

11/9/25

Sermon Title: Jesus, who came as the King of the Jews

Preacher: Pastor Kim Soonbae

Scripture Passage: Matthew 2:1-23

The Magi Visit the Messiah

¹ After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem

² and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

³ When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him.

⁴ When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born.

⁵ “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:

⁶ “‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.’”

⁷ Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared.

⁸ He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

⁹ After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was.

¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were overjoyed.

¹¹ On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

¹² And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

The Escape to Egypt

¹³ When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. “Get up,” he said, “take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.”

¹⁴ So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt,
¹⁵ where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: “Out of Egypt I called my son.”

¹⁶ When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi.

¹⁷ Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

¹⁸ “A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more.”

The Return to Nazareth

¹⁹ After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt
²⁰ and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child’s life are dead.”

²¹ So he got up, took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel.

²² But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning in Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Having been warned in a dream, he withdrew to the district of Galilee,

²³ and he went and lived in a town called Nazareth. So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets, that he would be called a Nazarene.

Matthew quoted the Old Testament to testify to the Jews—who were well acquainted with the Scriptures—that Jesus is indeed the Messiah promised by God.

In chapter 1, Matthew explained that Jesus, as a descendant of David, came as the Savior to redeem sinners.

Then, in this chapter, Matthew again cites the Old Testament to show that Jesus is not only the King of the Jews but also the King of the entire world.

Through the visit of the wise men from the East—who followed a star to worship the newborn King of the Jews—the violent reaction of King Herod upon hearing of this birth, the flight of Jesus into Egypt due to Herod’s persecution, and His later return to Nazareth after Herod’s death, Matthew presents clear evidence that Jesus is the promised Messiah.

To understand this passage, we must first look at Herod, the king of Judea.

King Herod was not of Jewish descent but an Idumean (Edomite), a descendant of Esau.

Despite this, he demonstrated exceptional political skill and was appointed by the Roman emperor as ruler over Judea.

To maintain his power, he imposed heavy taxes on the people to pay tribute to Rome and conscripted them into large-scale construction projects.

At the same time, Herod tried to win favor with the Jews by converting to Judaism and rebuilding the Jerusalem Temple into a magnificent structure—often called the “Third Temple”—comparable in splendor to Solomon’s Temple.

Yet, he never gained the true support of the Jewish people.

Being a Gentile who did not know God, Herod ignored the Law that required the high priest to come from the line of Aaron and instead appointed whomever he pleased.

He even built temples for the worship of the Roman emperor.

It was in this spiritually dark and corrupt age under Herod’s rule that Jesus Christ, the Light of the world, was born to dispel the darkness.

However, the Jews, who were not spiritually awake, did not realize that He was the Messiah.

Instead, it was the Gentile wise men from the East who recognized that the King of the Jews had been born and came to Jerusalem to worship Him.

The fact that these wise men knew the Old Testament prophecies about the Messiah suggests that they were scholars—well-versed in astronomy and astrology—who came from Babylon, where many Jews had once lived in exile.

The Magi saw the star announcing the birth of the King of the Jews and journeyed to Jerusalem to worship Him.

Through this star, God Himself revealed to the world the birth of the long-awaited Messiah.

¹ After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem

² and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

Matthew specifies the time and place of Jesus’ birth, stating that He was born in Bethlehem of Judea during the reign of King Herod.

Bethlehem is a small village located about 8 kilometers (5 miles) south of Jerusalem.

It is the prophesied birthplace of the Messiah and also the hometown of King David, who established the true kingdom of Israel.

(Micah 5:2) “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.”

(1 Samuel 16:1) The LORD said to Samuel, “How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and be on your way; I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king.”

Bethlehem means “house of bread,” a name given because the region was fertile and abundant in grain and fruit.

It was in this very place that Jesus Christ was born — the One who came to give all humanity the rich bread of life.

When the Magi arrived in Jerusalem, they asked, “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews?”

At that time, Gentiles understood and referred to the Messiah as the “King of the Jews.”

This was because Jews scattered across the world after the Babylonian invasion had spread the message that a Messiah would arise from Judah to deliver His people and bring blessing to all nations.

The Magi, having seen His star, were certain that the King of the Jews had been born and assumed that the Jewish people themselves would already know this. Therefore, they came to Jerusalem to inquire about the newborn King — but ironically, the Jews were completely unaware of the event.

In contrast to the Magi, who came to worship the newborn King, the news caused great turmoil among the people of Judea.

³ When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him.

The news of the birth of the “King of the Jews” was nothing short of shocking to King Herod, who was consumed by his lust for power.

It was also a fearful event for the people — though they longed for the coming of the Messiah, their hearts were not truly prepared to receive Him.

King Herod became obsessed with finding the Christ.

⁴ When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born.

⁵ “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:

⁶ “But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.”

When King Herod asked the chief priests and the scribes where the Christ was to be born, they pointed to Bethlehem as the birthplace of the Messiah, as recorded in **Micah 5:2**.

(Micah5:2) “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.”

King Herod secretly inquired of the wise men the exact time the star had appeared, and then sent them to Bethlehem.

⁷ Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared.

⁸ He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

Herod asked the wise men when the star had appeared in order to determine the exact time of Christ’s birth — his true intention was to find and kill all the male children in Bethlehem and its surrounding areas who were of that age group.

Concealing his evil scheme, Herod sent the wise men to Bethlehem, pretending to be interested, and told them to report back once they had found the child.

The star guided the wise men on their way, stopping over the place where the child was.

Overwhelmed with joy, they rejoiced greatly at having found the place where the “King of the Jews” was born.

⁹ After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was.

¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were overjoyed.

The wise men worshiped the child and presented their gifts to Him.

¹¹ On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

The wise men presented valuable and precious gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Gold symbolized the Messiah's kingship, frankincense represented His divinity, and myrrh foreshadowed Christ's suffering and death — revealing Jesus Christ as King, Priest, and the One who would be buried.

God then warned the wise men in a dream not to return to King Herod.

¹² And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

After the wise men departed, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph, warning him that King Herod was seeking the child to kill Him.

The angel instructed Joseph to take the baby and His mother, Mary, and flee to Egypt. Joseph immediately obeyed.

Indeed, Jesus—the King of the Jews and the Savior—was not welcomed in His own land but became a fugitive, fleeing to a foreign country.

Yet this was part of God's sovereign plan to protect His Son.

¹³ When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him."

¹⁴ So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt,

¹⁵ where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: "Out of Egypt I called my son."

At that time, Egypt was a Roman province but lay outside Herod's jurisdiction, and about one million Jews lived there in concentrated communities.

Joseph, Mary, and the baby Jesus stayed in Egypt until King Herod's death in 4 B.C. Later, following the angel of the Lord's instructions, they returned to Nazareth.

Matthew explains this event by quoting the message of the prophet Hosea.

(Hosea 11:1) “When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son.

In fact, this passage originally refers to God’s deliverance of the Israelites from Egypt, but Matthew applies it to Jesus.

Inspired by the Holy Spirit, Matthew recognized that the history of Israel (God’s children) was being reenacted within the life of Jesus (God’s only Son).

By showing that the personal life of Jesus—the climax of redemptive history—encompasses the history of God’s people from both the Old and New Testaments, Matthew implies that Jesus’ ministry goes far beyond the national liberation achieved by Moses; it is for the eternal salvation of all humanity.

When King Herod realized that the wise men had not returned to him, he became furious and issued an order to kill all male children in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under.

¹⁶ When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. Herod’s massacre was the result of spiritual ignorance regarding the “King of the Jews.”

He did not understand that Jesus had come to deliver Israel from the bondage of sin, mistakenly thinking that He had come as a political king over the land.

Nevertheless, by God’s power, Jesus was protected from Herod’s hand.

Matthew then cites the prophecy of the prophet Jeremiah once again.

¹⁷ Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

¹⁸ “A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more.”

This passage originally depicts Rachel, giving birth to Benjamin while on her way from Ramah to Ephrath (Bethlehem) to settle in Canaan, weeping over the descendants who would be taken captive to Babylon because of sin.

Matthew overlays this image with the sorrow of Israel's mothers (Rachel) witnessing the collapse of the Davidic monarchy and the exile of the people to foreign Babylon, as well as the grief of the mothers in Bethlehem whose infants were killed by another foreigner, Herod.

Yet this weeping will soon end.

Jesus, a descendant of David, will become the "King of the Jews" and rule over Israel, bringing an end to all suffering and tears.

The new covenant, promised by God to Jeremiah, will be proclaimed to all Israel.

After King Herod's death, Joseph, following the angel of the Lord's instructions, returns to the land of Israel.

¹⁹ After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt
²⁰ and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child's life are dead."

²¹ So he got up, took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel.

After Herod's death, the Roman Emperor Caesar Augustus divided Herod's former territory into three parts: Archelaus received Judea, Samaria, and Idumea; Herod Philip I received Batanea and Trachonitis; and Herod Antipas received Galilee and Perea.

However, Archelaus, who ruled over Judea, was cruel and violent like his father. Fearing to return to Judea, Joseph was guided by the angel of the Lord to settle in Nazareth in the region of Galilee.

²² But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning in Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Having been warned in a dream, he withdrew to the district of Galilee,

²³ and he went and lived in a town called Nazareth. So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets, that he would be called a Nazarene.

Nazareth was a town in Galilee, located about 90 km north of Jerusalem.

The land was sandy and infertile, making it economically very poor, and as a result, it was looked down upon and despised by many.

Even so, God guided Joseph to this place in order to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophets.

Beloved members of Church of Godly Dreams,

Jesus Christ came into this dark and corrupt age under King Herod as the true Light, the King of the Jews, and the Savior of all humanity.

Yet the Jews of that time, though they were waiting for the Messiah whom God had promised to send, were not spiritually awake and failed to recognize Him.

Instead, it was the Gentile wise men from the East who saw His star, recognized that the King of the Jews had been born, and came to worship Him.

When news of the birth of this “King of the Jews” spread, the reactions were shocking.

Herod, though not a Jew but the ruler over Judea, feared that the Child might threaten his political power and sought to kill Him.

The Jewish people, who longed for a Messiah to deliver them from political and national oppression, did not rejoice at the news either.

Instead, they were afraid that it might bring political and social turmoil.

How could such a thing happen?

First, they were ignorant of the true nature of the Messiah whom God had promised to send.

They expected a political ruler who would liberate them from Roman oppression, not a spiritual Savior who would free them from the bondage of sin.

Second, although they waited for the Messiah in their minds, they were not prepared for Him in their hearts.

They had grown too accustomed to the visible world and believed that what they could see was all there was.

Thus, they feared any change that would disturb their comfort and familiarity.

But God's plan of salvation cannot be stopped by human rejection.

Under the protection of God's power, Jesus fulfilled His mission as the true King by dying on the cross and rising again to save all humanity.

And now, as He promised, Jesus will soon return.

But this time, He will not come as the Savior—He will come as the Judge.

Before the eyes of all people, with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God, He will descend from heaven.

Those who are not in Christ, who have not received forgiveness of sin, will face judgment.

But those who are in Christ—those who have entered into the New Covenant through His blood—will reign with Him in the Kingdom of God.

Then, no more opportunities will be given.

If you are not ready at that time, you will not be saved but will be cast into eternal death.

So, be spiritually awake!

Everything you see in this world will vanish like the morning dew on that day.

Be one of those whose name will be called at the sound of the trumpet—one who is ready to meet the returning King, Jesus Christ.