

# MATTHEW 2 vs 11

**11 And when they were come 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 1700's... on this event 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.

Henry 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 were come into the house,**

**they saw the young Child** (...9 times in a handful of verse, this **young Child** is in focus. Isn't it a little excessive? I mean Matthew, how many time 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 were come 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!

(Just...)

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

**and** (...these people from the East)

**fell down, and worshipped... Him** (...not: them, not her)

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(Matthew continues...)

**and when they had opened their treasures** (...when they had unpacked their treasure chests),

**they presented unto 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 <sup>12</sup> And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod,**

**they departed** (...they withdrew) **into their own country another way.**

**<sup>13</sup> And when they were departed** (...when they withdrew),

**behold** (pay attention),

**the angel of the Lord ‘appeareth’ 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,**

**Arise, and take the young Child** (...oh!)

**and His mother** (...and it’s sort of funny... It’s like... what’s her name?)

**and flee into Egypt,**

**and be thou there until I bring thee word** (...stay there and don’t move until I tell you to)

**for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him** (...and probably hearing that Joseph was quick to obey. He knew the meaning of: urgency!)

**<sup>14</sup> When he arose** (...when Joseph arose),

**he took the young Child** (...he probably grabbed the Child... and headed out the door!)

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**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... into Egypt:**

**<sup>15</sup> And was there until the death of Herod:**

**that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet** (...the prophet Hosea) **saying,**

**Out of Egypt have I called My son.**

**<sup>16</sup> Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of 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)

**and he 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.**

(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 of that politician; he's dead)

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Verse <sup>17</sup> **Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying,**

<sup>18</sup> **In Rama there was a voice heard, weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, and would not be comforted, because they are not.**

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

Verse <sup>19</sup> **But when Herod was dead** (...this was around 4 BC),

**behold** (...pay attention),

**an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph** (...who was) **in Egypt,**

<sup>20</sup> **Saying, Arise, and take the young Child (oh!) and His mother, and go into the land of Israel: for they are dead which sought the young Child's life.**

<sup>21</sup> **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 into the land of Israel.**

<sup>22</sup> **But when he heard that Archelaus** (...another Edomite) **did reign in Judaea in the room of his father Herod** (...in the place of his father, ruthless Herod),

**he was afraid to go thither** (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...)

<sup>23</sup> **And he** (...Joseph and the family) **came**

**and dwelt in a city** (...actually it's a small town) **called Nazareth:**

**that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets,**

**He shall be called a Nazarene.**