

Sermon Notes—December 20, 2015

JESUS

God Breaks His Silence (part 3)

Everyone has an Opinion about Everything

Part 1: Matthew 1:1-17 The human legal ancestry of Jesus

Part 2: Matthew 1:18-25 The Divine origin of Jesus

Part 3: Matthew 2:1-12 Respected Magi recognized Jesus as Messiah and King

Matthew BASICS

Matthew 2:1-12: Three Opinions about Jesus

1. Herod the Great
2. Jewish Religious Leaders & Townsfolk of Bethlehem
3. Magi (wise men)

HEROD

- Known as Herod The Great
- Idumean (Edomite—descendants of Esau)
- 47-37BC-Governor of Galilee
- 37-4BC appointed King of Judea
- Great builder (the reconstruction of the temple)
- Provided food for the poor in 25BC
- Paranoid & insanely suspicious
- Merciless & Cruel
- Killed many family members (3 sons, wives, brother in law)
- Ordered leading citizens in Jerusalem arrested then killed on the day of his death
- Ordered the murder of every child under age 2 in Bethlehem

Matthew 2:3

Matthew 2:4-5

Matthew 2:6

Old Testament Predictions Fulfilled

Micah 5:2
2 Samuel 5:2

Matthew 2:7-8

Herod's Opinion about JESUS: Fear, Hostility then Rejection

Jewish Religious Leaders & Townsfolk in Bethlehem

Matthew 2:1-2

Matthew 2:3-4

Luke 2:16-18

JRL & Townsfolk Opinion about JESUS: Indifference then Ignored him

MAGI (wise men)

- Wise learned men from Persia
- Descendants of Shem (Noah's son)
- Skilled in astronomy and astrology
- Interpreters of dreams & Priests in Zoroastrianism
- Influenced by the prophet Daniel(Daniel was the chief Magi in Babylon)
- Monotheists & Messianists
- A new bright star would signify that someone important was born
- Widespread expectation of the coming of a great king and deliverer
- Familiar with Numbers 24:17 "*A star will come out of Jacob; a scepter will rise out of Israel.*" Balaam Son of Peor
- v. 2 & v. 9 east = rose

STAR Issue

1. Halley's Comet in 11 BC
2. Conjunction of Saturn & Jupiter 7BC
3. Astrological phenomenon: the star SIRIUS (dog star) rose near sunrise & shone in magnificent brilliance in 5BC
4. The glory of God blazing as a bright star (Rev. 22:16)

DATE Issue

- Jesus was born about 6BC

- Christian calendar devised in 6th century AD based on faulty information about Herod's death
- Herod the Great died in 4BC
- SIRIUS phenomenon 5BC
- Jesus was about 1 year old
- Magi had a long journey from Persia (Iran)

CHILD Issue: Jesus was probably 1 year old

1. v.1 after Jesus was born (past tense)
2. v. 2 the one who has been born (past tense)
3. v.8 search for the child (small young child)
4. v. 11 on coming to the house (not stable)
5. v. 16 Herod gave orders to kill all boys in Bethlehem 2 years and under
6. Long journey of Magi

Matthew 2:9-12

Treasures: highly valuable gifts in a treasure box

Gifts: expression of worship "Giving is an act of worship"

Gold: precious metal reserved for royalty

Frankincense: fragrant expensive incense reserved for deity

Myrrh: orange colored fragrant resin used for human burial

Magi Opinion about JESUS: Joyful Acceptance then Worship

What about you? Who do you say Jesus is? (Matt. 16:13-16)

Wise People Still Worship JESUS