Matthew 2:1-23

Review...

- o The Genealogy...
 - The history of Jesus can be broken up into TWO sections...
 - The book of the GENERATIONS [γένεσις] of Jesus Christ Matthew 1:1-17
 - The BIRTH [γένεσις] of Jesus who was Immanuel Matthew 1:18-25
 - These TWO genesis give us BOTH natures within Jesus fully God and fully Man!
- o Immanuel...
 - While still BETROTHED a young woman named Mary was pregnant of the Holy Spirit...
 - An Angel of the Lord came to her husband Joseph in a DREAM...
 - The child to be born was to be called JESUS because He would save us from our SINS...
 - All of this happened according to the PLAN of God spoken by the prophet Isaiah 7:14
 - The Virgin will give birth the child will be called IMMANUEL God with us!

• 1^{ST} - Birth of Jesus... vs. 1-2

- o 1st After the birth... vs. 1
 - Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king!
 - Herod died in the spring of 4 B.C. according to the Jewish historian Flavius Josephus...
 - So Jesus was born TWO years before the death of Herod perhaps late Autumn of 6 B.C.
 - The Gospel of Matthew does NOT give an account of the birth of Jesus...
 - We have to go to the Gospel of Luke to read about that Luke 2:1-20
 - Matthew jumps ahead and tells us what happened AFTER Jesus was born!
- o 2^{nd} Wise men... vs. 1-2
 - Wise men from the East came to Jerusalem. Saying where is He who is born King of the Jews?
 - · WISE men [μάγος] a name used to describe scholars from Babylon...
 - It is thought these were men influenced by the teaching of the prophet Daniel!
 - Daniel prophesied the coming of the MESSIAH [מַשִּׁיהַ] the CHRIST [Χριστός] Daniel 9:25
 - He gave the VERY specific dates for when the CHRIST would arrive...
 - From the command to rebuild the wall [March 14 445 B.C.] Nehemiah 2:6
 - It would be 69x7 or 483 years [173,880 days] to the arrival of the MESSIAH!
 - The Jews also had the Word of God they had the Prophecy of Daniel....
 - But very few of them actually knew their Bible understood the prophecy…
 - So they missed the coming of their MESSIAH they birth of their KING...
 - That is why it is so important we read and understand our Bibles...
 - It is easy to be RELIGIOUS and miss most important thing of all Jesus!
- o 3^{rd} Star in the East... vs. 2
 - We have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him!
 - The WISE men came looking for the NEW king because they saw an unusual STAR...
 - Christmas STAR some believe Jupiter and Saturn converging in night sky...
 - It appeared in the constellation Virgo [the Virgin] over the city of Bethlehem!
 - **Psalms 19:1-4** "The heavens declare the glory of God. And the [earth] shows His handiwork... their message has gone out to all the earth their words to all the world."
 - Have you ever been alone on a moonless night at looked up at the stars...
 - And in silent amazement wondered at the power of God who created all this!
 - God has surrounded us with a remarkable world meant to inspire a QUESTION...
 - Who made all this and more importantly why did He make it...
 - As we look at His handiwork the QUESTION is stirred in our hearts who is God...

- Causing us like the Wise Men to begin our journey to find Jesus!
- $\mathbf{2}^{\text{ND}}$ **S**eeking Jesus ... vs. 3-8
 - o 1st Not the world... vs. 3
 - Herod the Great...
 - Herod the king heard this!
 - The name Herod can be confusing because there are FOUR of them in the Bible!
 - This Herod Herod the Great was the FIRST Herod King of Judea [under Rome]
 - A brilliant builder he undertook massive construction projects in Judea...
 - Most importantly he remodeled the Temple in Jerusalem [SECOND Temple]
 - But he was a deeply paranoid man and killed some of his own wives and sons...
 - His deep paranoia is what led him to try and kill Jesus because He was the King of the Jews!
 - Troubled...
 - [Herod] was troubled and all Jerusalem with him!
 - It made sense for the wise men to come to Jerusalem and to Herod...
 - This was the CAPITOL of Israel and Herod was the KING...
 - If anyone knew WHERE the King of the Jews was born it would be him...
 - So the WISE men told HEROD about the STAR asked where the NEW king had been born...
 - Jerusalem knew HEROD was paranoid they were TROUBLED at what he might do...
 - Herod wanted to find this NEW king NOT to help but so he could kill Him!
 - People often look to the world for the ANSWERS...
 - But the wisdom of men does NOT contain the solutions to this life....
 - What MEN tell us will not to HELP us more often it keeps us from the TRUTH!
 - o 2nd Not Religion... vs. 4
 - [Herod] gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together.
 - He inquired of them where the Christ was to be born!
 - HEROD went to church [συνάγω] to ask the experts the RELIGIOUS leaders...
 - But these LEADERS were focused on their TRADITION they were NOT seeking the Christ!
 - We might THINK we know what the birth of Jesus looked like...
 - But there were NOT three WISE men at the Birth of Christ...
 - Although there were THREE gifts: Gold Frankincense and Myrrh...
 - The WISE men would have traveled in a LARGE caravan for safety reasons...
 - And they were NOT there for the BIRTH of Jesus...
 - Likely Jesus would have been almost TWO years old when the wise men came!
 - Many people go through life just following RELIGION TRADITIONS...
 - And they are proud and think that is enough to get them into heaven...
 - But their RELIGION blinds them so they do not SEE their need for the Lord...
 - They trust in their RELIGION rather than SEEKING Jesus!
 - o 3rd The Answer... vs. 5-6
 - [The leaders] said to him In Bethlehem of Judea for thus it is written by the prophet:
 - 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!
 - The answer the WISE men were looking for was found in the BIBLE...
 - This is the FIRST of FOUR quotes gives to us from the Old Testament...
 - But the Priests made TWO mistakes: FIRST they left out the final phrase from their QUOTE...
 - Where God told us WHO the Messiah is the EVERLASTING [עוֹלָם] **Micah 5:2**
 - SECOND they did NOT go looking for the MESSIAH!
 - If we want to know where to find God who God is the Bible has the answers...
 - But it is not enough to just KNOW what the Bible says we need to OBEY it James 1:22

- The Bible is NOT a textbook we must LEARN it is an instruction manual to FOLLOW!
- 3^{RD} Finding Jesus... vs. 7-12
 - o 1st Wrong motive... vs. 7-8
 - Herod secretly called the wise men [to] determine from them what time the star appeared.
 - And he sent them to Bethlehem and said Go and search carefully for the young Child.
 - When you have found Him bring back word to me that I may come and worship Him also!
 - Herod REALLY wanted to know who Jesus was the STAR appeared TWO years earlier...
 - It took time for the WISE men to TRAVEL from Babylon to Israel...
 - He commanded the WISE men to tell [imperative] him if they found the child...
 - But he had no intention of WORSHIPING [subjunctive] Jesus he wanted to kill Him...
 - And because he was searching with the WRONG motive HEROD never found Jesus!
 - People who come to CHURCH because they think it will make them HAPPY…
 - Or people who read the BIBLE because it will make them RICH…
 - People who look for Jesus with the WRONG motives will NOT meet Jesus!
 - o 2nd Right Motive... vs. 9-10
 - When they heard the king they departed and behold the star which they had seen in the East.
 - [It] went before them till it came and stood over where the young Child was.
 - When they saw the star they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy!
 - The WISE men WISELY walked away from the KING [world]
 - And instead were LED [imperfect] by the STAR until is stood over where the CHILD was...
 - Because the WISE men did NOT stop looking they FOUND Jesus…
 - And the result was EXCEEDING [a lot] of GREAT [μέγας] JOY!
 - Looking for the ANSWERS in life means we do NOT give up until we find Him…
 - Knowing what we get in the END Jesus is more than worth the effort and wait!
 - Jeremiah 29:13 "You will seek and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart."
 - o 3rd True Worship... vs. 11
 - When they had come into the house they saw the young Child with Mary His mother.
 - [They] fell down and worshiped Him!
 - When the WISE men came into the HOUSE [not the barn Jesus was born in]
 - They WORSHIPED [προσκυνέω] the word means to SUBMIT [dog licking his master]!
 - When people think of WORSHIP they tend to picture singing on Sunday mornings…
 - WORSHIP speaks of submission recognizing that Jesus is our LORD!
 - We might have a LOT of QUESTIONS about WHO Jesus is...
 - We have heard what others have said about him TRADITION and RELIGION...
 - But if we have NEVER met Jesus personally never SUBMITTED to Him as LORD...
 - Today is the day of salvation today is the day when we can FIND Him and be SAVED!
 - II Corinthians 6:2 "Behold [today] is the day of salvation."
 - o 4th The Gifts... vs. 11-12
 - The Altar...
 - And when they had opened their treasures.
 - They presented gifts to Him: gold frankincense and myrrh!
 - All of these were VERY valuable gifts worthy of a KING...
 - Gold P3.5 million a Kilo frankincense P60 thousand a Kilo Myrrh P500 thousand a Kilo...
 - But together they are an ODD collection but they all point back to the ALTAR of INCENSE!
 - The ALTAR was made of GOLD **Exodus 30:1-3**
 - ANOINTED with the oil made from MYRRH Exodus 30:23-37
 - On which they burned FRANKINCENSE to the LORD **Exodus 30:34**
 - The SMOKE from the Altar represented PRAYERS coming up to the Lord **Revelation 8:3**

- Because Jesus is the ONLY way to come to the Father...
- Only through His sacrifice can we get access into the HOLIEST into the THONE room of God!
- The Warning...
 - Being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod.
 - They departed for their own country another way!
 - The WISE men were warned NOT to go back the way they came!
 - When finally find Jesus bow down [submit] to Him as our Lord...
 - We no longer held back by RELIGION or TRADITIONS...
 - Like the WISE men we should NEVER go back to empty life we had before!
- 4^{TH} Hating Jesus... vs. 13-18
 - o 1st The Dream... vs. 13
 - Now when they had departed behold an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream.
 - Arise take the young Child and His mother flee to Egypt and stay there until I bring you word.
 - For Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him!
 - No sooner had the WISE men left then Joseph had another DREAM...
 - An angel commanded [imperative] him to take Jesus and Mary and flee to EGYPT...
 - A place under the direct rule of Emperor Augustus and beyond the reach of Herod the Great!
 - This is the SECOND of FOUR dreams that God would give to Joseph...
 - Dream are the ONLY way we read about how the Lord spoke to him...
 - That does NOT mean God can ONLY speak through DREAMS...
 - God spoke to the prophet Elijah in a WHISPER I Kings 19:12
 - God speak to different people in different ways...
 - God might speak to one person through DREAMS and another through a WISPER...
 - The important thing is we are LISTENING so not matter HOW we HEAR Him!
 - o 2nd Out of Egypt... vs. 14-15
 - [Joseph] arose and took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt.
 - [He] was there until the death of Herod that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord.
 - Out of Egypt I called My Son!
 - Joseph immediately [that night] obeyed the command of the Angel...
 - They remained in Egypt until the death of Herod the Great...
 - And we are given the SECOND of FOUR quotes from the Old Testament Hosea 11:1
 - It was important for Jesus to come out of Egypt...
 - Because everything about the life of Jesus is meant to be an example for us to follow!
 - I Peter 2:21 "Christ... [left] us an example that you should follow His steps."
 - Just as Jesus came out of the WORLD [Egypt] to live in the Promised Land [Israel]
 - So also God calls us to come out of the WORLD and into a new LIFE with Him!
 - o 3rd Wrath of Herod... vs. 16
 - Killing Kids...
 - Then Herod when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men was exceedingly angry.
 - He sent and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts.
 - From two years old and under according to the time he had determined from the wise men!
 - When HEROD realized the WISE men had PLAYED [deceived] him he was FURIOUS...
 - He went and killed ALL the BOYS of Bethlehem under the age of TWO...
 - The age according to when the WISE men had seen the STAR first appear!
 - This was not the FIRST or LAST time someone would kill Jewish children...
 - Pharoah tried to kill ALL the Jewish boys when Moses was born **Exodus 1:16**
 - Hitler had a FINAL solution that included killing 1.5 MILLION kids...
 - Hamas [חָמֶס] murdered babies on October 7!

- Hating Jews...
 - Why so much HATE against Israel because they are the PEOPLE of God...
 - Through Pharoah Satan tried to stop the birth of Moses who would REDEEM Israel...
 - Through Herod Satan tried to stop the birth of Jesus who would REDEEM the world...
 - Through Hitler Satan tried to destroy Israel because they were the CHOSEN people...
 - But in spite of ALL the effort Moses was born Jesus lives Israel still exists!
 - If satan CANNOT use a KING to kill a BABY born to slaves...
 - If satan CANNOT kill a BABY born to a carpenter in an impoverished Judean slum...
 - If satan CANNOT wipe out a people scattered and homeless for 2000 years...
 - It would be fair to say satan cannot do ANYTHING unless God allows it!
- o 4th Weeping... vss. 17-18
 - Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet saying:
 - A voice was heard in Ramah. Lamentation weeping and great mourning.
 - Rachel weeping for her children refusing to be comforted because they are no more!
 - The RESULT of the slaughter of Herod Rachael [the wife of Jacob] wept...
 - In RAMA [city near Bethlehem] she could not be COMFORTED because her sons were gone...
 - The THIRD of FOUR quotes from the Old Testament Jeremiah 31:15
 - There is a museum in Israel called Yad Vashem [יָד וָשֶׁם] a place and a name Isaiah 56:5
 - It commemorates the HOLOCAUST where SIX million Jews died in WWII...
 - But the Most humbling place to visit is monument to the children...
 - A single candle that sits in a dark room with mirrors on all sides...
 - As the names of all 1.5 million children are quietly remembered TEARS!
- 5^{TH} Jesus of Nazareth... vs. 19-23
 - o 1st Death of Herod... vs. 19-21
 - Now when Herod was dead behold an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt.
 - Arise take the young Child and His mother and go to the land of Israel.
 - For those who sought the young Childs life are dead.
 - Then [Joseph] arose took the young Child and His mother and came into the land of Israel!
 - When Herod was ENDED [τελευτάω] God brought him to an END [death]
 - For the THIRD time and Angel came to Joseph in a DREAM...
 - He commanded [imperative] Joseph to take Jesus and Mary back to Israel...
 - Because those [plural] who sought to kill Jesus were dead…
 - Joseph woke up and did exactly what he was told and moved the family back to Israel!
 - The FIRST time Joseph had a DREAM he might have had some doubts…
 - But by the time he got to the THIRD dream he had it down…
 - We might wonder if Joseph was on a first name basis with the angel at this point...
 - Maybe he had a punch card after three DREAMS you get a free shawarma!
 - Being obedient to the Lord can be hard especially at first...
 - Was it really the LORD who was speaking to me what happens if we OBEY...
 - But the more we follow His leading the more confident we become!
 - o 2nd Nazareth... vs. 22-23
 - Archelaus...
 - [Joseph] heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea instead of his father Herod.
 - Archelaus was the SON of Herod the Great by a Samaritan woman...
 - He only ruled in Judah for TWO years 6 B.C. to 4 B.C.
 - He was such a POOR king that Emperor Augustus of Rome banished him!
 - The Galilee...
 - [Joseph] was afraid to go there being warned by God in a dream he turned aside to Galilee.

- He dwelt in Nazareth that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets.
- He shall be called a Nazarene!
- Because Archelaus was KING [like his dad] Joseph was AFRAID to return to Judah...
- For a FOURTH and final time we are told God spoke to him in a DREAM...
- And he instead took his family to the GALILEE to a city called NAZARETH!
- Nazareth was most likely the hometown of both Mary and Joseph Luke 1:26-27
- It was a small town but it had a BAD reputation!
- **John 1:46 "**Can anything good come out of Nazareth?"
- Nazareth
 - Matthew tells us this fulfilled the FOURTH and final quote from the PROPHETS [plural]
 - But the problem is there is NO verse in the OT that talks about NAZARETH...
 - Although the name NAZARETH would follow Jesus to the Cross **John 19:19**
 - Even those who followed Jesus were called NAZARENES Acts 24:5
 - The quote most likely is NOT about the PLACE but the PERSON!
 - Numbers 6:2 "[Anyone who takes the] vow of a Nazirite sets themselve apart to the Lord."
 - The church did NOT celebrate the BIRTH of Jesus for first 300 years [336 B.C.]
 - Because the message of the Gospel is NOT about the BIRTH of Christ is about His DEATH!
 - Jesus was a NAZARITE He was set apart for God...
 - And the message of the Wise men found the message that Herod missed...
 - Was that His whole life had one purpose He came to DIE for our sins!