

Study of Matthew 2

by

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Matthew 2:1-23

I Now when Yeshua was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men

(3097 μάγος, mágos, of foreign origin (07248); a Magian, i.e. Oriental scientist; by implication, a magician, sorcerer, wise man).

from the east to Jerusalem, Saying,

Verse 2 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.

Here we are being told that there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem to meet with the One that was prophesied to come and be the King of the Jews, and they said that they had seen His Star in the east, and therefore they followed that Star to Israel, because they were coming to worship the One that was prophesied to come. The question that has to be asked *is*, who are these wise men, where are they from and where or how did they get this information, that said there would be a King of the Jews born in Israel at that time?

I believe that they were students of Daniel's teachings, which instructed them of the prophecy and that it would be manifested in the heavens, and **NOW** that the prophesied event had come, they left the comfort of their home to travel to pay homage to the one that was to be born King of the Jews, because they believed what Daniel had taught them through His ancient teachings, and furthermore, I believe that they were prompted by Elohim, and I say that because the Scriptures call them **wise men**, and Scripture tells us that the wisdom of man is foolishness, but the wisdom of Elohim **IS** eternal.

Verse 3 When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

Why was Herod troubled? He was worried and felt threatened about losing his position, and being overthrown as king of Jerusalem, and therefore he gathered all the priests together and inquired of them about this impending birth of the one that was prophesied to be the king of the Jews.

Verse 4 And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Messiah should be born. Verse 5 And they said unto him, in Bethlehem of Judea: For thus it is written by the prophet, 6 And you Bethlehem (house of Bread), in the land of Judah, are not the least among the princes of Judah: for out of you shall come a Governor, that shall rule My people Israel.

Now just take a moment and put yourself in King Herod's shoes, what would you think if **ALL** the priests of the area said the same thing, that YHVH Himself had prophesied that there would be a person born that was destined to be the **RULER** My people Israel? I know that if I was the king of Israel, I certainly would be, at the very least, concerned about that prophecy and that and I would want to find out more about it, which is what Herod did. Once he found out about the prophecy he called the wise men to him and inquired of them what time the Star they were following appeared.

Verse 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 Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when you have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.

Now asking to be kept informed of what these wise men found, sounds like a reasonable request, until we find out what his real motive was to know when and where this child was going to be born.

Verse 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.

Now just imagine what is being said here! A heavenly body, a star, travels a distance for a period of time, just fast enough for these wise men to follow it, and then at the right time, we are told that the star actually stopped and stood still above where the child, who is to be the King of the Jews was to be born. There is only one way that could happen, and that is by the intervention of the One that created the stars.

Verse 10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.

Since, I believe that these wise men were students of Daniel's teachings, it means that they have been waiting for and looking forward to this event for a long time, and now that it has come, they rejoiced, not only because of **WHO** the child being born was, but because they now know that their teacher Daniel was right, and that made the fulfillment of what he prophesied even sweeter for them.

Verse 11 And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him:

Just try and imagine what this event was like for these wise men, they had been waiting for years for this ancient prophecy to be fulfilled, they were prompted by YHVH to follow the prophecy that Daniel taught them, and **NOW** they are in the presence of the One that was prophesied to come! What joy, what elation they must have felt to actually experience first hand the fulfillment of a prophecy, and that is why they fell down before Him and worshipped Him, for they **KNEW** beyond a shadow of doubt, in their hearts, that the One in front of them, was

the prophesied Messiah. How would you react ***IF YOU*** were in their place and the prophecy of Messiah being born was fulfilled right in front of you? I would be so excited that I don't think I could contain my joy, and I am sure you feel the same way.

And when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts;

Gold

(זהב, gold, gold coloured, to gild, to plate with gold, it represents the wealth of the world, and it also represents authority, for the person that has the wealth sets the rules),

Frankincense

(לְבַנְתָּהּ, Lebonatah, and it is from the word Labonah, לְבֹנָה or לְבוּנָה, which means Frankincense, and it is called that because it is white, it is Laban לְבָן, in colour, and we have the word Labun לְבוּן, which means whitening, bleaching, however, if we take the first two letters, of this word Labun, the Lamed and the Bet, we form the word Lev, לֵב, which means heart, and the last two letters of the word Labun, לְבוּן, the Vav and the Nun, form the word Un, וּן, and it is defined as a suffix that forms names and or adjectives, and it also means that which contains, therefore if we take all of the definitions of the word Frankincense and its derivatives and put them together, then it could be said that the Hebrew word for Frankincense means, the one who contains a pure clean heart),

Myrrh

(לוּט, Lut, means, ladanum or labdanum and it is a dark resin obtained from various cistus shrubs, which is used in perfumery, and it also means covering, enclosed, enveloped, enclosure, secrecy).

The message that is contained in the definition of the words that make up the Gifts that the Wise men gave to Messiah at His birth, is very profound, for it describes Who and what Messiah ***IS***. He is the One that has a *pure clean heart*, which means that He has a heart that is devoted in loving surrendered obedience to our heavenly Father and His Torah of Life, His Righteousness, the One that is the Creator and Owner of all things, including *all the riches of the world*, the One that is *the sweet aroma of our heavenly Father's love*, and *envelops* all people who willingly and lovingly choose to turn to Him in surrendered loving obedience to His Words, the Torah of Life, the One that is unfortunately hidden, from those that ***do not have*** a loving surrendered obedient heart to the Father's Torah of Life.

Verse 12 And being warned of Elohim in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.

These wise men were on a quest to deliver gifts to the One they believed was to become the King of the Jews, and I believe that YHVH was the One that was guiding them, or better yet, guiding the Star that the Wise men were following, therefore it should not come as a surprise to

us, that YHVH warned them of the evil intention of king Herod's heart, for YHVH knows all hearts, and the secrets hidden within. So the Wise men left without telling Herod where the Messiah was; which means that they chose to obey the Word of YHVH, and they were blessed.

*Verse 13 And when they were departed, behold, the angel of YHVH appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and you will be there until I bring you word: For Herod will seek the young child to **destroy** him.*

If, like the Scripture tells us, YHVH is **ALL** powerful, why is he telling Joseph to flee, could He not just easily end Herod's life, or have him change his mind, or blind him so that he cannot see nor find Messiah and his parents? The answer of course is resounding **YES**, He could do that, **BUT** then He would be violating king Herod free will, and since YHVH is Just, He will not do that, he will not usurp anyones free will, therefore YHVH devises a plan where Joseph is to take his wife Miriam to Egypt and dwell there until He, YHVH, calls them back.

Verse 14 When Joseph 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 YHVH by the prophet, saying, Out of Egypt have I called my Son.

There is a pattern set here, a pattern that follows the ways of the Patriarch's of Israel. First there was Abraham, who went to Egypt because of a famine, and then by Elohim's grace came out of Egypt with riches, then Joseph's Father Jacob and His family, Israel, came to Egypt because of a famine, and after a period of years, and again by Elohim's grace, Joseph's Bones, along with all the people of Israel were taken out of Egypt by Moses, and they too were given the riches of Egypt to take with them, and **NOW** the greatest Gift that could ever happen to mankind is going to be in Egypt, awaiting the time that our heavenly Father calls Him to come out of Egypt. We have to understand that in Scripture, the Egypt of Biblical times, represents darkness, and everything that is evil and contrary to the Word of YHVH in this world of ours, and Messiah of course, represents the Light of the world, and when the Time came for Him to start shining, our heavenly Father brought Him out of Egypt, out of darkness, into His Israel, the centre of the World, the place where YHVH had chosen to place His Name there forever, the place where the Father wanted His Son, the Light of the world, to shine brightly so that the whole world could see Him, and hopefully turn to Him

*Verse 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 Bethlehem, 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.*

Here we see that the wicked heart of Herod was no longer hidden, it was laid bare for all to see, for he went ahead and killed all the children from the age two years old and younger, in the hope that he would kill Messiah, the prophesied new King of the Jews. Again the question has to be asked, why did YHVH **NOT** stop Herod from killing all these children, these infants? To

some people that is a very perplexing question, but the answer is very simple, it is because Herod, just like you and I, has a free will, which means that all of us can, and usually **DO** what we want to do, and in Herod's case, he did what he wanted to do, regardless of who lived or died because of it, for he was determined that he was **NOT** going to lose his throne, his kingship.

Verse 17 Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying, 18 In Ramah 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.

Rachel represents all the mother's of Israel, who wept for their children, when the enemies of Israel such as Pharaoh, the Philistine, the Babylonians and many others captured and or killed their children, their babies, their infants. This *verse* is quoting what Jeremiah said in *Jeremiah 31:15-16 Thus says YHVH; A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, and bitter weeping; Rachel weeping for her children refused to be comforted for her children, because they were not. 16 Thus says YHVH; Refrain your voice from weeping, and your eyes from tears: for your work (obedience) SHALL be rewarded, says YHVH; and they (the children) SHALL come again from the land of the enemy.*

YHVH is telling us that whatever was taken away from Israel **WILL** be restored, so that in one way or another, YHVH promises us that we will see our loved ones again, either on this side of eternity or on the next, and that is **WHY** He admonishes us **NOT** to weep.

Now the time has come for Messiah to return to Israel. *Verse 19 But when Herod was dead, behold, a messenger of YHVH appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, 20 Saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and go into the land of Israel: for they are dead which sought the young child's life.*

Our heavenly Father, through His foreknowledge, has meticulously planned these events to fulfill His plan of Redemption onto Salvation for all people that would be Israel, and that means **ALL** people who willingly and lovingly choose to believe, follow, obey and **DO** His Torah of Life, His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, His Directives for everlasting Life.

The lesson that I believe YHVH wants us all to learn, **IS** found in the words, *for they are dead who sought the young child's life*. The young child is Messiah, and Messiah is the Living **Torah** made flesh, and therefore, that means that **ALL** who **SEEK** to **KILL** the Torah, those that seek to change, annul, remove, abolish, or do away with the Torah of YHVH, in whole or in part, **WILL** experience everlasting death, **IF** they do **NOT** change their attitude towards the Father's **Torah of Life**, His Ways, and choose instead to believe, follow, obey and **DO** the Father's Torah as Messiah **DID** and **TAUGHT** us to **DO**.

Verse 21 And Joseph arose, and took the young child and his mother, and came into the land of Israel.

The fact that Messiah came into the Land of Israel as was prophesied, **IS** very important, for it confirms to us that whatever our heavenly Father prophesies will happen, **DOES** indeed come to pass, and it should build up our Trust in His Words even more, so that we can come to the point that we automatically believe whatever YHVH prophesies in Scripture, believe that **IT WILL** indeed come to pass.

Verse 22 But when he heard that Archelaus did reign in Judea in the room of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there: notwithstanding, being warned of Elohim in a dream, he turned aside into the parts of Galilee:

YHVH is **NOT** mocked, and He will ensure that His plans of redemption onto salvation for His Israel, will come to fruition in His timing, and **BY** His omnipotent means. Regardless of what plots or plans the enemies of Israel try hatch, they will come to nothing or be defeated, so that they are not successful, for YHVH's desire is that **NONE** would perish, but that all would enter into His everlasting Kingdom, because they have willingly chosen of their own free will to believe, follow obey and Do His Torah of Life.

Verse 23 And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, He shall be called a Nazarene.

(The name Nazareth or Natzaret in Hebrew, is from the root word Natzar, נָצַר which means to guard, keep, watch over, and that is why our heavenly Father ensured that Messiah was raised up in Natzaret, so that He would be known as a Natzarene, which describes who He truly is, He is our Guardian, our Keeper, the One whom the Father has tasked with watching over **ALL** who willingly and lovingly choose to abide in Him).
Amein

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*Have a great Elohim blessed week and may YHVH bless your every thought,
and your every deed. Until we meet again. Shalom Alechem!*