

# SERMON NOTES

**Preacher:** Kevin Hardy

**Date:** December 15, 2024

**Text:** Matthew 2:1-12

**Title:** A King Worthy of Our Worship

**Big Idea:** Jesus the Messiah is the King worthy of our worship.



## I. THE KINGDOM OF GOD vs. THE KINGDOM OF THIS WORLD (vv. 1-8)

*“...Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king...”*

Two Kings:

- Herod (ruled Israel and Judah 37–4 B.C.)
- Jesus (v. 2 – “king of the Jews”)

Wise Men:

- *“from the east”* (v. 1b)
- *“come to worship him.”* (v. 2b)

**Herod:** murderous and cruel, exemplifies all that it is to fight for power and influence and success in a worldly sense...

**Jesus:** shepherd-king, the Messiah, the promised one who came as a shepherd, a servant, to seek and save the lost...

## II. GOOD NEWS FOR EVERYONE (vv. 2, 9-12)

*“When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him.”*

Biblical fulfillment – Gentiles bringing their wealth and worship to Israel’s king:

- Psalm 72:10; Isaiah 60:6

“If wise men of old came to Jesus and worshiped him, shouldn't we all come also? They were guided by a star. We are guided by faith through the divine Spirit, by the teaching of his Word, and by all those blessed lights the Lord uses to conduct people to himself.” – C.H. Spurgeon

## III. TWO WAYS TO RESPOND TO JESUS THE MESSIAH (vv. 1-12)

**Herod:** rejected God’s king.

**Gentile wisemen:** recognized and responded to God’s King (with submission, allegiance, worship)

# APPLICATION QUESTIONS

*To be used for personal reflection and/or sermon-based small group discussion.*

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## **READ Matthew 2:1-12**

Who are the Magi, and why might their visit to Jesus be significant? Why do you think they, as non-Jews, were among the first to honour Jesus?

Why is King Herod disturbed by the news of Jesus' birth? What does this reveal about his character and his political situation?

What does the phrase "King of the Jews" signify in this context? Why might this title have been threatening to Herod and intriguing to the Magi?

How does the reference to Micah 5:2 about Bethlehem strengthen the understanding of Jesus as the Messiah? Why is it significant that Jesus is born in Bethlehem?

How do the Magi respond to finding Jesus compared to Herod's response? What can we learn from their act of worship and humility? How does this contrast with Herod's deceit and hostility?

How do you respond to Jesus in your own life? Are you more like the Magi, who sought and worshipped Him, or like Herod, who felt threatened by Him?

Are you paying attention to the ways God is leading you to Himself today? What gifts can you offer to Jesus? Reflect on how your time, talents, or treasure (resources) can honour Christ in your life.

## **PRAY**