

Matthew Chapter 2

Circa May/June 5 B.C.E-4:B.C.E.

Augustus Caesar 27 B.C.E.-14 C.E.

Herods

1. Herod the Great 37-4 B.C.E. (Galilee)
2. Herod Archelaus 4 B.C.E.-6 C.E. (Judea)
3. Herod Antipater 4 B.C.E.-39 C.E. (Galilee)
4. Herod Philip II 4 B.C.E.-36 C.E. (Batanaea)
5. Salome I 4 B.C.E-10 C.E (Jabneh)

High Priests

1. Matthias ben Theophilus 5-4 B.C.E
2. Joazar ben Boethus, 4 BC
3. Eleazar ben Boethus, 4-3 C.E.

Sanhedrin President Hillel the Elder

Τοῦ δὲ Ἰησοῦ γεννηθέντος ἐν Βηθλὲμ τῆς Ἰουδαίας ἐν ἡμέραις
Jesus who was born in Bethlehem, Yudea¹ in the days of
Ἡρώδου τοῦ βασιλέως, ἰδοὺ μάγοι ἀπὸ ἀνατολῶν παρεγένοντο
Herod the king.² Behold! Mages³ from the sunrising⁴ came
εἰς Ἱεροσόλυμα
into Yerosalem.⁵

λέγοντες Ποῦ ἐστὶν ὁ τεχθεὶς βασιλεὺς τῶν Ἰουδαίων; εἶδομεν γὰρ

¹ There was another Bethleem. This is why it says Bethleem of Yudea. The other Bethleem is Bethleem, Galilee. David was also born in Behleem, which is significant because Jesus the son of David was born in Bethleem

² Herod I or Herod the Great 34 BCE-4 BCE

³ The Greek word means wizard, magician, or sorcerer.

⁴ Greek is ἐν τῇ ἀνατολῇ, which means at the rising, i.e. where the sun rises

⁵ Jerosalem called Salem at one time is one of the oldest active cities in the world

saying, “where is the one who has been born king of the Yudai?
For we noticed

αὐτοῦ τὸν ἀστέρα ἐν τῇ ἀνατολῇ καὶ ἦλθομεν προσκυνῆσαι αὐτῷ.
his star in the eastern horizon⁶ and have come to give homage⁷ to
him.

ἀκούσας δὲ ὁ βασιλεὺς Ἡρώδης ἐταράχθη, καὶ πᾶσα Ἱεροσόλυμα
So an agitated King Herod listened as well as all of Yerosalem
μετ’ αὐτοῦ.

with him,

καὶ ἡ συναγαγὼν πάντας τοὺς ἀρχιερεῖς καὶ γραμματεῖς⁸ τοῦ λαοῦ
and he gathered together all the archpriests and writers of the
people

ἐπυνθάνετο παρ’ αὐτῶν ποῦ ὁ Χριστὸς γεννᾶται.

asking them where the anointed one was to be born,

οἱ δὲ εἶπαν αὐτῷ· Ἐν Βηθλέεμ τῆς Ἰουδαίας· οὕτως γὰρ γέγραπται
[they] said to him, “in Betheem, Yudaia, just as it is written
διὰ τοῦ προφήτου·

through the prophet:

Καὶ σύ, Βηθλέεμ γῆ Ἰούδα, οὐδαμῶς ἐλαχίστη εἶ ἐν τοῖς ἡγεμόσιν
‘and you, Betheem, land of Yuda, are by no means the least
among the leaders

Ἰούδα· ἐκ σοῦ γὰρ ἐξελεύσεται ἡγούμενος, ὅστις ποιμανεῖ τὸν λαόν
of Yuda. For out of you will come the one leading who will
shepherd

μου τὸν Ἰσραήλ.

⁶ See footnote 5

⁷ προσκυνῆσαι means to give homage to gods or humans. The magicians were giving homage or worshipping the king of the Jews rather than God from their viewpoint

⁸ Γραμματεῖς is commonly translated as ‘scribes’, an acceptable translation, but literally the word means ‘writers.’

my people Israel⁹.”

Τότε Ἡρώδης λάθρᾳ καλέσας τοὺς μάγους ἠκρίβωσεν παρ’ αὐτῶν
Then Herod privately called the magicians [and] from them
ascertained exactly

τὸν χρόνον τοῦ φαινομένου ἀστέρος,
the time of the stars appearing.

καὶ πέμψας αὐτοὺς εἰς Βηθλέεμ εἶπεν· Πορευθέντες ἐξετάσατε
So sending them into Bethlehem he said, “as you travel, carefully
ἀκριβῶς περὶ τοῦ παιδίου· ἐπὰν δὲ εὔρητε, ἀπαγγείλατέ μοι, ὅπως
inquire about the child. So when you find him report to me so
that

κάγὼ ἐλθὼν προσκυνήσω αὐτῷ.

I also might come give homage to him.

οἱ δὲ ἀκούσαντες τοῦ βασιλέως ἐπορεύθησαν· καὶ ἰδοὺ ὁ ἀστήρ, ὃν
They listened to the king [and] went away. So behold! The star,
which

εἶδον ἐν τῇ ἀνατολῇ, προῆγεν αὐτοὺς ἕως ἐλθὼν ἐστάθη ἐπάνω οὗ
they noticed at the eastern horizon came forth until it came [and]
stood over where

ἦν τὸ παιδίον.

the child was.

ἰδόντες δὲ τὸν ἀστέρα ἐχάρησαν χαρὰν μεγάλην σφόδρα.

Now as they noticed the star they rejoiced a great overwhelming
joy.

καὶ ἐλθόντες εἰς τὴν οἰκίαν εἶδον τὸ παιδίον μετὰ Μαρίας τῆς
So as they came into the house they saw the child with his
μητρὸς αὐτοῦ, καὶ πεσόντες προσεκύνησαν αὐτῷ, καὶ ἀνοίξαντες
mother Maria. Having prostrated [themselves] they gave him
homage

⁹ Not from the LXX. LXX is Καὶ σύ, Βηθλέεμ οἶκος Ἐφράθα, ὀλιγοσπὸς εἶ τοῦ εἶναι ἐν χιλιάσιν Ἰουδα· ἐξ οὗ μοι ἐξελεύσεται τοῦ εἶναι εἰς ἄρχοντα τοῦ Ἰσραὴλ, καὶ ἔξοδοι αὐτοῦ ἀπ’ ἀρχῆς ἐξ ἡμερῶν αἰῶνος.

τοὺς θησαυροὺς αὐτῶν προσήνεγκαν αὐτῷ δῶρα, χρυσὸν καὶ
as they opened their treasures offering him gifts: gold,
λίβανον καὶ σμύρναν.

frankincense and myrrh.

καὶ χρηματισθέντες κατ' ὄναρ μὴ ἀνακάμψαι πρὸς Ἡρώδην, δι'
Now having been told during a dream not to return to Herod,
ἄλλης ὁδοῦ ἀνεχώρησαν εἰς τὴν χώραν αὐτῶν.

they returned down another road into their country

Ἀναχωρησάντων δὲ αὐτῶν, ἰδοὺ ἄγγελος κυρίου φαίνεται κατ'
After they returned, Behold! A messenger of the Lord appeared
to Joseph during

ὄναρ τῷ Ἰωσήφ λέγων Ἐγερθεὶς παράλαβε τὸ παιδίον καὶ τὴν
a dream, saying, "Wake up, take the child and
μητέρα αὐτοῦ καὶ φεῦγε εἰς Αἴγυπτον, καὶ ἴσθι ἐκεῖ ἕως ἂν εἶπω σοι·
his mother, and flee into Egypt. [Stay] there until I say otherwise
μέλλει γὰρ Ἡρώδης ζητεῖν τὸ παιδίον τοῦ ἀπολέσαι αὐτό.

For Herod is about to seek the child in order to annihilate¹⁰ him

ὁ δὲ ἐγερθεὶς παρέλαβεν τὸ παιδίον καὶ τὴν μητέρα αὐτοῦ νυκτὸς
He awoke taking the child with him at night

καὶ ἀνεχώρησεν εἰς Αἴγυπτον,
and fled into Egypt.

καὶ ἦν ἐκεῖ ἕως τῆς τελευτῆς Ἡρώδου· ἵνα πληρωθῇ τὸ ῥηθὲν ὑπὸ
He went there until the end of Herod in order to fulfill what was
spoken by

κυρίου διὰ τοῦ προφητῆου λέγοντος Ἐξ Αἰγύπτου ἐκάλεσα τὸν
υἱόν μου.

The Lord through the prophet, saying, "out of Egypt I called my
son."¹¹

¹⁰ Greek = ἀπολέσαι which literally means to loosen or release

¹¹ Quote from Hosea 11:1 is from the LXX

Matthew 2:16-18

Τότε Ἡρώδης ἰδὼν ὅτι ἐνεπαίχθη ὑπὸ τῶν μάγων ἐθυμώθη λίαν,
When Herod realized he had been mocked by the magicians he
was excessively enraged

καὶ ἀποστείλας ἀνεῖλεν πάντας τοὺς παῖδας τοὺς ἐν Βηθλέεμ καὶ ἐν
[and] having sent forth [servents] he took away boys in
Bethlehem and within

πᾶσι τοῖς ὀρίοις αὐτῆς ἀπὸ διετοῦς καὶ κατωτέρω, κατὰ τὸν χρόνον
all its borders from two years old and under according to the time
ὃν ἠκρίβωσεν παρὰ τῶν μάγων.

which he carefully ascertained when near the magicians

τότε ἐπληρώθη τὸ ῥηθὲν διὰ Ἱερεμίου τοῦ προφήτου λέγοντος
as was fulfilled spoken through Yere¹²mia the prophet, saying,

Φωνὴ ἐν Ῥαμὰ ἠκούσθη, κλαυθμὸς καὶ ὄδυρμὸς πολὺς· Ῥαχὴλ
"A sound was heard in Rama of weeping and much lamentation.

Rachel

κλαίουσα τὰ τέκνα αὐτῆς, καὶ οὐκ ἤθελεν παρακληθῆναι

is weeping for her children, and does not want to be comforted.

ὅτι οὐκ εἰσὶν.

They are no [more].

Τελευτήσαντος δὲ τοῦ Ἡρώδου, ἰδοὺ ἄγγελος Κυρίου φαίνεται

When Herod came to an end, behold! A messenger of the Lord
appeared

κατ' ὄναρ τῷ Ἰωσήφ ἐν Αἰγύπτῳ

to Yoseph during a dream in Egypt

λέγων Ἐγερθεὶς παράλαβε τὸ παιδίον καὶ τὴν μητέρα αὐτοῦ καὶ

saying, "Wake up, take the child and his mother, and

πορεύου εἰς γῆν Ἰσραὴλ· τεθνήκασιν γὰρ οἱ ζητοῦντες τὴν ψυχὴν

go back into the land of Israel. Those seeking the soul of

τοῦ παιδίου.

¹² Quote from Yere¹²mia 31:15. The quote is a translation of the Hebrew rather than from the LXX

the child are gone

ὁ δὲ ἐγερθεὶς παρέλαβεν τὸ παιδίον καὶ τὴν μητέρα αὐτοῦ καὶ

He awoke, took the child and his mother, and

εἰσῆλθεν εἰς γῆν Ἰσραὴλ.

went back into the land of Israel.

ἀκούσας δὲ ὅτι Ἀρχέλαος βασιλεύει τῆς Ἰουδαίας ἀντὶ τοῦ πατρὸς

He heard that Archelaos¹³ reigned over Yudea instead of his father

αὐτοῦ Ἡρώδου ἐφοβήθη ἐκεῖ ἀπελθεῖν· χρηματισθεὶς δὲ κατ' ὄναρ

Herod. He was afraid to return. He was warned during a dream.

ἀνεχώρησεν εἰς τὰ μέρη τῆς Γαλιλαίας,

He went into the neighborhood of Galilee,

καὶ ἐλθὼν κατώκησεν εἰς πόλιν λεγομένην Ναζαρέτ· ὅπως

and went settling in the city that is said to be Nazaret

πληρωθῇ τὸ ῥηθὲν διὰ τῶν προφητῶν ὅτι Ναζωραῖος κληθήσεται.

as was fulfilled through the prophet that he will be called a

Nazorai.

¹³ Herod Archeleus 6 B.C.E.-18 C.E. Part of the Herodian Tetrarchy/Ethnarchy that ruled Yuda.