

*"Where is He Who Has Been Born King of the Jews?"*

*Matthew 2:1-12*

*The 5 Questions of Christmas*

We are to live in light of His ever present and eternal kingship over all things created. Matthew 2:1-12 is a statement concerning a prophecy fulfilled and a promised kept. What is the significance of the prophecy in verses 4-6?

The birth of the King in Bethlehem of Judea is one of 330 Old Testament predictions concerning Jesus Christ. "In chapter 2 Matthew points out four of those prophecies that were fulfilled during Jesus' infancy. There is no reasonable possibility that even those four – much less all 330 – could have been fulfilled accidentally in the life of a single individual. That fact in itself is overwhelming evidence of God's sovereign control of history and of the utter reliability of His Word." (MacArthur, Matthew, 24).

Matthew's gospel identifies Jesus as the expected coming Messiah. His lineage is traced back to David. Throughout Matthew's account you have the statement, "It is written," or "In order that it might be fulfilled." He comes in fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies. Herod sees this new *king* as a legitimate threat to his own throne. The gifts brought by the magi are appropriate for a king.

Who are these magi from the east (v. 1) and why the question concerning His kingship (v. 2) and what are we to make of their actions toward the Christ child (vv. 9-11)?

Why was Herod the king troubled (vv. 3, 7) and why did he wish to murder the Christ child (vv. 16-18)?

There are many reasons as to why this time of year is celebrated. Not the least is the coming of the King of the Jews. Although He came as a Jewish King, His monarchy is inclusive, invincible, and inevitable. All men everywhere at all times shall bow before Him. Yet, what does this kingship mean for us who are His people today? There are three ideas that should alter the way we live as His people.

- I. We are to pray for the Kingdom's full manifestation on earth even as it is in heaven (Matt. 6:10).

I believe that God has one purpose and that is for all of creation to bow down before His Son who will function as the Trinitarian representative before them for the eternal glory of the Godhead. Everything we see is an outworking of that one purpose. What will this reign be like? The Scripture gives us a taste of this reign in Isaiah 9:1-7 and Revelation 21:1-8.

- A. The coming kingdom is marked by unbridled joy (Isa. 9:1-7).
- B. The coming kingdom is marked by unadulterated joy (Rev. 21:1-8).

It is a reign marked by peace and obedience. It is a reign that has no rebellion or temptation. It is heaven.

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II. We are to see this King as our Savior, Healer, and Comforter.

A. The coming King is a savior (Matt. 1:21).

We need a Savior because we are sinners. Are you in need of a savior?

B. The coming King is a healer (Matt. 4:23, 24).

We, as sinners, have been ravaged by sin's demerit. We are a sick people. We need healing from sin's demerit. Are you in need of healing?

C. The coming King is a comforter (Matt. 11:28-30).

Comfort and rest are inseparably linked. Do you need to be comforted?

III. We are to be assured of the future in the present concerning the King (Phil. 2:9, 10, 1 Tim. 6:13-16, Rev. 17:14, 19:11-16).

A. His kingship will be without exclusion (Phil. 2:9-11).

B. His kingship will be without challenge (1 Tim. 6:13-16, Rev. 17:4, 19:11-16).

Matthew's intent is to set forth Jesus Christ as the rightful heir to the throne of David. He comes in fulfillment of God's all-encompassing promise to establish His Kingdom in an immediate and direct manner.

When you compare and contrast the response of the magi with that of Herod the Great, where do you fall? Herod's response to the Christ child is diametrically opposite of that of the magi. Do you still find yourself raging against the Christ child? Or are you like the magi who come humbly before the king of kings and lord of lords?

There were three reactions toward the Christ child.

First, the reaction of hatred and hostility by Herod.

Second, the reaction of complete indifference in the chief priests and scribes.

Third, the reaction of adoring worship by the magi.

There is coming a day when our faith shall be turned into sight and what a day that is going to be. But until then, pray, watch, and rest.