



**The Oaks Baptist Church**

Grand Prairie, Texas



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## Confirming Messiah's Birth

Matt 2:7-10, 16-23

**Jesus Christ the Fulfillment**

**A Study in Matthew**

Date	Lesson	Text
12/04	Lineage of Jesus	1:1-17; Ruth 4:13-17
12/11	Emmanuel's Birth	1:18-25
<b>12/18</b>	<b>Confirming His Birth</b>	<b>2:7-23</b>
01/08	Special Lesson	Bro. Cisneros
01/15	Strength in Temptation	4:1-11
01/22	Acts of Healing	9:27-34; 11:2-6
01/29	Declared in Prayer	11:25-30
02/05	Revealed in Rejection	13:54-58
02/12	Canaanite Woman	15:21-28
02/19	Declared by Peter	16:13-27
02/26	Witnessed by Disciples	17:1-12
03/04	Anointed in Bethany	26-6-13
03/11	Review and Summary	

**Food for Thought**

**Mary's Christmas**

Almighty God became a man  
By lowly, humble birth; And Mary  
treasured in her heart this Gift of  
boundless worth. God came to  
live with us so that we could  
live with Him.

*You will conceive and give birth  
to a son, and you are to call  
Him Jesus.*

**(Luke 1:31 NIV)**

*(From "Our Daily Bread", Dec 25, 2009)*

Warren Wierebe once wrote, "What a paradox that a babe in a manger should be called mighty! Yet even as a baby, Jesus Christ revealed power. His birth affected the heavens as that star appeared. The star affected the Magi, and they left their homes and made that long journey to Jerusalem. Their announcement shook King Herod and his court" ("His Name Is Wonderful," Christianity Today, vol. 30, no. 18). It is the amazing effect Jesus' birth had on the Magi and the shocking effect it had on Herod that we look at this week. We tend to underestimate the significance of the visit of the wise men in their search for Jesus. These men undertook a journey that required a great deal of time and effort in preparation and execution. This was foreign travel at its best and long before the ease of an airplane. Jesus had been born in a stable in the ancestral village of King David, Bethlehem. It seems strange that the family did not return home to Nazareth, but perhaps they felt that Jesus was not old enough for the trip to Nazareth. The star guiding the wise men stopped over a house, where they could worship Him and give Him gifts. Christmas cards showing them at the stable are not accurate. We look upon the gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh and wonder about their significance. We may also trace gift giving at Christmastime to this incident. One aspect we might overlook is that Joseph and Mary were financially limited. Perhaps they had saved some money, and it may be that Joseph had earned some extra as a carpenter, but the trip to Egypt would cost money. The gold given by the wise men would have helped. **The Lord took care of the details.**

"In the early days of the automobile a man's Model-T Ford stalled in the middle of the road. He couldn't get it started no matter how hard he cranked nor how much he tried to advance the spark or adjust things under the hood. Just then a chauffeured limousine pulled up behind him, and a wiry, energetic man stepped out from the back seat and offered his assistance. "After tinkering for a few moments the stranger said, 'Now try it' Immediately the engine leaped to life. The well dressed individual then identified himself as Henry Ford. I designed and built these cars,' he said, 'so I know what to do when something goes wrong'" (www.elbourne.org). Events surrounding the birth of the promised Messiah did not go smoothly. **When something seemingly went wrong, though, the One who designed and promised the birth showed that He was master of the whole situation; everything would work just as He intended.**

King Herod was a disturbed and unstable man. He reacted to the news of the birth of Jesus with terror and detailed inquiry, arranging a secret meeting with learned men so that he could carry out a diabolical death plan (cf. vs. 16). On their journey toward the city of Bethlehem, the learned men recognized a familiar, unique star in the heavens. They reacted to the star's presence with abundant joy and followed it to the place of Messiah's birth. The evil king Herod was part of the narrative of Messiah's promised birth. He used his earthly authority to try to usurp God's magnificent plan. God, however, used a unique star that He designed to confirm not only that the Messiah was born but also that He was in control. When evil tries to dominate and damage our lives, God confirms His sovereign love and grants us His peace. The learned men did not act according to Herod's wicked schemes. He became enraged and placed in motion his murderous plan to eliminate every boy who was two years old and under who lived in Bethlehem and in the surrounding area, thus fulfilling a prophecy (cf. Jer. 31:15). Jesus, however, had been taken into Egypt. The evil one, Satan, will do whatever he can in his effort to derail God's sovereign will. Until God ushers in the eternal state, evil will always try to triumph over righteousness. **But God confirms His sovereign plan through fulfilled prophecy, granting His children hope and courage to continue their walk with the Lord.** *(from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator)*

## NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

### **CONFIRMED THROUGH WORSHIP (MATT 2:7-10)**

#### God rejects insincere worship (7-8)

Insincere worship uses rules of man (Matt 15:9)  
Insincere worship is where sin hinders worship (Isaiah 1:15-17)  
Insincere worship is not accepted by God (Isaiah 29:13)  
Insincere worship is when there is no listening to God (Eccl. 5:1)  
Insincere worship does not practice forgiving (Matt 5:23-24)

#### Worship through true-hearted seeking (9-10)

True-hearted seeking by worshiping in spirit and in truth (John 4:23-24)  
True-hearted seeking by God looking at the sincere heart (1 Sam 16:7)  
True-hearted seeking with a broken and contrite heart (Ps 51:17)  
True-hearted seeking by offering our bodies as living sacrifices and being transformed (Rom 12:1-2)

### **CONFIRMED THROUGH DESTRUCTION (MATT 2:16-18)**

#### Destruction through death (16)

Destruction through death because sometimes God allows death so that man's spirit will be saved (1 Cor 5:3-5)  
Destruction through death, but even though man can kill the body God has control of the soul (Matt 10:28)  
Destruction through death, but Jesus destroyed death (1 Cor 15:22-26)  
Destruction through death, but Jesus brought life beyond death (John 11:21-27)

#### Destruction that has been prophesized (17-18)

Prophesized that those who do not know God will be destroyed, but those who know Him will be glorified (2 Thess 1:7-10)  
Prophesized that many will see destruction or life because of Jesus (Luke 2:34-35)  
Prophesized that the capstone will fall on some and cause destruction because of rejection (Matt 21:42-44)  
Prophesized that even in destruction Jesus can raise up again (John 2:19-22)

### **CONFIRMED THROUGH PROTECTION (MATT 2:19-23)**

#### Protection through guidance from God (19-20)

Guidance is knowing that where you are is where God wants you (Numbers 9:23)  
God guides more than we think (Ruth 2:20)  
How to receive God's guidance (Psalm 25:4)

#### Protection that requires immediate response (21)

Obedience must not be delayed (Luke 9:61-62)  
Many times immediate response is required to receive results (Acts 9:34)  
Consider each moment as an opportunity to be obedient to God (Ps 90:12)

#### Protection through fulfillment of God's plans (22-23)

Everything is fulfilled through Jesus (Matt 5:17)  
God fulfills every good purpose (2 Thess 1:11)  
God will faithfully fulfill His purpose for every individual (Ps 138:8)  
God never stops His work in His people, but carries it to completion (Phil 1:6)  
God's plans stand firm forever (Ps 33:11)  
Man has plans, but God's purpose prevails (Prov 19:21)