

The First Coming of King Jesus Part 5: The Worship of the King

October 16, 2022

Matthew 2: 1-12

The truth of Matthew 2:1-12 is that God keeps His promise. Each promise God has made will be fulfilled; this passage demonstrates that.

- 1) **The First Visit of the Wise Men:** Jesus born in Bethlehem (V1, Luke 2:17), Mary and Joseph were poor (Luke 2:24, two pigeons offered for Jesus), and Jerusalem was troubled because Herod the Great was troubled by the announcement of Jesus the true King of the Jews, V3. Herod was an Idumean, a descendent of Esau. Herod lied to the wise men about his intentions to see Jesus, Matt. 2:7-8. The wise men saw a star, no certainty that others saw it from Scripture. The wise men were filled with joy, V10. They worshipped Jesus and gave Him gifts worthy of a king, V11.

What was the star? A planet, a supernova, a meteor? It could have been angels but likely the glory of God much like the pillar of cloud that led Israel in Egypt. From Ez. 10, the glory of the Lord left the temple, this star leads the wise men to the place of where Jesus was. Jesus proves the glory of God has returned.

- 2) **The Home of the Wise Men:** There is evidence for the wise men coming from Persia and Babylon being taught from and learned from Daniel and his prophecy. 1) The term “magi” is considered to be the name given to Persian wise men. 2) Astronomy is the study of stars and would be of interest to magi. 3) The testimony of early church fathers, however, there is myth and story and nothing in Scripture provides details for this viewpoint.

What support is there that these magi are from Arabian, east of the Jordan, and not the Babylonians and Persians? 1) The term magi can be used for someone seeking wisdom. Daniel was put in charge of the “magi” of Persia (Dan. 2:48). 2) Testimony of other church fathers, Justin Martyr (AD155) and Tertullian (AD 208) who wrote of the “kings of Arabia,” on the other side of the Jordan river. 3) Geography of the “east,” Jud. 6:3, 7:12, 8:10; Jer. 49:28, (Babylon is described as coming from the north, Jer. 51:48); Ez. 25:4,10. Assyria referred to as from the north (Zeph. 2:13, Zech. 2:6). 4) The gifts of magi were specialties of Arabia. “Fireless” nuggets of gold were found in Arabia. 5) God used Egypt and Arabia to protect his people. Joseph sold to Arabians and delivered to Egypt. Moses was rescued by an Egyptian and fled to Midian. Jesus provided for by Arabians and fled to Egypt.

- 3) **The Family of the Wise Men:** Who are those who might have been looking for Jesus to come? Abram was made a part of the redemptive plan of God, Gen. 12: 1-2. Abraham would be the father of many nations, Gen. 17:7-10. Kings would come from Abraham’s seed, Gen. 17:16. Abraham had 6 sons after Sarah died from Keturah, Gen. 25:1-6. From those sons: Sheba, Dedan, Medan, Midian etc. would have settled in Arabia to the east where Abraham sent them, Gen. 25:6. They would know of and be looking for the Seed who would come from Isaac (Gal. 3:16).

- 4) **The Second Visit of the Wise Men:** God is faithful to His promises. Ps. 72:8-9, the Lord Jesus (V1) would have dominion from sea to sea. The kings of Sheba and Seba will offer gifts, V10. The kingdom shall endure forever, V17. What do they bring? Gold from Sheba, V15.

- a. Who else joins them? Is. 60:5-7: Midian, Ephah, Sheba (Abraham’s sons: Gen. 25:1-6), Kedar and Nebaioth (Ishmael’s sons: Gen. 25:12-15). What do they bring? Gold and incense. V6.

Further Discussion and Application

Consider the Lord's promises to Abraham? What promises is God keeping when considering where the wise men come from east in Arabia? How does Scripture provide details to support the wise men being descendants of Abraham from the east where Abraham sent them?

How do we also find ourselves as believers in Christ in the middle of these great (wonderful and large) family reunions? Read Gal. 3:29. Why are we a part of this grand reunion?

How does God keep His promise to Abraham and to Sarah about their children? Why would including their children be a part of the blessing that God gave to Abraham? How does Jesus fulfill the promise of a family reunion at His birth? And death?

To say the least, there is a lot going on in history that God is working according to His plan. Why does God describe Himself as a God who neither slumber or sleeps, Ps. 121:3-4? How does God reveal His glory by giving us promises and then fulfilling them?

How does this story of Christ's beginnings show God's ability to thwart the plans and wickedness of man? How is Herod the Great God's pawn to use as He sees fit and for His purposes? How should we obey the Lord and focus on being used to bring about His purposes and not be like unbelievers who are still being used for God's purposes?

How does Matthew 2:1-12 show God's ability to keep His word?