



# JESUS' INFANCY NARRATIVE

## **Matthew 2**

# ON

- **We move from the genealogical record of Jesus and his birth to the infancy narrative of Jesus.**
- **In this brief time period some significant things happen that push the narrative theme along of “Jesus is King and Messiah.”**
- **Reason that Matthew’s birth narrative is unique**



# FOUR MOVEMENTS IN THE NARRATIVE OF CHAPTER 2

- Visit of the Wise Men, **verses 1-12**
- The Flight to Egypt, **verses 13-15**
- Herod Kills the Children, **verses 16-18**
- The Return to Nazareth, **verses 19-23**



# VISIT OF THE WISE MEN

## VERSES 1-12

- **The date of the visit is established**
- **Who came to visit is identified, Magi**
  - **They had heard about King of the Jews**
  - **They saw his star in the east**
  - **Who were the Magi?**
- **Where they came from to visit is identified, from the east**



# WORSHIP

- Purpose for their visit=worship him
- Key question in Matthew—what does it mean to “worship” (*proskuneo*, προσκυνῆσαι) the Messiah?
- **Definition** - to kiss the hand to (towards) one, in token of reverence



# WORSHIP

- among the Middle East, esp. the Persians, to fall upon the knees and touch the ground with the forehead as an expression of profound reverence
- in the NT by kneeling or prostration to do homage (to one) or make obeisance, whether in order to express respect or to make supplication



# WORSHIP

- **used of homage shown to men and beings of superior rank**
  - **to the Jewish high priests**
  - **to God**
  - **to Christ**
  - **to heavenly beings**
  - **to demons**



Note that *proskuneo* is actually done in the very presence of Jesus. So, if we think about doing that for Jesus, we have to do it with his personal absence!





- **King Herod was troubled, and all Israel with him.**
  - **He also assembled and inquired of the chief priest and scribes.**
  - **Their answer...They told him, “Quote from Micah 5”**



# MATTHEW'S QUOTE

## Text from Matthew

“In Bethlehem of Judea,  
for so it is written by the  
prophet:

<sup>6</sup> “And you, O Bethlehem,  
in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least  
among the rulers of  
Judah;  
for from you shall come a  
ruler  
who will shepherd my  
people Israel.”

## Text From Micah

“But you,  
Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
though you are small  
among the clans/rulers of  
Judah,  
out of you will come for  
me  
one who will be  
ruler over Israel,  
Shepherd—see Micah 5:4



- **Text in Micah 5 begins with a call to arms!**
- **Herod summons the wise men**
- **Go and search diligently**
- **So I also can worship**  
*(proskuneo)*

