

# Matthew: The Life & Teaching of Jesus the Messiah

Lakewood Presbyterian Church

*Key Idea: One of the great ironies of the Incarnation is that a pagan prophet unknowingly predicted it, Gentile astrologers sought it, a half-breed Jew knowingly hated it, and a "star", far from its normal sphere of operation, pointed to it.*

**Lesson 4**  
**Matt. 2:1-12**  
**The Visit of the Magi**  
**(9-7-25)**

## I. THE STAR OF JACOB AND BALAAM'S PROPHECY (NUMBERS 24:15-19)

- A. What we know about Balaam: \_\_\_\_\_ (Nu. 22-24; 31:8,16)
- B. Balaam was h\_\_\_\_\_ by the Moabite king Balak to c\_\_\_\_\_ Israel but could not. Every c\_\_\_\_\_ became a b\_\_\_\_\_ (cf. Gen. 12:3)
1. What ought we to make of Balaam? \_\_\_\_\_
  2. He was a t\_\_\_\_\_ prophet but a f\_\_\_\_\_ man.
- C. The initial f\_\_\_\_\_ of Balaam's 4<sup>th</sup> oracle would occur in Israel's h\_\_\_\_\_ during the r\_\_\_\_\_ of King David, but extends as far as the Greeks under Alexander. And yet a g\_\_\_\_\_ David will come.

## II. THE MAGI: STAR-GAZERS & KING-MAKERS FROM THE EAST

- A. Who are the *Magoi*? \_\_\_\_\_ (Matt. 2:1)
1. The testimony of Herodotus (c. 484 – c. 425) BC in his *Histories*:  
\_\_\_\_\_
  2. Babylonians, Medo-Persian, Parthian, and Roman politics  
\_\_\_\_\_
  2. The influence of Daniel the Prophet (Daniel 2:48; 11:1):  
\_\_\_\_\_
- B. How did they know to follow a star? \_\_\_\_\_
- 1.. This was no o\_\_\_\_\_ star:
    - a. Both Hebrew *kokav* and Greek *aster* can refer to a s\_\_\_\_\_ but also l\_\_\_\_\_ or even a \_\_\_\_\_.
    - b. Most likely what the magi s\_\_\_\_\_ was the shekinah g\_\_\_\_\_
- Applications:* Comfortable modernist cosmologies \_\_\_\_\_
2. But note that n\_\_\_\_\_ revelation can only take one so f\_\_\_\_\_
    - a. The Magi knew the town where Jewish kings resided: \_\_\_\_\_

B. The Magi are significant because

1. They recognize Israel's p\_\_\_\_\_, D\_\_\_\_\_ king!
2. They're a down payment on the fullness of the G\_\_\_\_\_ (Is.60:1-3)
3. They are going where the scribes & priests r\_\_\_\_\_ to g\_\_\_\_\_.
4. They are doing what every true son of Israel s\_\_\_\_\_ have d\_\_\_\_\_
5. Their gifts r\_\_\_\_\_ Jesus' Messianic office and m\_\_\_\_\_:  
Gold: \_\_\_\_\_ Frankincense: \_\_\_\_\_ Myrrh: \_\_\_\_\_

### III. HEROD THE GREAT: THE CANNY CLIENT KING FROM EDMOM

A. Herod was c\_\_\_\_\_, c\_\_\_\_\_ & c\_\_\_\_\_

1. He was hated because he was a half-b\_\_\_\_\_ of Edomite descent.
2. He was despised by the pious because he was i\_\_\_\_\_
3. He was feared due to his maniacal p\_\_\_\_\_ (2:3)

B. Why was Herod so disturbed when the Magi appeared?

1. The struggle between Rome and the Parthians: \_\_\_\_\_

C. But Herod understood the i\_\_\_\_\_ of the Messianic p\_\_\_\_\_

1. And he was prepared to a\_\_\_\_\_ on them: How? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Yet note the paradox of unbelief: \_\_\_\_\_

*Application:* Christmas and maudlin sentimentality: \_\_\_\_\_

### IV. JESUS OF NAZARETH IS THE STAR OF JACOB INCARNATE

A. The minor m\_\_\_\_\_ of the Star pointed towards the m\_\_\_\_\_ greater m\_\_\_\_\_ of the Incarnation and a true K\_\_\_\_\_.

B. The promises of a true D\_\_\_\_\_ king—and a divine king at that— coalesced in the person of the Babe in the h\_\_\_\_\_.

1. This is what Herod f\_\_\_\_\_.
2. The true Davidic king like a shepherd f\_\_\_\_\_ his flock (Micah 5:4)
3. The true king d\_\_\_\_\_ his peoples' enemies (Nu. 24:17b, Mt.5:16f)
4. The Prince of Peace r\_\_\_\_\_ with a rod of iron: (Ps. 2; cf. Rev. 19:11-16)
5. And part of that kingly work is the destruction of t\_\_\_\_\_ like Herod.

### V. APPLICATIONS:

A. If, then, the King has come: \_\_\_\_\_

B. The reality of an all-encompassing Providence: \_\_\_\_\_

C. How do you respond to the Star of Jacob?:

1. The Herodian response: \_\_\_\_\_
2. The Jewish response: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Wise men s\_\_\_\_\_ s\_\_\_\_\_ H\_\_\_\_\_.