



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:

⁶ “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)

