

Matthew 2:1-12 – The Wise Men

Introduction

1. The False Traditional Notions of the Wise Men
 - a. Scripture does not tell us there were 3, only 3 gifts
 - b. They did not appear with the Shepherds; 2 years after
 - c. They were not Kings, but Magi – astrologers, scholars
2. Who were the Wise Men?
 - a. Pagan Gentile Men from the East
 - b. Intentionally included by Matthew – Jesus is the World’s Messiah, not just the Jewish Messiah
 - c. The Lord pursues the Gentile Nations
 - d. The Magi represent the entire World

Main Idea: Sinners either respond to Christ by God’s grace, seeking Him and humbling themselves in Worship of Him. Or they respond by their own evil desires feeling either indifferent about Jesus or threatened by Him.

Herod the Great... Snake (vv 1-3)

1. Herod was a Master Builder – Architecture, Infrastructure
2. Herod was a Ruler given power by Rome as “king of the Jews”
3. Herod was a descendant from Esau – an Edomite
4. Herod had no rights to the Throne of David
5. Herod was a Wicked Man
 - a. He had half the Sanhedrin murdered
 - b. He has his wife and mother, and 3 sons murdered
 - c. He had uncles, cousins, and countless others killed
 - d. On His death bed, he arranged for Jewish Leaders to be put to death after he was pronounced dead
 - e. Josephus, the Historian, called him a pitiless monster
 - f. Caesar Augustus said it was better to be Herod’s pig than Herod’s son
6. The Wise Men inquired about the True King of the Jews to worship Him – How did they know about the Messiah?
 - a. Many presume they were from Mesopotamia/Babylon
 - b. They saw a star pointing to the birth of the Messiah
 - c. They knew the Old Testament Scriptures (**Num 24**)
 - d. Balaam’s Prophecy: **Num 24:17-19 → Genesis 3:15**
 - e. These Gentiles had come to believe the Scriptures
7. Herod was Fearful – He was troubled at the news
 - a. The Magi are excited & anticipate seeing the Messiah
 - b. Herod is threatened by a rival – arrogant, cruel, brutal
 - c. Jerusalem is troubled: Fear Herod or Hostile to Jesus

The Apathetic and Indifferent Religious Leaders (vv 4-6)

1. Herod calls a Colloquium to Discuss the Birth of the Messiah
2. He assembles the Sadducees, Scribes, and Pharisees – all of who do not agree on much, but do agree that the Messiah is to be born in Bethlehem according to Micah
3. Micah’s Prophecy: An Eternal Messiah would Shepherd God’s people (**Points to David in 2 Samuel 5:2 as the prefigure of Christ Jesus – To be Messiah, you must be a Davidic King**)
4. The Religious Leaders were Indifferent, Inactive at the news from the Wise Men – they were not looking for the Messiah
5. *A Dead heart does not Respond to God’s Call unless the Grace of God makes that Heart ALIVE!*

Herod the Sneaky... Snake (vv 7-8, 16)

1. Herod wants to ascertain the age of the Messiah – in order to destroy the Infant King
2. The Magi had been following the star for months – we get this clue from the age limit Herod sets on his infanticide
3. Herod lies about Worshipping the Lord – he desires to kill him
4. Herod is full of Deceit – Satanic, Demonic, guided by the Father of Lies

The Worshipping Wise Men from the East (vv 9-12)

1. The star was like a pillar leading them to the Lord Christ
2. The Magi Worship Jesus
 - a. The Magi Rejoiced... with Great JOY! ...Exceedingly!!!
 - b. The Magi humbly fall to their knees before a baby
 - c. The Magi bear kingly gifts for the Messiah King
 - d. The Magi call baby Jesus, “King of the Jews” (**v 2**)
3. The Magi Represent the Gentiles streaming to Jesus as prophesied in the Old Testament
 - a. Gentile kings would bring treasures to Him (**Ps 72:10-11**)
 - b. The Magi inaugurated the nations coming to Christ (**Is 60**)
4. The Magi Represent How We Should Respond to Christ!
 - a. We call Him Lord!
 - b. We seek Him by Faith! And Delight & Joy in the heart!
 - c. We offer Him Spiritual Sacrificial Gifts – ourselves!
 - d. We submit: bow down as lowly recognizing Him as exalted
 - e. We worship Him: home, work, play, in our hearts
5. God Sovereignly Protected His Son from Herod

Invitation: How do you respond? With hostility like Herod? With indifference like the Religious Leaders? With worship like the Magi?