

Matthew 2:1-6

The Visit of the Wise Men

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ² saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." ³ When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵ They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: ⁶ " 'And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.' "

Scenes

- Jesus born in Bethlehem and wise men come to visit – 2:1
Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem,
- Wise men look to the king for answers – 2:2 saying, *"Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."*
- Herod was shaken as was all of Jerusalem – 2:3 *When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him;*

"As the Magi seek a Redeemer, so Herod fears a successor."

– Augustine

- The king asks the priests and scribes a life-changing question – 2:4 *and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.*
- They tell him the correct answer but don't follow up – 2:5-6 *They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: ⁶ " 'And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.' "*

Irony

- The Magi traveled hundreds of miles / The priests and scribes couldn't care to travel 5 miles.
- The Magi grew up far from God / The priests and scribes were all-star Israelites.
- The Magi were raised in mysticism / The priests and scribes were raised in the Scriptures.
- The Magi were God-seekers / The scribes and priests raised the generation that finished Herod's goal.

Takeaways

- God, help me be self-aware rather than self-absorbed.
- God, keep me from Gospel inoculation (knowing but not caring).
- What is my Gospel action point for 2021?