

A Star - A King - A Choice



Philip Giorgio

Matthew 2:1-12

Christmas 2011

Outline

- ❖ CONTEXT
- ❖ OBSERVATIONS
 - ❖ JESUS' BIRTH
 - ❖ WISE MEN
 - ❖ THE STAR
 - ❖ THE RESPONSES
- ❖ APPLICATION



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Context

Book: Recounts Jesus' Life, Teachings, Ministry, Death & Resurrection

Date: 61 A.D. (?)

I. The Birth Narrative 1-2

- A. The Genealogy from Abraham to Christ 1:1-17
- B. The Announcement of the Birth 1:18-25
- C. The Visit of the Wise Men 2:1-12
- D. The Trip to Egypt 2:13-23

Today's
Lesson

II. The Opening Movement 3-7

III. Call To Service 8-11:1

IV. Here Come the Parables 11:2-13:53

V. Offenses and Forgiveness 13:54-19:1

VI. The End Times 19:2-26:1-2

VII. Christ's Death and Resurrection 26-28

Key Idea: Christ is the Messiah

Key Passage: 16:16 *¹⁶ Simon Peter answered and said,
"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."*

Key Lesson: Christ is Messiah and King and His Kingdom Begins within us.

❖ Book of Matthew

❖ Chapter 1:

- ❖ Descendent of King David
 - ❖ Messiah requirement
- ❖ OT prophecy fulfilled
 - ❖ Isaiah 7:14 – virgin birth

❖ Chapter 2:

- ❖ Today's Lesson (1-12)
 - ❖ Focus – verses 1-3
- ❖ OT prophecies fulfilled
 - ❖ Hosea 11:1 - out of Egypt (v15)
 - ❖ Jer 31:15 – Rachel weeping (v18)

Text – Matthew 2:1-12

¹ 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 have seen **His star** in the East and **have come to worship Him.**”

³ When **Herod the king** heard *this*, **he was troubled**, and **all Jerusalem with him.** ⁴ And when **he** had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, **he** inquired of them where the **Christ** was to be born.

⁵ So they said to **him**, “In **Bethlehem** of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet:

*⁶ ‘ But you, **Bethlehem**, in the land of Judah,
Are not the least among the rulers of Judah;
For out of you shall come a **Ruler**
Who will shepherd **My** people Israel.’ ”*

⁷ Then **Herod**, when **he** had secretly called the **wise men**, determined from them what time the **star** appeared. ⁸ And **he** sent them to **Bethlehem** and said, “Go and search carefully for the **young Child**, and when **you** have found **Him**, bring back word to **me**, that **I** may come and worship **Him** also.”

⁹ When **they** heard the **king**, **they** departed; and behold, the **star** which **they** had seen in the East went before **them**, till it came and stood over where the **young Child** was. ¹⁰ When **they** saw the **star**, **they** rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. ¹¹ And when **they had come into the house**, **they** saw the **young Child** with Mary His mother, and **fell down and worshiped Him**. And when **they** had opened their treasures, **they** presented gifts to **Him**: **gold**, **frankincense**, and **myrrh**.

¹² Then, being divinely warned in a dream that **they** should not return to **Herod**, they departed for **their** own country another way. -- *Matthew 2:1-12 ... NKJV*

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Observations – Jesus' Birth

❖ **Question:** When was Jesus born?

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

- Matthew 2:1 ... NKJV



Observations – Jesus' Birth

❖ **Question:** When was Jesus born?

❖ **FACT:** Not exactly sure ... no birth certificate

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❖ Question: When was Jesus born?

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❖ Question: Where was Jesus born?

❖ FACT: In Bethlehem

❖ “House of Bread”

❖ City of David

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- Matthew 2:1 ... NKJV

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Observations – Wise Men

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- ❖ Daniel referred to as "chief of the Magi" [*Daniel 4:9*]

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❖ **Question:** How many wise men were there?

❖ **MYTH:** “We Three Kings of Orient Are”

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,

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❖ **FACT:** The text says “wise men” not Kings

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,

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❖ **Question:** Where were the wise men from?

❖ **MYTH:** “We Three Kings of Orient Are”

❖ **FACT:** Wise men were from the “east”

- ❖ Probably **Babylon** or **Persia**
- ❖ Jewish influence from the Exile
- ❖ **Daniel** connection

The **Gentiles** shall come to your light,
And **kings** to the brightness of your rising.
- **Isaiah 60:3 ... NKJV**

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Observations – Wise Men

❖ **Question:** What was the wise men's mission?

saying, “Where is **He** who has been born **King of the Jews**? For we have seen **His** star in the East and have come to worship **Him**.”

- Matthew 2:2 ... NKJV



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❖ Wise men refer to Jesus as “**born**” King of the Jews – not one who would “**become**” king. *[The Kingship of Jesus]*

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- ❖ Wise men refer to Jesus as “born” King of the Jews – not one who would “become” king. *[The Kingship of Jesus]*
- ❖ Wise men came to worship the King of the Jews because of the **Star** – the sign

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Observations – Wise Men

❖ **Question:** What gifts did the wise men bring?

And when **they** had come into the house, **they** saw the **young Child** with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped **Him**.
And when **they** had opened **their** treasures, **they** presented gifts to **Him**: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. - Matthew 2:11 ... NKJV



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❖ **FACT:** Wise men brought gifts of Gold

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❖ Gift for Jesus the Christ our Sacrifice

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Observations – The Star

❖ **Question:** What was the Star?

saying, “Where is **He** who has been born King of the Jews? For **we** have seen **His star** in the East and have come to worship **Him**.”

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- ❖ A supernatural phenomenon ... **Shekinah glory**

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❖ FACT: Heralds the coming of Israel's King

❖ FACT: Salvation of the Gentiles

- ❖ Gentile magi are drawn by the star (light) of Israel's Messiah, and obey Him by worshipping Him

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- Matthew 2:2 ... NKJV

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When **Herod the king** heard *this*, **he** was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him

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- ❖ Threat to his kingship
- ❖ Herod's title was .. King of the Jews
- ❖ Later Herod will kill all children 2-years old or under (v16)

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 - ❖ Jerusalem – “city of peace”
 - ❖ **Chief priests and scribes** not looking for star – Apathy

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- ❖ Jerusalem – “city of peace”
- ❖ Chief priests and scribes not looking for star – Apathy
- ❖ **Chief priests and scribes** – Gentile **wise men** announce the birth of their king

When Herod the king heard *this*, he **was troubled**, and **all Jerusalem with him**

- Matthew 2:3 ... NKJV



Observations – The Responses

❖ **Question:** What was Jerusalem's response?

❖ **FACT:** All Jerusalem was troubled

- ❖ Jerusalem – “city of peace”
- ❖ Chief priests and scribes not looking for star – Apathy
- ❖ Chief priests and scribes – Gentile wise men announce the birth of their king
- ❖ **Shepherds** – Angel announce the birth of their king Luke 2:8-20

When Herod the king heard *this*, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him

- Matthew 2:3 ... NKJV



Observations – The Responses

❖ Question: What was Shepherds' response?

- ❖ **FACT:** Shepherds glorified and praised God ... Luke 2:8-20
 - ❖ Angel announces the birth of their king to Shepherds
 - ❖ Tells them where He is ... City of David - Bethlehem
 - ❖ Tells them who He is ... Christ the Lord – long awaited Messiah
 - ❖ Tells them the sign ... Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger – Not the Star
 - ❖ After angel and heavenly host return to heaven. Went to Bethlehem with haste and found baby Jesus
 - ❖ Told Mary all that had happened ... witness what was told them by the angel and the heavenly host
 - ❖ Returned glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen

Outline

- ❖ CONTEXT
- ❖ OBSERVATIONS
 - ❖ JESUS' BIRTH
 - ❖ WISE MEN
 - ❖ THE STAR
 - ❖ THE RESPONSES
- ❖ APPLICATION





Applications– Your Response

❖ **Question:** What is your response to the King?



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- ❖ Actively oppose the work of Christ



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- ❖ Ignore Christ's kingship by not keeping Him commands



Applications– Your Response

❖ **Question:** What is your response to the King?

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- ❖ Resist Christ's kingship in your life - at all costs.
- ❖ Actively oppose the work of Christ

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- ❖ Ignore Christ's kingship by not keeping His commands
- ❖ Passively oppose the work of Christ - Apathy



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Applications– Your Response

- ❖ **Question:** What is your response to the King?
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 - ❖ Made Haste (no procrastination) to find their King



Applications– Your Response

❖ **Question:** What is your response to the King?

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- ❖ Made Haste (no procrastination) to find their King
- ❖ Accepted their King



Applications– Your Response

❖ **Question:** What is your response to the King?

❖ **OPTION:** Respond like the Shepherds: praising God

- ❖ Made Haste (no procrastination) to find their King
- ❖ Accepted their King
- ❖ Made known their encounter with the King



Applications– Your Response

❖ **Question:** What is your response to the King?

❖ **OPTION:** Respond like the Shepherds: praising God

- ❖ Made Haste (rushed) to find their King
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❖ **OPTION:** Respond like the Wise Men : rejoiced (v10)



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- ❖ Seek the King at great personal cost



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- ❖ Search the scripture to find the King
- ❖ Seek the King at great personal cost
- ❖ Find the King and worship Him



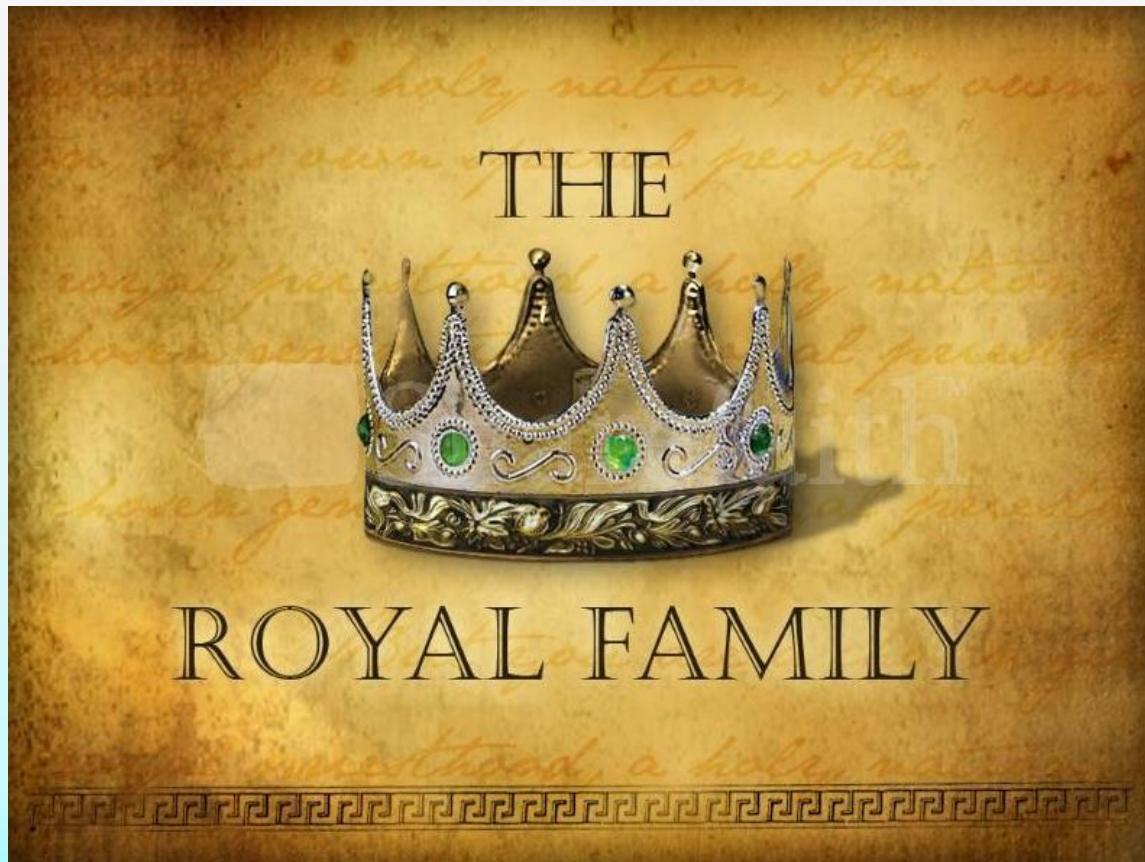
Applications– Your Response

❖ **Question:** Will you serve King Jesus?

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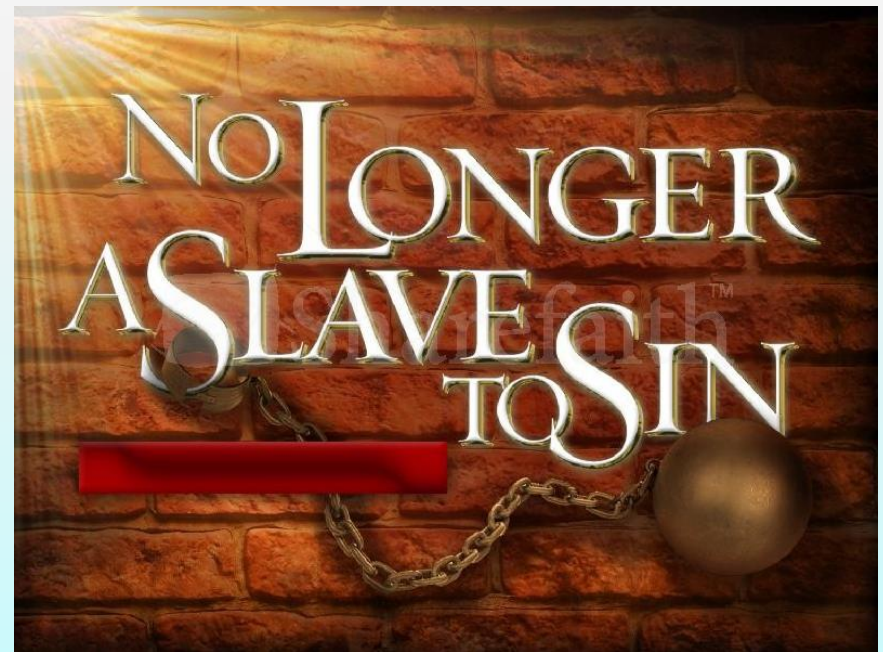
❖ **OPTION:** Yes: Then you are part of the Royal Family



Applications– Your Response

❖ **Question:** Will you serve King Jesus?

❖ **OPTION:** No: Then you will be **Troubled** and a **Slave to Sin** ... Reconsider your response **Today**

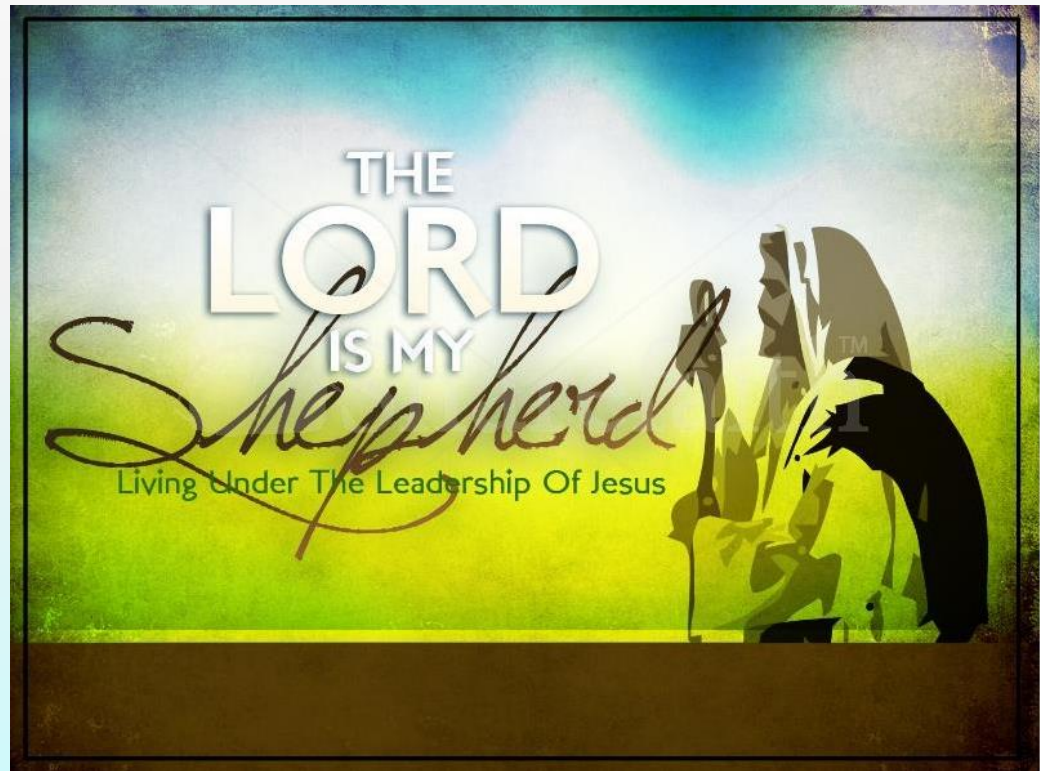


Applications– Your Response

❖ Question: What is your Choice?

And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, **choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve**, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. **But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."**

- Joshua 24:15 ... NKJV



END of LESSON

