

Herod Was Troubled



Matthew 2:1–12 · This week: We Have Come to Worship Him, Matthew 2; Luke 2

In the manual: **Come, Follow Me lesson 02, "We Have Come to Worship Him," on Gospel Library**

START

When wise men came to Jerusalem looking for a newborn king, the king already on the throne was troubled (Matthew 2:1–3).

READ TOGETHER

Herod ruled Judea under the Romans and guarded his power fiercely. He called the chief priests and scribes and asked them where the Christ was supposed to be born (Matthew 2:4).

MATTHEW 2:3–6

³When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. ⁵And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet, ⁶And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.

WHAT IT TEACHES

The scribes knew the answer right away. Micah had written that a ruler would come out of Bethlehem, a town about five miles south of Jerusalem (Micah 5:2).

The wise men traveled a long way and had to ask where to go. The scribes could quote the verse, and Matthew records no trip by any of

them. Knowing about Jesus and going to him are two different things.

Herod said he wanted to worship the child too, but he meant to kill him (Matthew 2:8; 2:16). The wise men “fell down, and worshipped him,” and gave him gold, frankincense, and myrrh (Matthew 2:11).

God warned the wise men in a dream, and they went home another way (Matthew 2:12). He guided the seekers and protected the child.

TALK ABOUT IT

The scribes knew where the Savior would be born, and the wise men went to find him. What is one thing we know about Jesus that we could act on this week?

TAKE TO CHURCH

The scribes Herod called together could quote Micah’s prophecy about Bethlehem, only a few miles away. The wise men traveled far to worship. Knowing about Jesus becomes worship when we go to him.