

MATTHEW 2 vs 11

11 And when they came into the house / remember: this is that exotic group that had come from the East to Jerusalem. Apparently, they hadn't seen the star of late... and turned their caravan towards Jerusalem... thinking that's the capitol city of: this One born King of the Jews.



Matthew Henry's comments from the early 1700s are worth sharing. Their question is: Where is He that is born King of the Jews? They do not ask whether there were such a One born. And to this question, they doubted not but to have a ready answer; and to find all Jerusalem worshipping at the feet of this new King. But they come from door to door with this question, and no man can give them any information. And Matthew Henry makes a side comment: There is more gross ignorance in the world, and in the church too, than we are aware of.

He continues: However, they pursue the inquiry: Where is He that is born King of the Jews? Are they asked: Why do they make this inquiry? It is because they have seen His star in the East. Are they asked: What business have you with Him that is King of the Jews? They have their ready answer: We are come to worship Him. They conclude: in the process of time, He will be their King too; therefore, they want to gain the favor of Him, and those about Him -- weren't they surprised! But now they know where to look; and now they have come to Bethlehem. And isn't it interesting that not one person from the court, the church or the city... out of a sense of conscience, civility or curiosity... even followed them.

Matthew writes...

And when they came into the house,

they saw the young Child / 9 times in a handful of verses, this **young Child** is in focus. Isn't it a little excessive? I mean Matthew, how many times do you need to mention the **young Child**? Now obviously, some lesson is being driven home here! Let's see if we can figure it out.

And when they came into the house, they saw the young Child. / Got it! And Matthew adds, almost like an afterthought...

with Mary / not... with Mary mother full of it, and hocus pocus, claptrap... stuff!

You know when Mary responded to the angel who appeared to her, she said: *My spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for He has regarded the low estate of His handmaiden... and He has done great things to me; holy is His Name – Luke 2.* Wow!! That woman knew she needed a Savior, and she lets us know her Savior was not in Rome. Luke tells us, more women... just like her were coming. God's handmaidens who also know great things -- Acts 2. One last thing about this dear woman, the only other advice recorded in the Bible that she gave to others is very wise; found in: John 2. *Whatever He says to you, do it.* Whatever else is attributed to that woman... wasn't found worthy of finding its way into the scriptures.

MATTHEW 2 vs 11

And when they came into the house,

they saw the young Child.

with Mary / oh yeah! his mother ...and I bet she is a very nice lady...

and / these people from the East,

fell down, and worshiped... Him / not: them, not her.

Matthew continues...

and when they had opened their treasures / when they had unpacked their treasure chests,

they presented to Him / not them,

gifts; gold, and frankincense and myrrh.

Gold, the gift of royalty;

frankincense, the gift of incense to the Divinity;

myrrh, the gift of sorrow and sadness... anticipating His death.

And all these stories are highly compressed. How long they were there... we do not know. What we do know is... as Professor Edersheim said, This is not how we tell fabulous fables.

Verse ¹² And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod,

they departed into their own country another way / they withdrew and went their way.

¹³ And when they departed / when they withdrew,

behold / pay attention,

the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream / literally, the angel of the Lord shined to Joseph in a dream.

Here, we see God is not a boastful braggart. He's confident about who He is. And apparently Joseph is unaware of the danger the Child is in. So, this heavenly visitor appears...

to Joseph in a dream, saying,

MATTHEW 2 vs 11

Arise, and take the young Child / oh! Notice the order of importance...

and His mother / and it's sort of funny... It's like... what's her name?

and flee to Egypt,

and you be there until I bring you word / stay there and don't move until I tell you,

for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him / Herod wasn't interested with anyone else; and probably hearing that... Joseph was quick to obey. He knew the meaning of: urgency!

¹⁴ **When he arose** / when Joseph rose up,

he took the young Child / he probably grabbed the Child... and headed out the door!

Oh! and His mother / uh? What's her name?!

by night.

It seems as if they moved that night. Now some people in the church can't move that fast; they need a committee meeting. But Joseph knows: when God is talking... **MOVE!** He wasn't going to argue with the Lord saying, If you want this Child to be the Savior of the world... You better provide us with at least a camel... or two! **NO!**

Joseph got up... and obeyed... and took the young Child... and they dep... oh!

And His mother...also!

and they departed... to Egypt:

¹⁵ **And they were there until the death of Herod:**

that it be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet / the prophet Hosea saying,

Out of Egypt have I called My son.

¹⁶ **Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked by the wise men,**

was exceeding wrath / he was pissed off! Now history records he was a sociopath... barbarous, brutal; he had already murdered 2 of his sons; he was a freak; a total freak,

and he sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem / roman tradition says it was 14,000 ... It wasn't; but if there were only 14 children, they became the first martyrs in the army of this newborn King.

MATTHEW 2 vs 11

and he slew all the children who were in Bethlehem,

and in all its coasts,

from two years old and under,

according to the time which he had diligently inquired of the wise men.

And by the way, Herod even murdered a third son of his during this time.

It makes you wonder: Was this 70-year-old politician afraid of those two-year-olds? Augustus Caesar is reported to have said: It is better to be Herod's pig... than Herod's son. But enough said of that politician... he's dead.

Verse ¹⁷ Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying,

¹⁸ In Rama there was a voice heard, weeping, and great mourning; Rachel weeping for her children, and would not be comforted, because they were not.

This is where Israel's wife Rachel died. This is where king David was born. Bethlehem was a blessed town.

Verse ¹⁹ But when Herod was dead / we know this date was around 4BC,

behold / pay attention,

an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph / who was in Egypt,

²⁰ Saying, Arise, and take the young Child / oh!

and His mother,

and go to the land of Israel:

for they are dead who sought the young Child's life.

²¹ And he arose,

and took the young Child... and...? / did you get it? You're right!

His mother / what's her name?!

And Matthew, inspired by the Holy Spirit... didn't even write her name, except once... respectfully,

and entered the land of Israel.

MATTHEW 2 vs 11

²² **But when he heard that Archelaus / another Edomite,**

did reign in Judaea in place of his father Herod,

he was afraid to go there:

but being warned of God in a dream,

he turned aside into the parts of Galilee / and isn't it interesting how God provides? With Galilee, 100 miles north of Jerusalem; and Bethlehem of Judaea south of Jerusalem... there was Samaria, a buffer-zone in-between; a region avoided by the Jewish people. And people rarely traveled more than 20 or 25 miles from their home in those days.

Matthew writes...

²³ **And he came / Joseph and the family,**

and dwelt in a city called Nazareth / actually it's a small town:

that it be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets,

He shall be called a Nazarene / now, Jesus was not a Nazarite... in the Hebrew Bible, this word is: *nazar*... meaning: **branch**. The prophet wrote: *And there will come forth a rod from the stem of Jesse, and a Branch will grow from his roots: and the Spirit of the Lord will rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might; the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. And He will be a fresh scent -- Isaiah 11; nazar is the root of the name: Nazareth.*

And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth,

that it be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets,

He shall be called: **Nazar.**