

THE WAY OF RESPONSE

MATTHEW 2:1-12 | ERIC SIMPSON | December 19, 2021

Matthew 2:1-2

1 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem 2 and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him.



Bethlehem = "House of Bread", built on fertile ground

- It's where Jacob buried Rachel (Genesis 48:7)
- It's where Ruth lived with Boaz (Ruth 1:22)
- It's the well David longed to have water from (2 Sam 23:14)
- It's the city Rehoboam fortified (2 Chronicles 11:6)
- It's the home and the city of David (1 Samuel 16:1)
- It's where Jews expected the Messiah to be born (Micah 5:2)

Matthew 2:3-5

3 When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. 4 When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born. 5 "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

Matthew 2:7-8

7 Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. 8 He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

• **Herod's Response = self-reliance & hostility**

Romans 8 – every human heart has a "no one is going to tell me what to do" posture
-- sinful nature, a "little Herod" inside all of us

"There is no growth in the Kingdom of God apart from dealing with the kingdom of self."

– Dallas Willard

"According to the Bible, the evil of the world ultimately stems from the self-centeredness, self-righteousness, and self-absorption of every human heart. Each of us wants the world to orbit around us and our needs and desires." – Tim Keller

- **Priests' & Scribes' Response = distracted & confused**

Matthew 2:9-11

9 After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. 10 When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. 11 On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh.

- **Magi's Response = wonder, awe & worship**

The clearer you see Jesus for who he is, the more you're driven to take up this posture (kneeling & bowing). When you're in the presence of a king...

Entrance of Humility at Church of the Nativity

Purposefully built short to encourage bowing as you enter.



Can't walk through the doorway "Herod's way."

Can't walk through it the "Scribes way."

The Magi recognized what others missed—
this is the long-awaited Messiah,
this is the Savior,
this is King Jesus!