

Saturday, September 9, 2023 • Read Matthew 2:1–11

Questions from the Scripture text: What event does this passage follow (v1)? Where was Jesus born? In what days? Who came from where to where? What did they ask (v2)? What had they seen where? What have they come to do? Who heard this (v3)? How did he respond? Who else was stirred up? Whom did Herod gather (v4)? What did he ask them? What did they answer (v5)? Why? What had Micah 5:2 said (v6)? Whom did Herod then call (v7)? In what manner? What did he determine from them? Where did he send them (v8)? What did he tell them to do? And what if they found the child? What reason did Herod give for wanting to know where the child was? Whom had they heard (v9)? What did they see when they departed? Where did it go? Where did it stop? When they saw where it had stopped, how did they respond (v10)? Where did they go (v11)? Whom did they see? With whom? And what did they do to the child? What did they open? What did they present?

How should one respond to Jesus coming as King? Matthew 2:1–11 looks forward to the morning sermon on the coming Lord's Day. In these eleven verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that the right response to the Lord Jesus is to have our life disrupted by Him, to rejoice over Him, to worship Him, even with all our treasure

His people who are being saved from their sins. Who are Jesus's people, whom He is saving from their sins? Among them are magoi from the East (not unlikely spiritual descendants of Daniel, who prophesied the coming of this King. They knew Daniel's prophecy, and they knew astronomy. And when the time came, something in the sky didn't line up (v2). These learned men go to someone who should have been excited about the promised King... current king Herod. They assume that he knows where the King is (v2), and he hurries up to save face by gathering all the people who might know (v4). Here are all the people who should have wanted to worship Jesus, but they were all just troubled (v3).

Get our lives disrupted. Herod and all Jerusalem are troubled, but they are not the only ones whose lives are disrupted. How much Joseph and Mary's life has been disrupted! How much the lives of these men from the east have been disrupted! But they are glad for the disruption. They are glad to have their ordinary life interrupted in order to make responding rightly to the Lord Jesus their new top priority. This is what the Lord does in the lives of those whom He is saving by Jesus Christ!

Rejoice. The wise men know where they are going, but the Lord sends the star in front of them anyway. No longer is it just an anomaly in the sky; now it is moving. And it keeps going in exactly the direction that they were going to go. When it stops, they rejoice. The living God has come to save them, and He is giving signs to confirm this salvation. Jesus is the real deal. God with us. Yahweh Who saves. And He is lovingly declaring this to them. O what cause for joy! You, too, ought to rejoice, dear Christian! Behold the Word, the signs, and the providence that brought them to you. Rejoice over God Who loves to save you and loves to show you that salvation!

Worship. It would be weird for Herod not to want to worship the Christ, right? Surely, he should want to know where Jesus is, in order to worship Him. He says as much, too, in v8. The odd thing is the secrecy in v7. Of course, we know that Herod wants to murder the child. But the magoi have it right. They are eager to worship Him. In truth, there's only those two options: worshipers or enemies. You can't be neutral on submission to the King. Lack of submission is rejection of His kingship. And you can't be neutral on worship of God. Lack of worship is rejection of His divinity. Worshiper or enemy. Those are the only two options.

And the worship goes to the whole of life. Bowing in joy and reverence is one thing. But the gold, frankincense, and myrrh indicate more. They are treasures for a king and offerings unto God. And they represent the wealth and life's work of these men. But it is all offered to the child, their King, their God Who has come to save them. This is the right response of worship to the Lord Jesus Christ.

How has Jesus interrupted your life and become its center? When and how do you rejoice over Him? In what way do you worship Him in worship times? In what way do you worship Him with the rest of your life?

Sample prayer: Lord, we thank You and praise You for coming to save us. Thank You for granting unto us to know You—for making Yourself the center of our lives. Grant that, by Your Spirit, we would worship You with all our heart, and to offer to You all of our lives, we ask in Your own Name, AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP24 "The Earth and the Riches" or TPH2B "Why Do Heathen Nations Rage"

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(The following is a machine-generated transcription. PLEASE BE AWARE of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Matthew 2, verses 1 through 11, these are God's words. Now, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, And the days of Herod, the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem 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.

When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes to the people together, He inquired of them, where the Christ was to be born. So they said to him in Bethlehem of Judea, For it is written by the prophet, 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? Then Herod when he had secretly called, the wise men determined from them? What time? The star appeared? And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, go 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. 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. When they saw that star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy.

And when they had come into the house, they saw the young child. With Mary, his mother. And fell down and worshiped him. When they had opened their treasures, they presented to him. Gold. Myrrh, the presented gifts to him. Gold, frankincense and myrrh. Than being divinely warned in a dream.

That they should not return to Herod. They departed for their own country. Another way.

Oh, Sorry, my intention is to take verse 12 with the next passage the next next Lord's day. So, it ends on And when they had opened their treasures, They presented gifts to him gold, frankincense. And myrrh Since the reading of God's. Inspired and dinner and twerk. Almost immediately. The Holy Spirit.

It starts answering for us. Question that we should ask. And that is who are his people? The Angel. Told Joseph, that the reason that he Was to name. The child that mary was going to bear. Uh, jesus is because he would save his people. From their sins. And the first introduction.

To who are his people then in matthew 2, verses one through 11, maybe a little bit surprising, His people are not the ethnic. Israelites not the civil state of israel as represented by herit. As people are not particularly the religious israelites. As. Represented by the ones that Herod calls, chief priests and the scribes in verse 4.

That she the, his people. The first sampling, we get of his people. Our wise men from the east. Uh, wise men here. It could mean anything from. Uh, sorcerers. Uh, to those who are Of great learning those who are Uh, I have achieved a reputation or status. As. As gurus.

They would be. Highly exalted. And yet. They are the ones you've seen the star. There's no indication. That the Star goes. Uh, from the east to jerusalem. The first time. The the star appears in front of them, they already in jerusalem and they already know that they're going. Uh, two bethlehem.

There's no indication even that they follow the star, just that the star goes. In front of them, but they've come from the east because as a Observe the The stars as they practice astronomy. They are observing astronomy. Under the providence, of the god of israel, rather than under the astrology of those who are superstitious about, the movement of heavenly bodies and what they do.

The reason that they are observing it under the providence of the god of israel is because the lord had put among their number a few hundred years ago. One Daniel. And one of daniel's great messages. Was that all of the kingdoms of the earth. That seems so powerful. Seems so great.

Like, Nebuchadnezzar and his self-impressiveness and and so forth and the kingdoms that would follow him person. Grease syndrome. That they were all due to be superseded by the kingdom of god by the kingdom, that would be established by the price. And so this king of israel was not just going to be a king of israel.

He is going to be a king. Of the whole world. And, So when they observe you know, they have their records and they understand What? What's out in space and they keep their eye on it. When they observe a phenomenon that is. Um, Completely new and unique and impressive.

They attributed to the god who rules and overrules everything that happens on earth. And everything that happens in heaven. And they conclude this must be. Related to the lord jesus christ. Um, Well, they don't use the name, they wouldn't use the name jesus, but this must be related to the christ.

The king, Who is coming? And so they Come to jerusalem. Uh, where they are hoping? To have as their new king, The king of the juice. And they ask. Where is he? Who has born been born king of the Jews? And we can see the difference in. Her, we can identify.

And we can identify who they are that. The lord jesus is saving. Who are the his people? Of the, he shall save his people from their sins. By the way they respond. They respond. Uh, first By having. Uh, their life disrupted changing. Uh, what they do? Uh, yes. When They?

Um, When the hear about the king, Um, sorry when Herod hears about the king of the jews. In verse 3, he is troubled and all jerusalem with him. But it's basically still business as usual. Uh, for them. So much, so that. Apparently, Herod's coming to worship the new baby would be something that could be done in secret.

It's much different disruption, isn't it? For these magi from the east to come to where they have no status. Where they are not considered gurus and experts and the great men of the land. They come to a place where they are. Uh, foreigners. And, Where they are? Um, Where they are going to be.

Humbled and they stopped their whole lives to do it. We don't know how long the trip was. Although, Um, Certainly, it must have been a great interruption to their lives. The one who hears about the lord jesus. And, you know, he hears it and to him it's something interesting.

And he might think about, Uh, think about Christ or the gospel once in a while, maybe even. Uh, do Do something. You add to, His life. Something that he does unto the lord jesus. Like go to church once a week for an hour or something like that. Uh, this is very different.

Than the one who's entire life has changed by the knowledge of the lord jesus christ. Who become someone who humbles himself before the lord jesus. Good morning and evening. Who takes an entire day each week. To set the weak itself under the lord, jesus. And to reset his life.

And fellowship with christ and the worship of god through him. So there's Uh, one of the ways you can tell who his people are, Is by the way. They are disrupted. Another way that you could tell. Is by their rejoicing. Um, The disruption in verse 3. Isn't. Um, Isn't 100 negative but the word that is used does have a negative connotation.

And yet. Uh, the When? When the magi. Uh, see the star. Uh, going before them. They're already on their way to bethlehem. By the way the star is not giving them directions. It's not like Um, First century. Uh, First century map software gps. Um but the star goes before them and the star comes and stands over where the young child is.

And they see their star, and they rejoice. With exceedingly great joy. And, The reason is, of course, Uh, not oh, we figured out where he is. The reason is that the one who rules heaven and earth, Has indeed sent his Christ. And to them. As a confirmation of the identity of the god of israel.

As the one who rules in the heavens. And it's A confirmation of the identity of the king. That's before them the king about him, they had heard from daniel. The king, who would rule? Overall. Or overall of the earth. And so, they rejoice to be ruled. Herod is not happy.

That there's another king. These guys are willing to lose all their status. If they can just become subjects of this new king. And so there's not just the disruption of our lives, but there's the rejoicing of our lives. A christian is someone who rejoices to be ruled by jesus christ?

Not someone who's upset. About all the time, they have to give up worshiping. And reading and praying and And setting aside other things for a whole day, every week. No, they rejoice. Over the identity of the god of evident and earth and over the identity of the christ, the king who rules their lives.

Christian is not someone Um, Must not be someone. Uh,

Oh, what's the word?

Who's frustrated or who regrets that he has to give up his sin. He rejoices to be ruled by a king who is going to who is going to not just forgive that sin but lead the charge in and guarantee the obliteration of that sin. At last. And so, That's the second mark here of how can you tell whom jesus is saving from their sins?

Well, they're glad to be rid of their sins. Uh, so They are disrupted. They rejoice. And in the last place, they Uh, they actually worship. That's quite obvious that everybody knows. What you're supposed to do. With the king as worship. Inherent of course and our memory. Verse says, go and search carefully.

For the young child. When you have found him, bring back words to me. That i may come. And worship him also, and they don't know yet. Uh, harrod's intentions. It actually takes a divine revelation in verse 12 and so it's not like Herod is you know, the The long pointing nose sharp tooth.

Um, you know, green saliva, yellow, eyed villain Of a Of. Animated film. And Just appears. No, he appears like a king. He appears like a king in israel. It appears like a king do it as plausible. That he would worth it because that's what you're supposed to do. There's no apparent.

Uh, interest. On the part of the chief priests and the scribes. Uh, to worship. Uh, in fact. If there had been probably, it wouldn't need to be like a secret. Um, That he would come worship him. So it's obvious that what you should do. Is worship. But it's possible to Uh, to be a king.

Um, and uh, and A so-called. Well, this is a little anachronistic. Christian nation. In a nation, that's full of god's people. And not really. Uh, want to worship. It's possible to be experts in the bible. As these chief priests and scribes apparently were Although, the priests probably wouldn't have been this familiar with the book of mica.

As the scribes in order to give the quote in verse 6 Um, they know the bible. They know. Um, And they know theology, but they're not worshipers. And they're not interested in worshipping. The. The king. Who has been born? Uh, but The believer. Loves to worship the lord jesus.

So when they come into the house, they see the young child with mary, his mother And they fall down and worship him. Notice that this is done even before the gifts are brought. The gifts are brought by those who have worshiped the first response. That's to fall on their faces to give Uh, to give homage.

A baby. And so they come into the house, i see the inside, they fall down and worship him and then They open their treasures and they present to him. Gold frankincense and my That which is fit for a king. But it also, That, which as we have, Uh, been recognizing.

Is not just expensive, but is Indicative of the presence. Of even. God with us. Frankincense. And myrrharkening to, Uh, the Incense, that is offered. And as the prayers of the saints, And the oil would, which there is Uh, the anointing and in God's providence, we've been Um, In the latter half of exodus and the first part of Leviticus and we can recognize that here.

There's a recognition. Not just of, A man. Who is king? Uh, but drawing near in a way of worship of god. Indeed, jesus is the one. Who has been the king of israel from before there were human kings in israel. He's the one who sits on the throne. His dwells upon the cherubim.

And the incense and the anointing oil or have been used before him. And the tabernacle has been filled with the gold that is, Uh, fit for the god king, it looks like A hybrid of eden and heaven in. And here are men. Who are? Not even from israel. But that which the lord had given to his people.

To. Her communicates to them. His dwelling among them is ruling over them as their king, his drawing them near to himself. Um, They bring. Uh, treasures that are specific to that. No doubt. Also having been well instructed by daniel. In this point, you remember, Daniel 78, 70 years, Since the?

Uh, the last time there were sacrifices in jerusalem. Was still keeping prayer times according to the morning and evening sacrifices. And so, he treasured The promise of the christ that was Not just in the prophecy of the king. But was in the picture. Of the tabernacle and then the temple.

And the ceremonial system. And so we have both of those pictured here. And so, Uh, The there is a question here. Of, do you give the lord? All of that is yours. All of your treasure. Your time your wealth. Your ability your desires. Uh, etc. But i think there's something more here with the gold frankincense and myrr and their connection to the, to the tabernacle.

Do you have your life disrupted by jesus? And do you rejoice over jesus? As the one who has not just man but is god. And who has brought you near? Through himself. In order to worship him. And so, The passage. Does identify for us than both, doesn't it? Who are the, his people?

That are being saved from their sins. And Who is he? Uh, who saves them and what is he saving them on to, he's saving us. Unto rejoicing worship. That is the great thing. And our whole life. The lord grant that it would be. So for us, let's pray. Our gracious gardener heavenly father, we thank you for this portion of your word that you have given us.

By which to worship you today. We pray that we would be those Kiss the sun. To bow the knee, who trusted him who are blessed? And We thank you for reminding us that The kingdom of this world and all its vassal kingdoms. Are all going to be destroyed by the little stone.

That grew up to be a great mountain. That is Your son, our lord jesus. And so we pray that you would give us great confidence in him. And that we would rejoice to be ruled by him and worship him. Granted by your spirit. We might give him all that.

We are For we ask it in his name, amen.