

Sovereign Grace Church

***“Herod vs. Jesus”* outline**

March 11, 2018

Matthew 2

This morning we will continue our summary of the first chapters of Matthew in considering the account of the wise men, Herod and Jesus. It was common knowledge among the scholars of the day that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem. However it was also common knowledge that Jesus was a permanent resident of Nazareth. Part of Matthew's intention in this chapter is to demonstrate how Jesus' residency in Nazareth actually fits into the biblical narrative.

Matthew also wants to continue to demonstrate that Jesus, as the Messiah-King, is the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies. However, these prophecies actually conflicted with the Jewish traditions as they had developed. The Old Testament prophecies only make sense from the standpoint of the transcendent reality of God's Kingdom. Many of the Jewish scribes started from the standpoint of their own little kingdoms and completely missed the intent of these prophecies. Part of Matthew's endeavor is to correct these misconceptions.

1. The Wise Men, Jesus and Herod vv. 1-12

- **The Wise Men**
Acts 13: 6, 8-10

- **The Star**

- **Herod**
Micah 5:2; II Sam. 5: 2

2. Jesus' Escape to and Call from Egypt vv. 12-15 **Hos. 11: 1**

3. Herod's Massacre of the Innocents vv 16-18
Jer. 31: 15

4. Home, but to Nazareth, not Bethlehem vv. 19-23
Isa. 53: 1-4

Questions for Discussion and Reflection

- 1. Why do you think Matthew included the account of the wise men? Do the Scriptures present them in a positive or negative light? How do the Scriptures generally present those involved in astrology, magic etc.? How do you account for this apparent contradiction? Is modern astrology the same as the ancient practice?**
- 2. How do you explain Matthew's rather creative interpretation of the Old Testament passages, or non-passages, to which he refers? Does the Old Testament have to mention Jesus by name in order for Him to be the fulfillment of its prophecies and promises? Why do you think so many of the passages from the Old Testament referred to in the New Testament are on the level of paraphrases rather than word-for-word? Does this make these quotes less authoritative? Why should we be careful in utilizing this same technique in our own references to Scripture? How do you understand the difference between a modern thought-for-thought translation vs a word- for-word translation? What is the difference? What are problems with both?**
- 3. Why do you think Josephus did not include in his history Herod's murder of the young boys in Bethlehem? How would you defend the Bible's account?**
- 4. What other people in history are notable examples of Herod's style of leadership? Can you think of any who are more in line with Jesus?**