

— Matthew 1.22 – 2.11 —
3rd Sunday of Advent, Dec 13, 2020
Immanuel and the Magi

Matthew 1:22 So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: 23 "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us." 24 Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, 25 and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name Jesus.

2:1 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.

* **What's** the significance of Messiah being Immanuel? (1.23)

Isa 7.14 "[T]he Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel."

* **What is** Joseph's response to the angel's word? (24-25)

* **Who were** the "wise men," the Magi from the east? (2.1)

– Dn 2.2, 12

– Dn 1.4

– Dn 2.48-49

– Dn 6.1-2

* **What was** Rome's experience with the Persians (Parthians)?

* **What was** Herod's experience with the Persians?

* **How did** Herod become "king of the Jews"?

* **What kind** of ruler was Herod?

* **What does** one ancient catacomb drawing indicate about the Magi who came to Jerusalem? Does the drawing fit with other historical facts regarding the Magi?

* **How would** Herod have taken the Magi's question, "Where is he who has been born King of the Jews?", and why? (Mt 2.2)

Exo 40.34 [T]he glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle ... 38 For the cloud of the LORD was above the tabernacle by day, and fire was over it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel, throughout all their journeys.

Exo 14.19 And the Angel of God, who went before the camp of Israel, moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud went from before them and stood behind them. 20 So it came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel. Thus it was a cloud and darkness to the one, and it gave light by night to the other, so that the one did not come near the other all that night.

* **What does** Herod do in response to the Magi? (3-8)

Isaiah 60.2 [T]he LORD will arise over you, and His glory will be seen upon you. 3 The Gentiles shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising ... 6 ... They shall bring gold and frankincense, and they shall proclaim the praises of the LORD.

* **What were** frankincense and myrrh, and what was the significance of the Magi presenting them, along with gold, to Jesus?

Micah 5.2 "But you, Bethlehem ..., though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel, whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting."

* **What leads** the Magi to the house where Jesus is? (9-10)
What is unusual about this star?

Phil 2.10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow ... 11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

* **What is** the only biblical phenomenon that does all the things this star does and that matches it in meaning?

Eze 1.4 "I looked, and behold, a whirlwind was coming out of the north, a great cloud with raging fire engulfing itself; and brightness was all around it and radiating ... out of the midst of the fire ... 13 As for the likeness of the living creatures, their appearance was like burning coals of fire, like the appearance of torches going back and forth ... 14 The fire was bright, and out of the fire went lightning. And the living creatures ran back and forth, in appearance like a flash of lightning"