

Reacting to Christmas

Matthew 1:18 Now **the birth of Jesus Christ** was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. **19 Then Joseph** her husband, being a just *man*, and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily. **20** But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. **21** And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. **22** Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, **23** Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us. **24**

Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife: **25** And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn

son: and he called his name JESUS. 2:1 Now when Jesus was born in Beth-lehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came **wise men** from the east to Jerusalem, 2 Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. 3 **When Herod the king** had heard *these things*, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. 4 And when he had gathered all **the chief priests and scribes** of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. 5 And they said unto him, In Beth-lehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet, 6 And thou Beth-lehem, *in* the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel. 7 **Then Herod**, when he had privily called the wise men, inquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. 8 And he sent them to Beth-lehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found *him*, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also. 9 When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star,

which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. 10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. 11 And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh. 12 And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way. 13 And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him. 14 When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt: 15 And was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Out of Egypt have I called my son. 16 Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Beth-lehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time

which he had diligently inquired of the wise men. 17 Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy the prophet, saying, 18 In Rama was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping *for* her children, and would not be comforted, because they are not.

1:23 **Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.**

i. Joseph's reaction

- a. Shocked to find her with child 1:18 Now **the birth of Jesus Christ** was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. 19 **Then Joseph** her husband, being a just *man*, and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily.

b. A just man but full of kindness **19** **Then Joseph** her husband, being a just *man*, and **not willing to make her a publick example,** was minded to put her away **privily.**

c. Willing to believe that he is a miracle divine baby **1:20**
But while **he thought on** these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is **conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.**

d. Understood that he was to save his people from their sins **1:21** And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for **he shall save his people from their sins.**

e. Learned that this baby was really God coming to be with man **1:23** Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name

Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

- f. He obeyed the Lord's instructions **1:24** **Then Joseph** being raised from sleep **did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him,** and took unto him his wife:
- g. He forgot his own plans, will, reputation to obey God **1:25** **And knew her not till** she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS.
- ii. The wise men's reaction
 - a. They were seeking God for nearly two years **2:1** **Now** when Jesus was born in Beth-lehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came **wise men** from the east to Jerusalem, **2** **Saying,** Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his

star in the east, and are come to worship him. 16 Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wrath, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Beth-lehem, and in all the

coasts thereof, **from two years**

old and under, according to the time which he had diligently inquired of the wise men.

b. They came to worship 2:2 Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the

east, and are **come to worship**

him.

c. They recognized who He was—the king of the Jews 2:2

Saying, Where is he that is born **King of**

the Jews? for we have seen his star in the

east, and are **come to worship**
him.

- d. They found purpose in their life—two years, worship
2:9 When they had heard the king, they departed;
and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went
before them, **till** it came and stood over where the
young child was.
- e. For them worship included giving gifts 2:11 And when
they were come into the house, they saw the young
child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and
worshipped him: and when they had opened their
treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and
frankincense, and myrrh.
- f. Their purpose gave them exceeding great joy 2:10
When they saw the star, they **rejoiced with**
exceeding great joy.

III. The reaction of the religious leaders

- a. They held the truth in their hands but weren't using it
2:4 And when he had gathered all **the chief priests and scribes** of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. 5 And they said unto him, In Beth-lehem of Judaea: for **thus it is written by the prophet,**
- b. They knew how to learn or find out about the birth of the King 2:6 And thou Beth-lehem, *in* the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.
- c. They announced the truth 2:5 And **they said unto him,** In Beth-lehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet,
- d. They had an intellectual knowledge but not a heartfelt faith—religion without a relationship
- e. They were unaffected by the truth that they knew

IV. King Herod's reaction

- a. He was threatened, troubled 2:3 **When Herod the king** had heard *these things*, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.
- b. The birth of the King made him and people everywhere very uncomfortable 2:3 **When Herod the king** had heard *these things*, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.
- c. He tried to use worship for his own purposes 2:7 **Then Herod**, when he had privily called the wise men, inquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. 8 And he sent them to Beth-lehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found *him*, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.
- d. He tried to kill the King of Glory 2:16 **Then Herod**, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and **slew all the children** that were in Beth-lehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under,

according to the time which he had diligently inquired of the wise men. 17 Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy the prophet, saying, 18 In Rama was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping *for* her children, and would not be comforted, because they are not.

- e. He feared losing his position

- v. What is your reaction to Christmas
 - a. Realize that God has a plan bigger than you for your life and obey Him forgetting yourself
 - b. Find your purpose and worship in the person of Jesus Christ
 - c. Know truth, talk about truth, but remain unaffected by it
 - d. Feel threatened and uncomfortable with someone who might want control of your life
 - e. Be uncomfortable with the idea that you need saved from your sins—think you can do it on your own