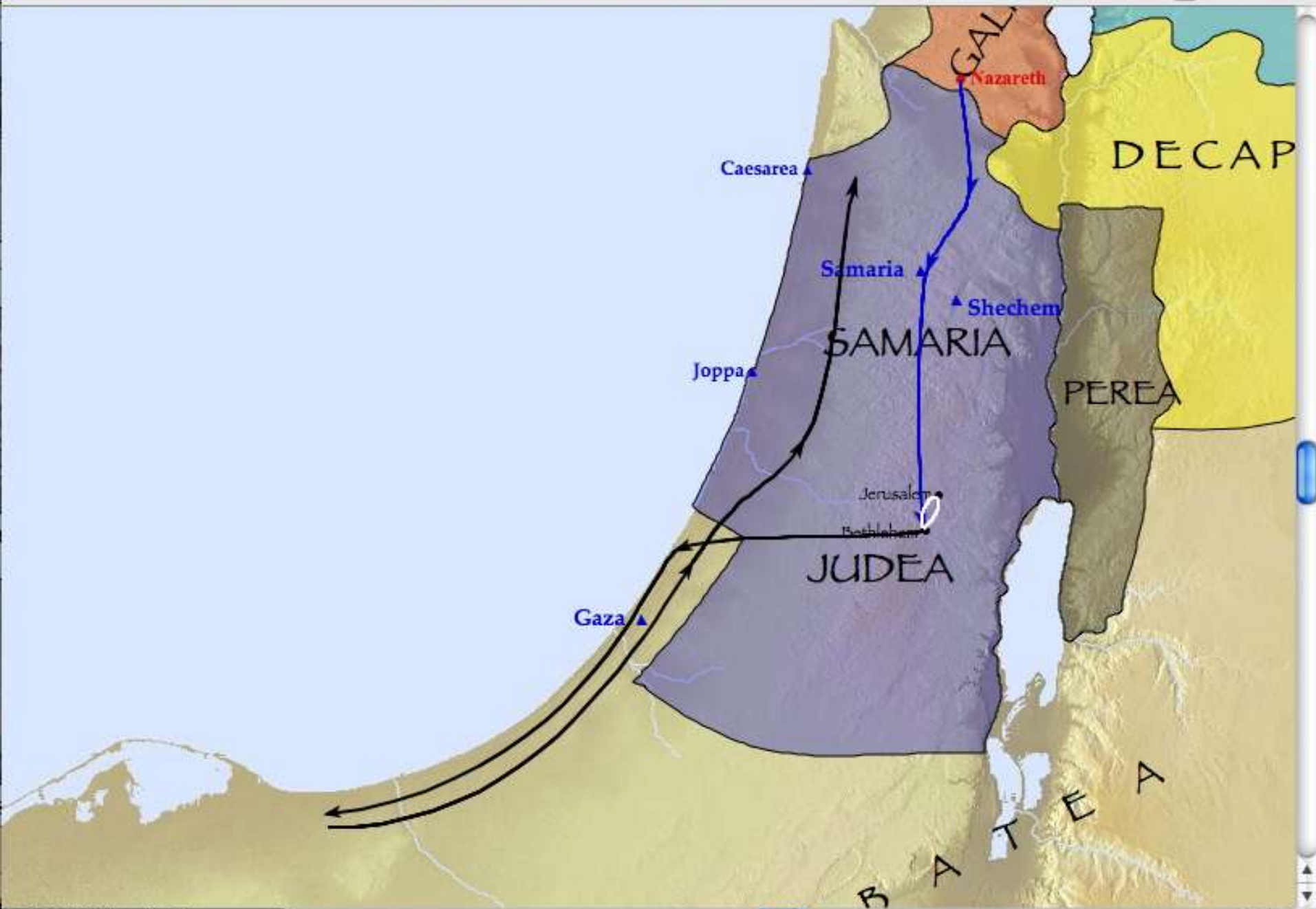
Matthew 2:14, Night, Left For Egypt

- Matthew 2:14 So Joseph got up and took the Child and His mother while it was **still night**, and left for Egypt.
- When an angel says to you, ...“Get up! Take the Child and His mother and flee to Egypt...”
- You get up and go!



The Childhood of Jesus

Jesus' Childhood Israel



Matthew 2:15, Herod

- Matthew 2:15 He remained there until the death of Herod...
- This is Herod the Great, and goodbye!
- “Herod” is used 41 X’s in NASU

Matthew 2:15, OUT OF EGYPT



Matthew 2:15, OUT OF EGYPT

- Matthew 2:15...This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "OUT OF EGYPT I CALLED MY SON."
- Hosea 11:1 When Israel was a child, then I loved him, and called my son out of Egypt.
- Who is the greatest son of Israel?
- Hebrews 7:9 And, so to speak, through Abraham even Levi, who received tithes, paid tithes, ¹⁰ for **he was still in the loins of his father** when Melchizedek met him.
- Exodus 4:22 "Then you shall say to Pharaoh, 'Thus says the LORD, "Israel is My son, My firstborn. ²³ "So I said to you, 'Let My son go that he may serve Me...

Matthew 2:16, Very Enraged

- Matthew 2:16 Then when Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he became very enraged, and sent and slew all the male children who were in Bethlehem and all its vicinity, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the magi.
- <2373> θυμῶ *thumoo*
- **Meaning: to be very angry**
- **...Usage: enraged(1).**

Galatians 5:19, *thumos* = outbursts of anger

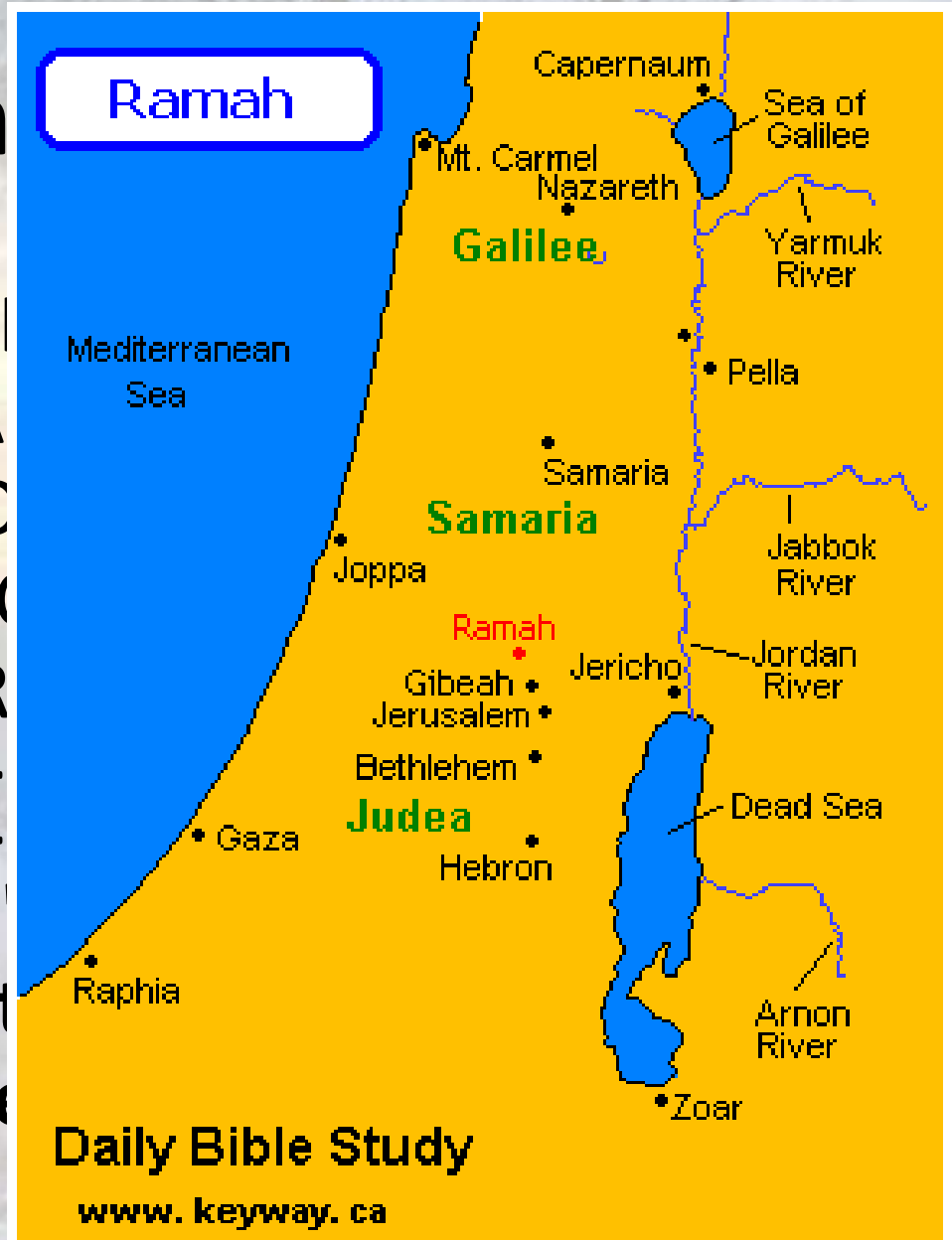
- Matthew 2:16...he became very enraged...
- Galatians 5:19 Now **the deeds of the flesh** are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger [*thumos*], disputes, dissensions, factions, ²¹ envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those **who practice** such things **will not inherit the kingdom of God.**
- <4238> πράσσω *prasso*
- Meaning: *to do, practice...*

Matthew 2:17

- Matthew 2:17 Then what had been **spoken through Jeremiah** the prophet **was fulfilled**:
- Not **by** “the prophet”, but through

Matth

- Matthew 2:18 "A VOICE FROM THE WILDERNESS
RAMAH, WEeping AND WEEPING AS RACHEL WEeping FOR HER CHILDREN
SHE REFUSED TO BE COMFORTED BECAUSE THEY WERE NO MORE
- 4471 Ῥαμά Rhama {
- Meaning: Ramah = "High Place"
tribe of Benjamin, situated (12 km) north of Jerusalem



Matthew 2:18= Jeremiah 31:15

- Matthew 2:18 "A VOICE WAS HEARD IN RAMAH, WEEPING AND GREAT MOURNING, **RACHEL** **WEEPING** FOR HER CHILDREN; AND SHE REFUSED TO BE COMFORTED, BECAUSE THEY WERE NO MORE."
- Jeremiah 31:15 Thus says the LORD, "A voice is heard in Ramah, Lamentation and bitter weeping. Rachel is weeping for her children; She refuses to be comforted for her children, Because they are no more."
- Was this fulfilled literally?
- Keep reading, because Jeremiah 31 has more vs.

Yes, In The Christmas Story

- A reference to Jeremiah 31 fulfilled literally, showing God's faithfulness to Israel...
- Matthew 2:17 Then what had been spoken through Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled:
- Jeremiah 31:1 "At that time," declares the LORD, "I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be My people."

Jeremiah 31:17, Israel Will Literally Return To Their Territory

- Jeremiah 31:17 "There is hope for your future," declares the LORD, "And your children **will return to their own territory**....²⁰ "Is Ephraim My dear son? Is he a delightful child? Indeed, as often as I have spoken against him, I certainly still remember him; Therefore My heart yearns for him; I will surely have mercy on him," declares the LORD.²¹ "Set up for yourself roadmarks, Place for yourself guideposts; Direct your mind to the highway, The way by which you went. Return, O virgin of **Israel**, Return to these **your cities**.²² "How long will you go here and there, **O faithless** daughter? For the LORD has created a new thing in the earth-- **A woman will encompass a man.**" [*virgin birth? A son given, Isa 9:6?, I'll come back to this question*]

Jeremiah 31:31-33, A New Covenant With The House Of Israel

- Jeremiah 31:31 "Behold, days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah,³² not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them," declares the LORD.³³ "But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days," declares the LORD, "I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

A Woman Will Encompass A Man?

Isaiah 9:6...a son will be given...

- Unger's lists six reasons to see the incarnation of Christ in the virgin's womb here;
- 1) The term "woman" suggests an individual rather than the entire nation. 2) The word "created" implies an act of divine power (Luke 1:35; Hebrews 10:5) 3) The "new thing in the earth" requires an event utterly unique and unprecedented in character. 4) The word for "man" (*geber*) is properly used for God (Isaiah 9:6). 5) The rebirth and restoration of Israel are grounded on the incarnation, death, resurrection, and return of Christ, the glorified God-man, the foundation of Israel's hope (7:14). 6) Believing on the glorified God-man, Jesus the Christ, will release the divine grace that will cause Israel to love Him supremely at His second advent (53:1-10; Zech 12:10 - 13:1).

Matthew 2:22-23,

- Matthew 2:22 But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Then after being warned by God in a dream, he left for the regions of Galilee, ²³ and came and lived in a city called Nazareth. This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophets: "He shall be called a Nazarene."


Matthew 2:22-23,

- Matthew 2:22... Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod...
- Ryrie notes say, “Archelaus. On the death of Herod the great, the Romans divided his kingdom among his sons: Archelaus (Judah and Samaria), Antipas (Galilee and Perea), and Philip (NE Palestine). Archelaus was a bloody king and, worse in the eyes of Rome, ineffective. He was removed by Caesar Augustus in a AD 6 and banished to Gaul.”
- That’s why Scripture has so many “Herods.”

Matthew 2:22-23, Lived in Nazareth

- Matthew 2:22...lived in a city called Nazareth. This was to fulfill what was spoken through the **prophets**: "He shall be called a Nazarene."
- Bethlehem, Egypt, then Galilee, Nazareth
- No OT uses of Nazareth, but there is Nazirite
- The word "prophets" is plural, and based on a plurality of Old Testament passages.

The End

A winter scene with a snowy field and bare trees under a cloudy sky. In the distance, a sleigh pulled by several horses is visible, moving across the snow.

So, go have
yourself a very
Merry Christmas

Matthew 2:1, Herod the Great

- Matthew 2:1 Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, [Luke 1:5]
- 1st. Mention of "Herod"
- Deuteronomy 23:7 "You shall not detest an Edomite, for he is your brother; you shall not detest an Egyptian, because you were an alien in his land."
- Herod the Edomite
- [wikipedia.org/](https://www.wikipedia.org/)... Says "Herod was born around 74 BCE in the south ([Idumea](#) was the most southern region).^{[9][10]} He was the second son of [Antipater the Idumaean](#), a high-ranked official under Ethnarch [Hyrcanus II](#), and Cypros, a [Nabatean](#). Herod was practicing Judaism, as many Edomites and Nabateans had been commingled with the Jews and adopted their customs.^[11] These "Judanized" Edomites were not considered Jewish by the dominant Pharisaic tradition, so even though Herod may have considered himself of the Jewish faith, he was not considered Jewish by the observant and nationalist Jews of Judea.^[12] A loyal supporter of Hyrcanus II, Antipater appointed Herod [governor](#) of [Galilee](#) at 25, and his elder brother, [Phasael](#), governor of Jerusalem. He enjoyed the backing of Rome but his brutality was condemned by the [Sanhedrin](#).^[13]
- Two years later [Antigonus](#), Hyrcanus' nephew, took the throne from his uncle with the help of the [Parthians](#). Herod fled to Rome to plead with the Romans to restore him to power. There he was elected "[King of the Jews](#)" by the [Roman Senate](#).^[14] Josephus puts this in the year of the [consulship](#) of [Calvinus](#) and [Pollio](#) (40 BCE), but [Appian](#) places it in 39 BCE.^[10] Herod went back to Judea to win his kingdom from Antigonus and at the same time he married the teenage niece of Antigonus, [Mariamne](#) (known as Mariamne I), in an attempt to secure a claim to the throne and gain some Jewish favor. However, Herod already had a wife, Doris, and a three-year-old son, [Antipater](#), and chose therefore to banish Doris and her child..."
- Luke 1:5 In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zacharias, of the division of Abijah; and he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth.

Gen 37:25

- As they sat down to eat their meal, they looked up and saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead. Their camels were loaded with spices, balm and myrrh, and they were on their way to take them down to Egypt.

Spices, Balm And Myrrh

- Spices, balm and myrrh?
- Do you suppose those camels carried gold, frankincense and myrrh?
- Matt 2:11 On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh.

Song of Solomon 3:6 Isaiah 60:6 Matthew 2:11, Gold, Frankincense, And Myrrh

- My other son stepped forward wearing a bathrobe and a paper crown, knelt at the manger and announced, "We are the three wise men, and we are bringing gifts of
- gold, common sense and fur."
- Matthew 2:11 After coming into the house they saw the Child with Mary His mother; and they fell to the ground and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they presented to Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Star of Bethlehem

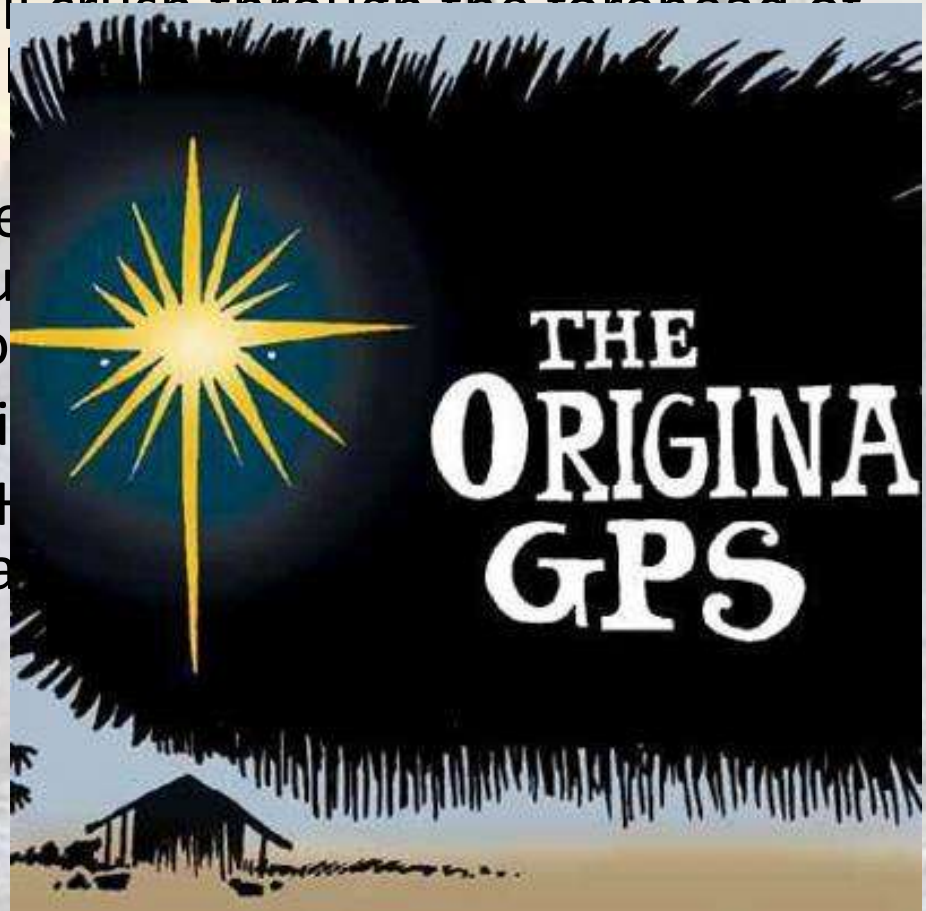
- Today is December 23, 2011 www.compass.org
-
- Verse of the Day -- Matthew 2:1-2
-
- *Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east, and have come to worship Him."*
-
- **THOUGHT FOR THE DAY**
- What was the Star of Bethlehem?
-
- **MINI BIBLE STUDY FOR THE DAY**
- The star of Bethlehem has always intrigued people. What was it? Could it have been a comet or a meteor or a super-nova? What about a special alignment of planets?
- **Various Theories**
- The longevity of the star rules out a comet or a meteor. The star had to appear each night for several months in order to lead the magi all the way from Persia in the Far East. The possibility of a super-nova or a planetary alignment is ruled out by the fact that the star constantly moved, leading the magi first to Jerusalem and then to Bethlehem where the star hovered over the house where Mary and Joseph had moved with the Christ Child (Matthew 2:9-11).
- **A Supernatural Alternative**
- The renowned Messianic Jewish scholar Alfred Edersheim has proposed another solution to the mystery. He points out that the Greek word translated "star" really means "radiance." The "star" could therefore have been what the Jews called the "Shekinah" — that is, a physical manifestation of the glory of God in the form of a supernatural radiance.
- The Jews experienced such a phenomenon in the wilderness of Sinai when for 40 years they were led about by a pillar of cloud in the day that became a pillar of fire by night (Exodus 13:21-22). When the radiant cloud moved, they moved. When the cloud hovered, they pitched their tents and settled down (Numbers 9:15-23).
- This Shekinah later resided in the Holy of Holies after the Temple of Solomon was built (2 Chronicles 7:1-3). Ezekiel describes how the Shekinah departed from the Temple in stages before God allowed the Temple to be destroyed by the Babylonians. First, the Shekinah moved from the Holy of Holies to the threshold of the Temple (Ezekiel 9:3). Then "the glory of the Lord" moved from the threshold to the Eastern Gate (Ezekiel 10:18-19). Finally, the Lord's presence moved to the Mount of Olives, where it "stood over the mountain" before departing the city (Ezekiel 11:23).
- The Shekinah is mentioned in the New Testament as being present at the birth of Jesus (Luke 2:9), at His transfiguration (Matthew 17:5), and at His ascension (Acts 1:9).
- Considering the radiant and maneuverable qualities of the Shekinah that are demonstrated in these Scriptures, I think it is very likely that the "star" which led the magi was really the Shekinah Glory of God.
- **The Attraction of the Star**
- Another mystery associated with the Bible's account of the magi is why did these men "from the east" follow the heavenly radiance?
- Their very title gives us a clue. Magi is a Persian term for a priestly caste of wise men who specialized in astrology, medicine, and natural science. The ancient historian Herodotus says they interpreted dreams and omens and claimed to have the gift of prophecy. Such men would naturally have been interested in an unusual heavenly radiance.
- It is also very likely that they would have been familiar with the writings of Daniel who gained great renown as a wise man and interpreter of dreams in the Persian court of Nebuchadnezzar. If so, they would have known his prophecy of "the seventy weeks of years" which is recorded in Daniel 9:24-27.
- This remarkable prophecy established the general time period of the Messiah's coming by indicating it would be 483 years after a Persian ruler issued an edict to rebuild Jerusalem. The magi had probably been counting down the years since the Jews had been sent back from Babylon to rebuild Jerusalem, and they thus knew the general time period when the Messiah would be born.
- Because of the Babylonian captivity of the Jews, the magi would also have had access to the writings of Moses (the Torah), and from those writings they may have come across the Messianic prophecy of Balaam that "a star shall come forth from Jacob" (Numbers 24:17).
- **The Inclusion of the Gentiles**
- The final mystery is why God would open the eyes of a group of Gentile mystics and draw them to the Christ Child.
- Undoubtedly it was for the purpose of symbolizing the universal importance of the birth, to emphasize that although salvation comes from the Jews (John 4:22), it is intended for all peoples.
- That was certainly the message of the angels who proclaimed to the Bethlehem shepherds that their good news of the birth of a Savior was for "all the people" (Luke 2:10-11).
- This point was affirmed and emphasized forty days later when Mary and Joseph took their son to the Temple "to present Him to the Lord" (Luke 2:22). As they entered the Temple, a prophet of God by the name of Simeon took the Christ Child into his arms, blessed God, and then announced:

1 Peter 2:25 1 Peter 5:4 Hebrews 13:20 Matthew 2:6 Matthew
26:31 Mark 14:27 John 10:14 Zechariah 13:7 Micah 5:4 Ezekiel
34:11-17 Ezekiel 37:24 Isaiah 44:28 Psalm 23:1, 28:9 Genesis
49:24, the Shepherd, the Stone of Israel

- Genesis 49:24 ...From the hands of the Mighty One of Jacob (From there is the Shepherd, the Stone of Israel),

Numbers 24:17 2 Peter 1:19 Luke 2:7 Matthew 2:2

- Numbers 24:17 "I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near; A star shall come forth from Jacob, A scepter shall rise from Israel, And shall crush through the forehead of Moab, And tear down all the towers of the stronghold, And tear down all the towers of the stronghold, And tear down all the towers of the stronghold."
- 2 Peter 1:19 So we have sure, to which you do we shining in a dark place, u morning star arises in yo
- Luke 2:7 And she gave bi
- Matthew 2:2 "Where is He Jews? For we saw His sta worship Him."



Micah 5:2

- Matt 2:6 "'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel.'"“
- John 7:41-42 Others said, "He is the Christ." Still others asked, "How can the Christ come from Galilee? 42 Does not the Scripture say that the Christ will come from David's family and from Bethlehem, the town where David lived?"

Matthew 2:8 Mark 1:37 Luke 2:46 John 6:25 John 9:35 Hosea 12:4, I Found God!

- The phone rang. It was my friend Annette. She had been going through a rough time. "I feel so alone," she said. "I've even lost God and don't know how to find him." I'd felt the same way once, and told Annette how making a gratitude list had helped. "Write down the numbers one through fifty down the side of a piece of paper," I explained. "Then go back and count the things you're thankful for. And remember, it's not the things you're supposed to be thankful for, but the things you really are thankful for." "Okay then, I'll give it a try," Annette said, hanging up. Not long after, the phone rang again. It was Annette. "I found him!" she exclaimed joyfully.
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- Lora Clark