

9/17/17

Matthew 2

There is a time difference of two year between chapter one and two, as we will see when the wise men arrived and saw Jesus and his mother Mary at Bethlehem.

2:1-12 The coming of the wise men.

2:1-3 The arrival of the wise men.

- 1) The time is stated, “Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king.” vs. 1a
 - a) Herod obtained his tile from Rome in 40 B.C. but being half idumean was rejected by the Jews as their king.
 - b) Bethlehem means house of bread, 5-6 miles south of Jerusalem.
 - 1)) Rachel was buried. Gen. 35:19
 - 2)) Ruth lived there. Ruth 1
 - 3)) David’s home. 1Sam. 16
- 2) Their orgin is stated, “behold, wise men from the East.” vs. 1b-c
 - a) The phrase behold “idou” is an exclamation of suddenness and unexpected.
 - b) The wise men “magos”, has the root word that comes from word meaning great, came to mean magician, sooth-sayers or

diviner associated with astrology. Dan. 2;
Matt. 2:1, 7, 16; Acts 13:6, 8

- c) They probably came from Babylon, though some believe Media.
- 3) Their destination, “came to Jerusalem”. vs. 1c
 - a) The city of David.
 - b) The city of God.
- 4) Their inquiry words were, “Saying, “Where is He who has been born king of the Jews?”” vs. 2a-b
 - a) Herod had claimed the title of king from Rome and obtained it, but he was half idumean, an illegitimate king.
 - b) Herod was paranoid about anyone trying to take way his throne, killing even members of his own family.
- 5) Their testified was, “For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.” vs. 2c
 - a) His star is prophecied by Balaam. Num. 24:17
 - b) The word worship “proskuneo”, means to kneel or prostrate oneself in homage and reverence.
 - c) Herod I am sure thought they came for to honor him.
 - d) Nowhere are we told there were three wise men.
 - e) Tradition has even named them Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar.

- 6) The reaction of Herod was not favorable, “When Herod the king heard *this*, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.” vs. 3
- a) Herod was troubled “tarasso”, meaning agitated and perplexed.
 - 1)) Remember he had killed his wife and sons.
 - 2)) They had a saying “It was safer to be Herod’s pig than his son”, the word son “huios”, pig “hus”.
 - b) Herod took it out on the people, “and all Jerusalem with him” was troubled.
 - 1)) Herod saw Christ as a rival king.
 - 2)) Herod felt threatened.

2:4-6 The inquiry of Herod from the religious rulers.

- 1) The paranoid Herod called the religious men, “And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together.” vs. 4a
 - a) The text implies no time delay, the priests and scribe were members of the Sanhedrin, the Supreme court of the Jews.
 - b) They were suppose to be the spiritual leaders of the people, but were not, they were not even looking for the Messiah’s arrival.

- 2) The inquiry was for the location, “he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. vs. 4b
 - a) **The** stress on the fact of His birth.
 - b) The word Christ “Christos” was the title for Anointed Messiah.
- 3) Their answer was in line with the Scriptures. vs. 5-6
 - a) They knew the Scriptures, but not the One who gave them the Scriptures, “So they said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet.” vs. 5
 - 1)) Bethlehem means house of bread, 5-6 miles south of Jerusalem. Mic. 5:2
 - 2)) Rachel was buried. Gen. 35:19
 - 3)) Ruth lived there. Ruth 1
 - 4)) David’s home. 1Sam. 16
 - b) They quoted the prophecy, “But you, Bethlehem, *in* the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.” vs. 6
 - 1)) From the insignificant town of Judah.
 - 2)) A ruler to shepherd My people Israel. 2Sam. 5:2; Jn. 7:42

2:7-8 The evil plotting of Herod.

- 1) Herod attempted to calculate the time that the star appeared to the wise men, “Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise

men, determined from them what time the star appeared.” vs. 7

- a) The phrase determined the time, has the idea to learned carefully.
- b) The word for time is “chrones”, linear time.

2) Herod covered up his motive and true intent by hypocrisy. vs. 8

- a) Herod sent them out as his own private search party, “And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the young Child.” vs. 8a-b

* The word search care fully “exetazo akribos” with exactness and accuracy.

- b) Herod gave them an imperative command, “and when you have found *Him*, bring back word to me.” vs. 8c-d
- c) Herod lied to them, “that I may come and worship Him also.” vs. 8e
 - 1) He falsely communicated his desire to worship the Messiah.
 - 2) He used pretentious and fraudulent words to accomplish his evil desire to destroy the Messiah. vs. 13-14, 16-18

2:9-12 The wise men arrival to find the Messiah.

- 1) The wise men obeyed Herod and left for Bethlehem, “When they heard the king, they departed;.” vs. 9a-b

* The star was not a constellation of Saturn, Jupiter or Halley’s Comet, but a divine sing and guide for the wise men.

2) The star guided the wise men to Bethlehem, to the very house the Messiah was in at the time, “and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was.” vs. 9c-e

* No natural star does not behave with the various movements and disappearances and reappearances.

3) The response of the wise, “When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy.” vs. 10

4) The arrival at the location at Bethlehem, “And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.” vs. 11

a) It was a house, not the common courtyard enclosed by four walls, about two years has passed. Lk. 2:7

b) The men saw the child Jesus with Mary., not in a manger.

c) The men worshiped Jesus, not Mary.

d) The men opened their treasures “thesouros”, caskets containing the gift offerings.

- 1)) Gold representing his being a King and deity.
- 2)) Frankincense representing His grist and sacrificial service. (incense)
 - * Imported from Arabia near Saba and Shelor, rare and costly.
- 3)) Myrrh represented He was the Prophet who would die, embalming spice.
 - * Nicodemus brought this to bury Jesus. Jn. 19:39; Deut. 18:15
- 5) The wise men were warned by God, “Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way.” vs. 12
 - * Matthew repeatedly has made reference to dream for the mode of God dealing with the birth and life of Jesus.
 - a) To protect their lives from Herod.
 - b) To keep Herod from following them.

2:13-23 The safe flight of Jesus to Egypt and His safe return to Israel.

2:13-15 The flight to Egypt by Joseph, Mary and Jesus.

- 1) An angel appeared to Joseph in a dream to warn him to flee, “Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying,

- “Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt.” vs. 13a-g
- a) Egypt was about 200 miles where a large community of Jews were, a week or so travel.
 - b) Like when God came to Abimilech, Jacob, Joseph, Pharaoh, Solomon, Daniel, Nebuchadnezzar and Pilate’s wife.
- 2) The angel told Joseph he was to remain in Egypt for a time, “and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him.” vs. 13h-i
 - * The reason for the flight was Herod was going to kill Jesus. vs. 13i
 - 3) Joseph obeyed God consistently, “When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt.” vs. 14
 - 4) Joseph remained in Egypt fulfilling prophecy, “and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, “Out of Egypt I called My Son.”. vs. 15
 - a) Herod died in 4 B.C.
 - b) The prophecy short-term fulfillment is God’s redemptive love for Israel who had committed spiritual adultery typified in Gomer, Hosea’s wife.

- c) The long-term fulfillment is the calling of Jesus, God's Son out of Egypt.
 * This is the second prophecy fulfilled in chapter two. Micah. 5:2; Hos. 11:1

2:16-18 The slaughter of the male infants.

- 1) The response of Herod to the betrayal of the wise men, "Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry." vs. 16a-c
- a) Herod being deceived "empaizo", means mocked or trifled with.
- b) Herod responded with great anger, he was furious having been taken in by the wise men.
- 1) The vicious revenge of Herod, "and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men." vs. 16d-f
- a) He ordered the death of the male children in Bethlehem from two years and under, which was his calculation of the appearance of the star and their arrival.
- b) Josephus tells of Herod's plan to be mourned at death by incarcerating the principle men in the Hippodrome to be killed when he died at the order of his sister Solome, knowing no one would mourn him.

- 3) The slaughter of the infants was prophesied, "Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying: A voice was heard in Ramah, Lamentation, weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping *for* her children, Refusing to be comforted, Because they are no more." vs. 17-18
- a) The prophet is name, Jeremiah. vs. 17
 * The quote from Jeremiah. Jer. 31:15
- b) The prophecy has a two-fold fulfillment, the short-term being the downfall of the nation of Israel going into the captivity of Babylon marking Rachel's lamentation. vs. 18
 * The captives of Israel were gathered at Ramah and 5 mile north of Jerusalem that would go by way of Rachel's tomb as captives and she would mourn them. Jer. 40:1
- c) The long-term fulfillment is the murder of the infants for Rachel was burial on the way to Ephratah, that is Bethlehem, about 5 miles south of Jerusalem. Gen. 35:19
- 1)) Ramah was 5 miles north of Jerusalem, the home of the parents of Samuel and Samuel, Rachel cried out in her excruciating lamentation over the murder of the two year olds, indicated by the distance of 10 miles

away between the two cities. 1Sam. 1:19; 7:17

- 2)) This is the third prophesy in chapter two.

2:19-23 The return to Nazareth.

2:19-21 The release from God for Joseph to return to Israel.

- 1) The angel appeared to Joseph in a dream again, “But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt.” vs. 19
 - a) The death of Herod, he died in the spring of 4 B.C.
 - b) God continued to instruct and guide by dreams and angels. Matt. 1:20; 2:12, 13, 19, 22
- 2) The angel instructed Joseph, “Saying, “Arise, take the young Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the young Child’s life are dead.” vs. 20
 - a) It was now safe to take Jesus and Mary back to the land of Israel.
 - b) The order of the name is important, again Jesus always is mentioned first then Mary. vs. 21
 - c) The word “those” is the plural indicating all who sought to kill Jesus under the orders of Herod.

- c) He obeyed and returned, “Then he arose, took the young Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel.. vs. 21
 - * Moses was also told to return to Egypt. Ex. 4:19

2:22-23 The arrival of Joseph to Israel.

- 1) There was a change of plans, “But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea instead of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there.” vs. 22a-b
 - * The word “but” marks the sharp contrast between the return and the fear the struck him to be under the reign of Archelaus.
- a) Archelaus, one of Herod’s sons ruled Judea and Samaria and like his father, brutal.
 - * He killed 3,000 on his ascension to the throne, deposed in 6 A.D ruled.
- b) Herod Antipas, who beheaded John the Baptist ruled Galilee. and Herod Philip. Matt. 14:1
- e) Herod Philip ruled the territory north-east of the Sea of Galilee, Iturea extended east and south from Mount Hermon from Damascus and Trachonitis lay still farther to the east, east of Jordan, north of Perea.
- d) Herod Agrippa I, the son of Aristobulus and Bernice, the grandson of Herod the

Great and Marianne, who killed James with the sword. Acts 12

- f) Herod Agrippa II was the son of Herod Agrippa I and Cypros, who Paul addressed in his imprisonment at Caesarea on the Mediterranean. Acts.. 25-26
- 2) The Divine guidance was clear, “And being warned by God in a dream, he turned aside into the region of Galilee.” vs. 22c-d
* Without doubt as he was seeking God and went to Galilee. vs. 22c-d
- 3) The ultimate residence of Jesus, Joseph and Mary, “And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, “He shall be called a Nazarene.” vs. 23
- a) Nazareth was 80 miles north of Jerusalem.
- 1)) The very town Joseph and Mary traveled from the Bethlehem for the census. Lk. 2:1-4
 - 2)) The term is of contrast between Judea and Nazareth.
 - 3)) The term also appears with disdain and a derogatory indication. Jn. 1:46; 7:52; 27:71
 - 4)) Remember the whole of Galilee was looked down upon by the Jews at Jerusalem. Is. 53:13-53:12

- b) There is no specific prophet given and believed to be a summation of many references, “prophets”, Mayor and Minor prophets.
- 1)) It is believed to be a play on words, as the root is “neser”, which means “branch” or “shoot” probably referring to Jesse of the line of David. Is 11:1; Jer. 33:15
 - 2)) Some try to make a connection to the Nazirite, but that was John the Baptist not Jesus.
 - 3)) This is the fourth prophecy fulfilled in the chapter.