

COMMENTARY

MATTHEW 2:

vs. 1-12:

The birth of the Son of God had not gone unnoticed by others. Magi (traditionally: wise men), came from the East, following a star that had appeared at the time of Jesus' birth.

Upon arriving in the city of Jerusalem they went to King Herod, feeling that he would surely know where the one born King of the Jews, would be. Herod, caught unawares, saw that research was done and provided the magi with the information that the child was born in Bethlehem (this according to the prophets: Micah 5:2--another fulfilled prophecy). Herod asked for the magi to return to inform him of the child's location, on the pretence that he too would worship the child.

The magi went to Bethlehem, following the leading of the star and found the house where Joseph, Mary and Jesus were now residing (up to 2 years had passed since Jesus' birth). They worshipped the child and gave precious gifts. They did not return to Herod, for the Lord had warned them not to, in a dream.

vs. 13-18:

The Lord warned Joseph to flee with his family to the land of Egypt, in a dream. The angel of the Lord also told Joseph in this dream that he was to stay in Egypt until he was instructed otherwise. (called out of Egypt) was fulfilled (Hosea 11:1).

Herod, after a brief time, concluded that the magi were not going to return. He then instructed that all boys in the Bethlehem area, age 2 and under, were to be killed (this fulfilled the prophecy found in Jeremiah 31:15). Herod was hoping to be able to kill off any competition for the throne (earlier, Herod had, had 1 of his princesses and his 2 favorite sons killed, because he was jealous of their popularity).

vs. 19-23:

Joseph was again instructed by an angel of the Lord, in a dream, to return, for Herod had died. He returned, but soon found out that Archelaus (the most wicked of Herod's sons) was reigning. This caused Joseph to move farther north to Galilee and a town called Nazareth (this fulfilled another prophecy about Jesus being a Nazarene--Psalm 22 and Isaiah 53).

STUDY GUIDE

MATTHEW 2:

1. Where was Jesus born?
2. What had the magi come to do?
3. Where did the chief priests and teachers of the law tell Herod, that the Christ was to be born?
4. What were the magi to do when they found the child?
5. What did they do, when they came to the house?
6. Where was Joseph instructed to take his family?
7. How long did Joseph stay there?
8. What order did Herod give?
9. Whose prophecy was fulfilled by Herod's action?
10. When did an angel of the Lord appear to Joseph next?
11. Why was Joseph afraid to go back to Judea?
12. What town did Joseph take his family to?

BONUS:

1. What does the commitment of the magi, teach us?
2. How does the Lord speak to people today?
3. Of what importance are the fulfillment of prophecies?