

The Christmas Kings: A Tale of Two Rulers

Matthew 2

I. The Search for a King: Worshipers and a Worrier (vv. 1-6)

- A. The *magi*: worshipers drawn by God
- B. *Herod* the worrier king
- C. Scripture *identifies* the True King

II. The Response to the King: True Worship vs. False Worship (vv. 7-12)

- A. Herod's deception
- B. The Magi's obedience

II. The Response to the King: True Worship vs. False Worship (vv. 7-12)

C. The Magi's worship

1. The Magi worship with their posture
2. The Magi worship with their treasure
3. The Magi worship with their joy
4. The Magi worship with obedience

II. The Response to the King: True Worship vs. False Worship (vv. 7-12)

D. Divine *intervention*

III. The Flight to Egypt: The King Who Becomes a Refugee (vv. 13-15)

- A. God *warns* His servants
- B. God *preserves* His Son

III. The Flight to Egypt: The King Who Becomes a Refugee (vv. 13-15)

C. God fulfills His Word

1. Jesus is not far from your suffering — He has lived it
2. God's plan for your life may involve detours that feel like disasters
3. Obedience is often urgent and costly
4. God writes His story through unlikely places

IV. The Slaughter of the Innocents: The Shadow Cast by the Anti-Christmas King (vv. 16-18)

- A. The rage of a threatened king
- B. Earth's sorrow echoes Scripture's voice
 - 1. Christmas exposes the world's darkness
 - 2. Evil is real, but it is never sovereign
 - 3. Jesus came for a world drenched in tears
 - 4. God remembers every tear
 - 5. A hopeful shadow of the cross

V. The Return to Nazareth: The King Who Grows Up in Obscurity (vv. 19-23)

- A. God removes the threat
- B. God directs their steps

V. The Return to Nazareth: The King Who Grows Up in Obscurity (vv. 19-23)

C. God *fulfills* His plan through obscurity

1. Jesus identifies with the *lowly* and the overlooked
2. God's plan for your life may involve *obscurity*
3. Jesus is the King who *descends* before He ascends
4. God's *sovereignty* stretches from palaces to tiny villages
5. The final *contrast*

TAKE HOME:

- Which response to Jesus most resembles your own right now—Herod's resistance or the magi's joyful surrender?
- What "Herods" in your heart must die for Jesus to reign fully in your life?
- How is God calling you to trust Him in the "Egypt seasons" and "Nazareth seasons" of your life?