

Assignments on Matthew 2

Please read Matthew 2 (note parallels in other accounts) and answer these questions.

1. Where and when was Jesus born – 2:1 (see map)? Who came to Jerusalem at this time? (Think: According to Luke's account, why was Jesus' family in Bethlehem at this time?)
2. What reason did the wise men give why they had come – 2:2?
3. How did Herod react when he heard the reason for the coming of the wise men – 2:3? Why would he be concerned in this way?
4. Whom did Herod call together and what question did he ask them – 2:4,5? What answer did they give him, and how did they know the correct answer?
5. What did the prophecy say about the birth of the Christ – 2:6? Where is this prophecy found? Why is it important that we understand the prophecy about Jesus' birth?
6. What question did Herod ask of the wise men – 2:7,8? What request did he make of them, and what reason did he give for the request?
7. How did the wise men identify the place where Jesus was – 2:9,10? How did they react as a result? (Think: What can we learn about the significance of the star?)
8. What did the wise men do when they found Jesus and Mary – 2:11? What gifts did they present? (Think: What does the story show about the character of the wise men?)
9. Special Assignment: How does the Bible account compare to common tradition? Does the Bible state the number of wise men? Did the wise men find Jesus in a stable?
10. What further information did God give to these men – 2:12? What did they do as a result? (Think: Based on the subsequent story, why did God so instruct these men?)

11. What was Joseph told to do – 2:13? What reason was given for this instruction?

12. What did Joseph do as a result – 2:14,15? How long did they stay? How did this relate to Old Testament prophecy?

13. How did Herod react when the wise man did not return to him – 2:16? What did he do?

14. **Special Assignment:** Consider the age of the boys Herod slew. Did the wise men visit immediately after Jesus' birth? What can we learn about Herod's character?

15. What prophecy was fulfilled by Herod's act – 2:17,18? Where was this prophecy found? (Think: What is the significance of the reference to Rachel and to Ramah?)

16. **Application:** How did the wise men and Herod illustrate the different reactions people have to Jesus? Notice that these reactions began from the time of His birth.

17. What was Joseph instructed to do – 2:19,20? Why was it safe to do this?

18. What did Joseph do in response to the instruction – 2:21,22? What further information did he learn when they arrived in Israel? Why would this concern him?

19. What instruction was he given about where to go next? So where did he take his family, and how did this relate to Old Testament prophecy (see map)?

20. **Special Assignment:** Research Biblical helps and see what you can learn about the Herods mentioned in this chapter. Were these real men, and what kind of men were they?