


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
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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*)




THE FLIGHT TO EGYPT

- Angel of the Lord appears to Joseph
- Rise, take, flee, remain
- Herod's search—destroy
- They went by night
- Remained...Fulfillment of Hosea 11:1--Context



HEROD KILLS THE CHILDREN

- Herod tricked—became furious
 - Killed all male children (#?)
 - According to time of wise men
 - Fulfillment of Jeremiah 31:15
 - Context of Jeremiah quotation—historical background
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THE RETURN TO NAZARETH

- Herod died—angel prompted again—Rise, take, go
- Archelaus was in Herod's place (His background)
- Joseph afraid
- Called a Nazarene (26:71)

