

The Shepherd King for All People

Matthew 2:1-12 - NCBC, March 3, 2019

Main Point: **Jesus is the shepherd king for all people.**

- Jesus is worshipped by Gentile magi and all who seek Him (1-2, 9-12)
 - Jesus draws worshippers to Himself with sovereign grace
 - Jesus saves people from all the nations
 - Jesus changes our “come and see” to “go and tell”
- Jesus is opposed by Herod and all self-serving thrones (3, 7-8)
 - Jesus delivers people from the tyranny of sin
 - Jesus overcomes all opposition
 - Jesus comes to give life to His people
- Jesus is ignored by Jewish leaders and all self-serving religion (4-6)
 - Jesus fulfills Old Testament prophecies
 - Jesus rules His people as a shepherd
 - Jesus deserves sincere worship from joyful hearts

Application: **Come joyfully offer your life in worship of Jesus (Communion)**

- Myrrh – Unite yourself with Christ’s death
- Incense – Submit to Christ’s Lordship
- Gold - Surrender to Christ’s mission

Opening Announcements:

- **RightNow Media Online Discipleship Resource Library** – Contact the church office to receive your invitation to this wonderful library of training and equipping resources!

<<In Christ Alone>>



It is the power of Christ that redeems us from sin, and is strong enough to transform our hearts through worship this morning. May we only worship Christ this morning, as we open our Bibles to **chapter 2 of Matthew’s Gospel**. **Matthew 2** introduces us to wise men from the east who teach us that Jesus is *The Shepherd King for all people*.



If you don't have a Bible, simply raise your hand as people are coming now with Bibles for you to use in our worship together, and even take home as our gift to you.

And while you're preparing to read the very words of God from **Matthew 2**,



Let me just add my excitement for the new Adult Discipleship Electives that will start up next Sunday during our 9:30a Sunday School hour. We desire to grow deeper together through these 12-week electives, and pray that each of you will attend one of the 8 different electives that we are offering this term.

We have some very gifted teachers offering some exceptional classes to assist in your spiritual growth. If you're like me, you wish you could attend all of them!! So you'll be encouraged to know that we plan to record all of the classes and make the recordings available on our website for future reference. So pray about which class God might use to best equip you in this season, and then plan to attend! You can sign up using our church website by just clicking on Ministries, then Adult Discipleship

Electives. Or by clicking the sign-up button in our NCBC app. Either way, plan to grow deeper with us this semester, as we look forward to starting these electives together next Sunday morning!



Now this morning we turn our attention to **Matthew chapter 2, verses 1-12**.

Please stand in honor of the public reading of God's Word as I read from the **ESV** translation:

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ² saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." ³ When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵ They told him, "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.”⁷ Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared.⁸ And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.”⁹ After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was.¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.¹¹ And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.¹² And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

Thus reads God’s Word. You may be seated.

Let’s Pray.

After **chapter 1** presents Jesus as the descendent of King David¹ and the one who is born to save His people from their sins,² **chapter 2** now contrasts Jesus with the current king of the Jews – Herod the Great.

Verse 1 immediately introduces us to this conflict: King Jesus vs. King Herod! Matthew sets up his narrative to demonstrate that Jesus is a far superior king than Herod the Great ever was.

¹ Son of David, 1:1b

² Son of Abraham, 1:1c



Matthew writes so that we would know **Jesus is the shepherd king for all people.**

Verse 1 provides the historical context for this kingly conflict,

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king,

Matthew reminds his Jewish audience – Jesus was born in Bethlehem – the same little hamlet where King David himself was born,³ and where much of the story of Ruth occurred. But Jesus was born as the true Davidic king in the days of Herod the king.

As an interesting side note, this means that Jesus was not born on the year 1 A.D. as our modern datelines suggest. We know from history that Herod died in 4 B.C., and **verse 16** indicates that Jesus may have been born up to 2 years prior to the wise men’s arrival to Jerusalem. Therefore Jesus was likely born closer to 6 B.C.

³ 1 Samuel 16:4

So why was this great Herod so troubled in **verse 3** when he hears that Jesus has been born as king of the Jews?

Herod was half-Jacob, and half-Esau...a Jew from Edom, who was a masterful politician and builder of palaces, infrastructure, and even the Temple Mount which still stands in Jerusalem today. He was installed by the Roman senate in 40 BC to govern Judea and keep peace on behalf of the Roman empire. And get this – at the request of one of the senators named Mark Anthony, Herod was given the title, “King of the Jews” when he was installed into office! So even though he was just one of Caesar’s territorial governors, Herod ruled as “King of the Jews!” But the Jews hated Herod for being a Roman puppet who severely oppressed God’s chosen people.

In fact, Herod was one of the worst tyrants Israel ever had as king. He was extremely arrogant and self-serving in how he exploited God’s people. He enforced Caesar’s Roman tax of 12.5% on all the Jews, but only after adding his own 50% tax!!, and then encouraging tax-collectors like Matthew and Zacchaeus take their own cut as well! So effectively, the Jews were living under a 75% tax burden while Herod was their king!!

And as Herod got older, he got more and more paranoid about protecting his power. He ruthlessly murdered one of his wives,⁴ three of his sons,⁵ his own mother,⁶ and many other relatives and associates when he became suspicious for any reason. So his murder of all the

⁴ Mariamne

⁵ Antipater, Aristobulus, and Alexander

⁶ Alexandra

Bethlehem baby boys in **verse 16** was not uncharacteristic at all.

Herod would stop at nothing to take from others in order to help himself. The Jews were pawns in his own kingdom. After all, he was Herod the Great – the King of the Jews!!

And in the middle of this historical context, **verse 1** says,

Behold – look at this! – wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.

Matthew want us to learn first that Jesus is the shepherd king for all people as,



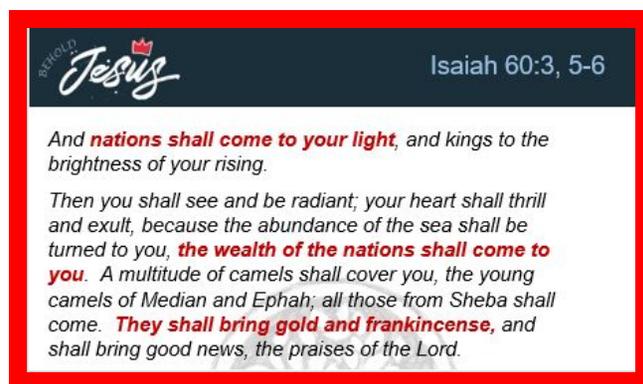
Jesus is worshipped by Gentile magi and all who seek Him.

We don’t know a lot about these magi or wise men except that they were Gentiles – pagans. Just let that soak in for a moment.

Matthew clearly wants to make this point for his *Jewish* audience. He makes no mention of Jesus receiving worship from the Jewish shepherds⁷ or from the aged Anna and Simeon.⁸ Only **Luke** – who was written for a Gentile audience,⁹ puts emphasis upon how the humblest and least important Jews were the first to worship their new king upon his birth.

Instead, **Matthew** presents King Jesus as receiving worship from the world! The nations of the world come to Jerusalem – the capitol city of Israel – to see and worship this newborn king!!

This recalls the promises of **Isaiah 60**,



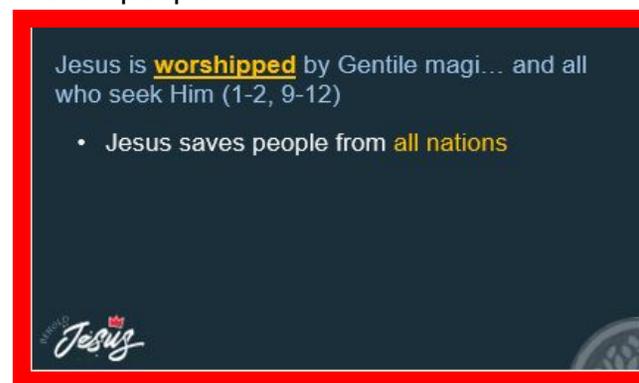
Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.

⁷ Luke 2:8-20

⁸ Luke 2:22-38

⁹ Luke 1:1-4

We can't miss Matthew's point. Jesus is born as Lord over *all* people.



Jesus saves people from all the nations

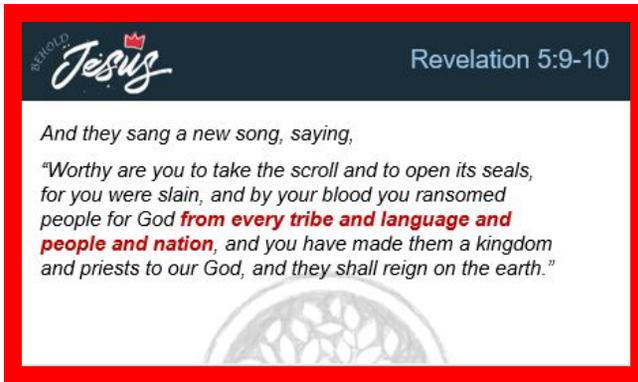
The glory of God's church is about to burst onto history. Jesus Himself will introduce His church for the first time in **Matthew 16**. God's chosen people is no longer limited to physical descendants of Abraham! The King comes to save *His people* from their sins,¹⁰ and His people are from all nations – red, yellow, black, brown. Faith in Christ unites all people in His Spirit!¹¹

Listen – Jesus is not American. Jesus is not white. Jesus is not midwestern. Jesus is not English-speaking. And neither is His bride the church!!

In **Revelation 5** the redeemed sing praises to Jesus saying,

¹⁰ Matthew 1:21

¹¹ Ephesians 2:12-22; Galatians 3:26-29

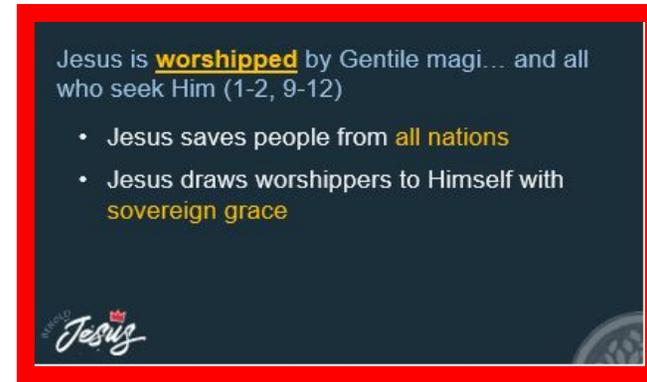


By your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God...

Jesus saves even Gentiles like us – even while His own Jewish people still persist in unbelief towards Him!

So have you ever considered how or why these pagan magi from the east were motivated to take several months to leave their homes on this dangerous journey across the deserts to arrive at Jerusalem?

This is evidence of God's amazing grace.



Jesus draws worshippers to Himself with sovereign grace

All that the Father gives to the Son will come to Him.¹² It doesn't matter if you are poor or rich, educated or religious, or a social outcast. God's grace always moves to bring salvation to His people.¹³

So what do we know about these wise men? They were not kings like sung in the carol, "We Three Kings of Orient Are..." In fact coming such a great distance with such wealth, and then creating such a stir in Jerusalem likely means there were far more of them than just three. They were royal dignitaries, likely traveling with armed guards and a sufficient number of servants. As evidenced by their gifts, these were wealthy, elite, scholars of mysticism. These were men like Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego¹⁴ who were promoted to the King's court as enchanters and wise men under the Babylonian King Nebuchadnezzar.¹⁵ Like Daniel who

¹² John 6:37

¹³ Titus 2:11ff

¹⁴ Daniel 1:6-7; 20

¹⁵ Daniel 2:49

was promoted to be the most highly recognized wise man over the Persian empire later in his life.¹⁶

Just like Daniel who lived 600 years before them, these were magi, or priestly scholars. Matthew just says they were from the east, and I wonder if perhaps they were from Persia or Babylon?

For it is easy to speculate how God's sovereign grace may have used the strong influence of God-fearing Daniel in those kingdoms centuries earlier to plant within the culture of ancient wise men familiarity with the writings of Moses, where **Numbers 24:17** prophesied that a world-wide king would someday come from Jacob,¹⁷ and his arrival would be marked by a star coming out of Jacob.

Talk about God's sovereign grace at work through centuries of darkness... that at just the right time, God's grace organizes our solar system¹⁸ to shine a light of faith and understanding into the hearts of seeking mystics, so they gather their wealth, and set out towards Jerusalem, the capitol city of Israel, to welcome this long-awaited king of the Jews.

So faithful disciple-maker – be encouraged today! It's not by your might, nor by your power that others will come to follow Christ...but by God's Spirit! As you faithfully sow

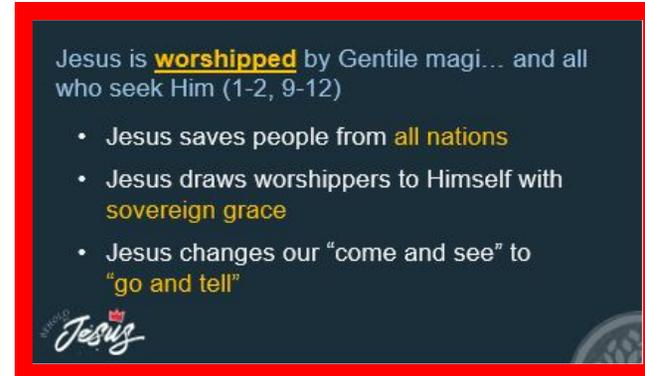
¹⁶ Daniel 6:25-28

¹⁷ Numbers 24:19

¹⁸ Some speculate that this new star would have been identified with the conjunction of the planets Jupiter (the star of the world ruler) and Saturn (the star of Palestine) in the constellation Pisces (the sign of the last days) in the summer and autumn of 7 BC. Boice

the seed of the good news of Jesus as Savior and King – you can trust His Spirit will bring the harvest at the right time, all by His grace for His glory alone!

Matthew presents Jesus as being worshipped by Gentile magi, for he wants us to know that Jesus saves people from all nations. His sovereign grace is drawing worshippers to Himself from all tribes and peoples... And thus Matthew argues boldly for a major change in God's kingdom program with His people.



Jesus changes our "come and see" to "go and tell"

In the Old Testament, the nation of Israel was God's chosen people who were to be a light for the nations to come to.¹⁹ The law was given to make God's people attractive to the nations.²⁰ The temple was to put the glory of God's Name on display before all the nations of the world.²¹

¹⁹ Isaiah 42:6; 49:6; 60:3; c.f. Luke 2:29-32

²⁰ Deuteronomy 4:5-6

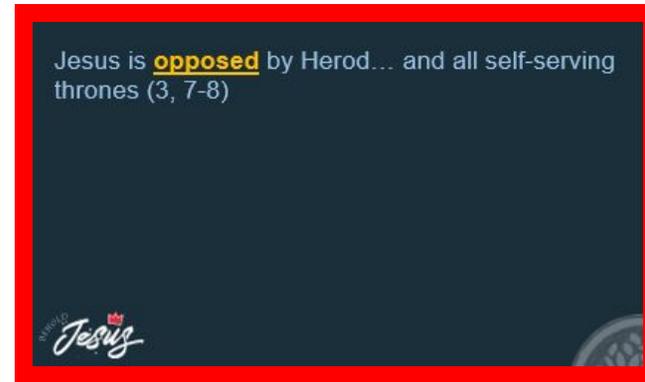
²¹ 1 Kings 8:41-43

But the arrival of King Jesus in history initiates a significant change to God's missionary method. Matthew ends his gospel account with Jesus' great commission to go and make Christ-followers from all the nations of the world.²² So isn't it fitting that he begins his record of the works and words of Jesus with the nations coming to worship Him?

Church – God has His people sprinkled among all nations who are seeking Him today. Recently I learned there are over 7,000 Hindus living in Bloomington. There are more than 15,000 Muslims living in Peoria. Nearly 4 out of every 10 of our neighbors does not claim a church home. Who will go and tell them where to find King Jesus? How will they believe in Jesus if they've never heard of him, and how will they hear of Him without someone preaching the good news of salvation by faith alone in Christ alone?²³

May the worshipping magi awaken us from our self-focused apathy so that we truly live as disciple-makers of people from all nations as we go through our life.

Now King Herod's response to the arrival of the wise men is instructive for us as well this morning.



Because Matthew's account makes it obvious that **Jesus is opposed by Herod and all self-serving thrones.**

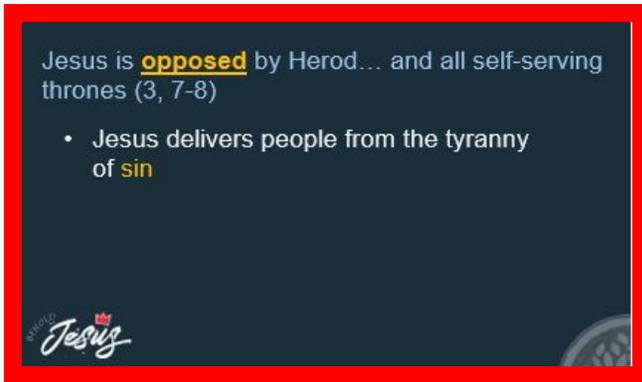
The arrival of these foreign magi with all their entourage and their announcement of the birth of the "King of the Jews" has the insecure and self-serving Herod – and all of the capital city in fact – in great angst.

You see, in many ways, Herod is a type of all of us in this story. For anytime we live for our own kingdom, we are like wicked Herod. We refuse to humble ourselves, and instead try to manage our own situation the best we know how.

But dear friends,

²² Matthew 28:18-20

²³ Romans 10:14-17



Jesus comes to deliver people from the tyranny of sin.

The wise men brought the greatest news right to the Israel's king. God's long-promised Messiah is here! This should have caused rejoicing in the heart of the leader of God's people. But pride blinds us to the preciousness of grace. Pride stumbles at an offer to be forgiven. Pride refuses to acknowledge sin's slavery. Pride destroys others just to make ourselves feel better.

What about you? Will you surrender the throne of your heart to King Jesus? Or will you just try to figure out some way to use Jesus for your own self-serving agenda?

Verse 4 describes how Herod called together all the chief priests and the scribes to tell him where the Christ was to be born. He knew that this one referred to as "the King of the Jews" was the promised Messiah of the Scriptures!

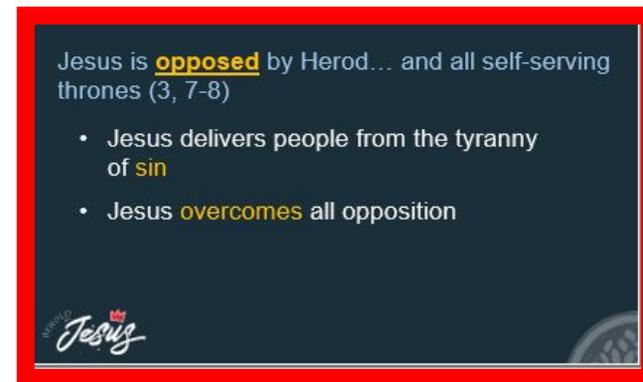
So he asks all the leaders of the priests – and all the scribes – the experts in the Hebrew Law –where is the birthplace of the Messiah?

And in **verse 5-6** they quote **Micah 5:2**, telling Herod it's just the small village about 5 miles away – David's city of Bethlehem.

Then in **verses 7-8**, Herod hatches a secret plan. He asks for the exact time the star appeared so he could know the approximate age of this new king.

Then he tells a bold lie – pretending to want to go and worship the new king, yet hiding murderous intentions.

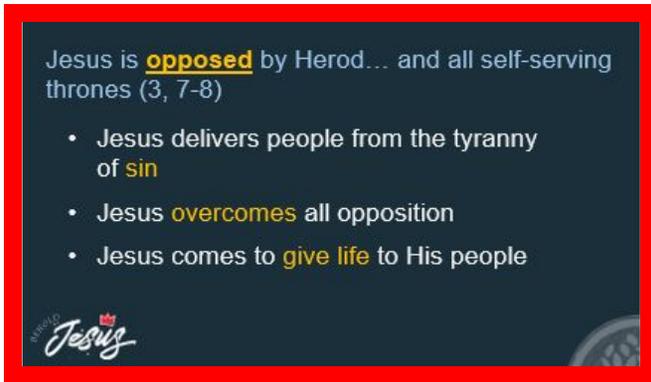
But again church,



Jesus overcomes all opposition

All self-serving schemes will never gain the ultimate victory against King Jesus. Jesus sees through all pretending. Jesus is all-powerful. He is the source of all wisdom. He alone orders the entire universe to obey Him. And so there's no real comparison between King Herod and King Jesus, is there?

King Herod brings death to his people, but



Jesus comes to give life to His people

In fact all self-serving kingdoms only give death and slavery to their subjects. Though sinful hearts can make promises that sound good on the outside, inwardly those promises are connected to self-serving schemes of a self-serving kingdom. Sin always leads to death. Sin always destroys those God has given under our care.

Interestingly **Micah 5:2** highlights one of the major differences between Jesus and Herod. For while Herod was certainly a ruler, only Jesus would be *a ruler who will shepherd [God's] people Israel*.

Jesus is the shepherd king – and whoever trusts in Christ will not lack anything.²⁴ He never lies. He always has good intentions for us. You can always trust King Jesus!

Now isn't it interesting to realize that even though all the religious leaders could quote **Micah 5:2**, and now had reason to believe he was just 5 miles away,



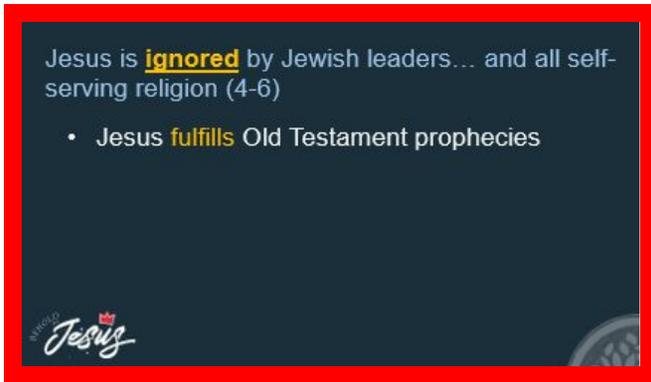
Jesus is ignored by Jewish leaders and all self-serving religion (4-6)

Herod outwardly opposed King Jesus. But from the very beginning, Matthew wants his Jewish audience to know that their religious leaders largely ignored Jesus themselves...at least until they couldn't ignore him any longer and then they joined forces in opposing Him.

Loved ones, if you are only religious for your own benefit then you will fail to live by what you know to be true when its inconvenient or brings difficulty upon you.

These religious leaders were not ignorant of the truth. They knew it was possible that the Son of God was now living just 5 miles from Jerusalem.

²⁴ Psalm 23

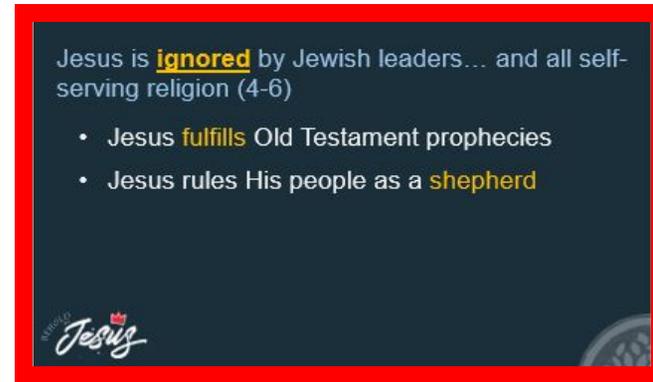


They knew that this birth **fulfilled Old Testament prophecies**.

But they did not go to see Him. Instead, Gentiles sought and found Him, and worshipped Him!

False religion is always governed by the fear of man more than the fear of God. So all self-serving religion imprisons people in the dungeons of comparison, politics, and fear.

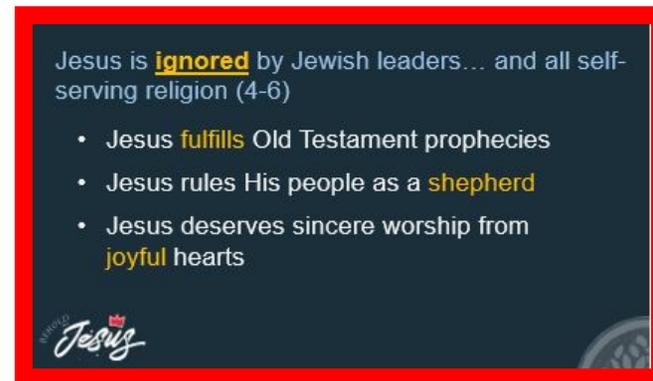
Dear church – do not allow indifference to hinder your worship of Jesus Christ!



Jesus rules His people as a shepherd

He is Lord and King, but He is all-sufficient provider and protector for all who worship Him! Don't allow yourself to be contented with man-centered religion that aims to prop yourself up with good vibes and safe commitments.

Give yourself to Jesus in a whole-person response of worship.



Jesus deserves sincere worship from joyful hearts

Matthew's Jewish audience couldn't miss the point here. Their national and religious leaders failed to worship

Jesus as the son of God. But gentile wise men from a foreign land received grace to see Jesus and worship Him with joyful hearts.

Verse 9 describes how the star reappeared after the wise men left King Herod. Before, the appearance of the star told the wise men to go the capitol of Israel, based on Balaam's prophecy in **Numbers 24**. But now the star was more like the Shekinah glory of God that lead the Israelites by day through the wilderness, for the text says, *it rose and went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was.*

By the way, we know this was no longer the stable right? When you set up your nativity next year – make sure to put the wise man in the most eastern corner of your house...because they weren't there in the stable with the shepherds. They were just starting out on their journey. The beginning of **verse 11** indicates Mary and Jesus were in a home somewhere in Bethlehem by the time the wise men visited. And from **verse 16** it's likely that Jesus was already a young toddler.

So look at **verse 10** and note the quadruple joy of these Gentiles as they followed the star – not just to a place, but to a person.

When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.

There is no greater joy possible for the human heart than the worship of Jesus Christ. Sin always promises a joy that it cannot deliver. The selfishness of Herod promised him joy, but left him a slave to fear and control. The

selfishness of the religious leaders promised them joy, but left them indifferent and apathetic.

But these representatives from pagan nations were filled with great joy! They came to give the true King the worship He deserved. This is proof that Jesus in fact was the promised Christ! This is the fulfillment of **Isaiah 60!** Jesus is the shepherd king for all people!!



So no matter who you are, **come joyfully offer your life in worship of Jesus**

The band of wise men in **Matthew 2** invite all people everywhere to come, join in the worship of King Jesus!

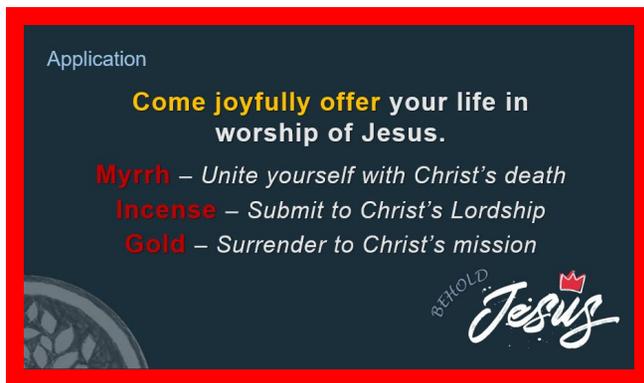
Verse 11 describes how when they went into the house and saw the child with Mary, *they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.*

By definition, worship is a whole-person response to the revelation of God. Worship always means submission, so it is costly to human pride. Here wealthy wise men bowed before the all-wise God in toddler form. Where

there is no yielding of your own will, you have not worshipped. Worship also always means sacrifice, so they gave generously from their treasures. These were the gifts of royalty. The most common mediums of exchange in the Ancient Near East.

Gold was the metal of kings. Incense was used in worship, and thus points to the sinless priesthood of Jesus as God. And Myrrh was an expensive spice used for embalming someone at death. When Jesus was on the cross he was offered wine mixed with myrrh,²⁵ as sometimes myrrh was used as a crude anesthetic as well. So while the wise men were probably just exchanging valuable treasures, the symbolism of myrrh is difficult to miss...for Matthew knows that Jesus was born to die so that we might be forgiven of sin and granted the righteousness of God Himself!²⁶

So then this morning, will you joyfully offer your life in worship of Jesus?



Will you join with the wise men's myrrh, and **Unite yourself with Christ's death?** You must die to self, and yield your own will to Christ if you are going to worship Him. Will you **Submit to Christ's Lordship?** Acknowledging that He alone has the right to rule your life, and shepherd you towards greater joy in Him? Are you willing to make sacrifices for Christ - **Surrendering to Christ's mission**, rather than living for yourself?

It seems like these are the questions the conscientious reader is faced in **Matthew 2**. So let's take those questions, and remember together all that King Jesus has in fact done for us now in Communion together.



As our servers come forward now with the elements, I'd like us to take some time to quietly pursue repentance for our own sins. Let's repent of using our energies and treasures to build our own kingdoms like King Herod. Let's repent of being ruled by fear and control. Maybe this morning we need to repent of apathy or indifference towards King Jesus. Instead let us find great joy in

²⁵ Mark 15:23

²⁶ 2 Corinthians 5:21

honoring and treasuring Jesus for being our Savior and Shepherd King.

We must not participate in this glorious feast of remembrance with indifference towards our sin or towards Christ Himself. That would only bring judgment upon our souls.²⁷

If you do not believe in Jesus Christ for the salvation of your sins, we would invite you to just simply observe us as we participate in this symbolic ceremony of all that Christ means to us. There's nothing spiritual about this juice or these crackers. They just remind us of Christ's blood and body. There's no advantage of participating together in the symbol if you aren't first participating together with us in God's amazing grace that saves and rescues us from sin.

We eat bread – symbolizing Christ's broken body – to remind us that His death pays for our sins!²⁸

I'm going to ask _____ to pray for us, and then as you receive the bread ... please wait until we can all partake together after everyone is served. Use this time as the music plays to quietly pray – confessing your sins, thanking Jesus for His salvation, and praising God for His sovereign grace that has drawn you to worship Him.

<<Instrumental Meditation>>

the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and

²⁷ 1 Corinthians 11:27-32

²⁸ Matthew 1:21; Revelation 5:9-10

said, "This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

<<eat>>

The men are now coming forward to serve us the cup, as we remember the blood that washes away our sins.

As we prepare to remember Christ's blood which covers our sins... I'm going to ask _____ to pray for us as we take the cup together.

Please sing with us as the juice is served, as we together thank our Lord for His wonderful mystery of salvation of sinners like you and me!

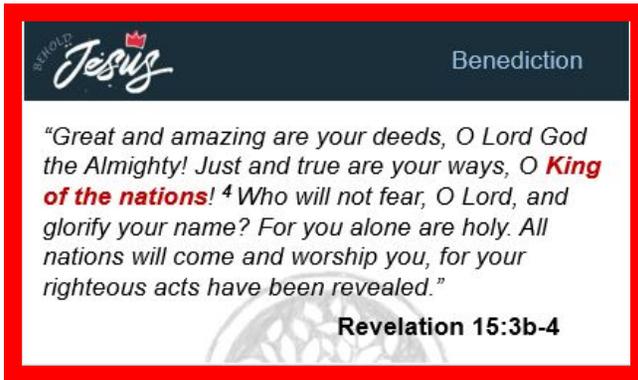
<<Jesus Messiah>>



In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

<<drink>>

Let's pray our benediction together as we dismiss.



Jesus Benediction

*"Great and amazing are your deeds, O Lord God the Almighty! Just and true are your ways, O **King of the nations!** ⁴ Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship you, for your righteous acts have been revealed."*

Revelation 15:3b-4

Great and amazing are your deeds, O Lord God the Almighty! Just and true are your ways, O King of the nations! ⁴ Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship you, for your righteous acts have been revealed."

Revelation 15:3b-4



Many Hands Make Light Work.

Thank You New Castle!

Please share a few minutes to stack chairs & ready the Family Center for weekly activities.

Recommended Resources on The Shepherd King for All People:

- Numbers 22:6, 22-35; 24:15-19
- 1 Samuel 16:4
- 2 Samuel 5:2; 7:12-13
- 1 Chronicles 11:2
- Psalm 72:10-11, 15
- Ezekiel 34:11-24
- Isaiah 40:11; 60:1-22
- Jeremiah 31:10
- Micah 5:2
- John 7:42

- <https://radical.net/sermon/the-magi-and-the-messiah/>
- <https://www.9marks.org/journal/missions/>
- <https://www.9marks.org/journal/missions-adding-wisdom-to-z-eal/>

- *Let the Nations be Glad*, John Piper
- *Missions*, Andy Johnson
- *For the Sake of His Name*, David Doran
- *Radical*, David Platt

Growing Deeper: Life Group Questions

1. Review Matthew 2:1-12. What Christmas carol lyrics or nativity traditions are debunked from the biblical text? How should we respond whenever we discover our traditions are out-of-sync with God's Word? How does accurate knowledge of the details of Christ's earthly arrival increase your worship?
2. Read Daniel 2:48-49; 3:29-30; 5:11-12; 6:3, 26-28. How may these Scriptures help account for the fact that Gentile wise men were familiar with Messianic prophecies regarding the King of the Jews?
3. Read Matthew 2:3-4. What can we learn from how various people responded to the announcement of the birth of the King of the Jews? Herod? The chief priests? The scribes?
4. Read Matthew 2:5-6. Why was Bethlehem a significant location for Jesus' birth?
5. Read Matthew 2:10-12, noting the quadruple emphasis upon the magi's joy. What response did this joyful worship produce? How does sincere worship of Christ change us?
6. What does Matthew 2:1-12 teach you about God's desire to receive worship from all peoples from all nations of His world? What role is God calling you to presently play in this desire of His? Discuss together. Then pray for one another to pursue greater faithfulness in the mission God has given you to make disciples of all the nations.