

Truth vs. Tradition

Intro

- Reintroduce Jewishness of Jesus and of Gospel of Matthew
- Review points from last time
 - Jesus came to save us. Jeshua.
 - Jesus came to be God with us. Immanuel.
- Reiterate virgin birth. Do I have to believe that to be saved? If you have a hard time with it initially, you will come to believe it. Key element to Jesus as Meshiach. If not virgin born, not Son of God, not Meshiach.
- Spoken/Written by the prophet to verify authority and authenticity.

Matthew 2

2:1-12

- 2:1-6
 - Jesus not born at Christmas, probably this time of year. Explain.
 - **after Jesus was born** - not the Nativity scene we have in mind.
 - **Herod** - 4'11", very intelligent, very paranoid, very violent, amazing builder (**slides**), not Jewish, Edomite.
 - **wise men / magi**
 - Priestly class, Daniel once ruler over, became responsible for choosing/crowning king (who is more powerful).
 - How many were there? Probably an armed escort.
 - King makers from neighboring empire come in asking their question. Now wonder fear and paranoia.
 - **God can speak in unconventional ways. The message must be tested by His word. Him speaking through a way does not always fully endorse that way of being of Him. "All truth is God's truth." Yes, and no. Reflections, counterfeits.**
 - The **star** - a luminous body. when it rose / in the east. They were in the East when it appeared. Not a normal star. See as we go.
 - **chief priests and scribes** - all who had served as chief priest, experts and teachers in the law. They knew where Meshiach was to be born. Jesus meets the qualification, can't control that!
 - **Bethlehem** - about 7 miles to the south, where they raised the sheep for temple sacrifice. Mormons and this prophecy.
 - Means "house of bread". Coincidence? I think not.
 - **What will Jesus do? Shepherd His people.**
 - Psalm 23 fro NET
 - *23:1 The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. 23:2 He takes me to lush pastures, he leads me to refreshing water. 23:3 He restores my strength. He leads me down the right paths for the sake of his reputation. 23:4 Even when I must walk through the darkest valley, I fear no danger, for you are with me; your rod and your staff reassure me. 23:5 You prepare a feast before me in plain sight of my enemies. You refresh my head with oil; my*

cup is completely full. 23:6 Surely your goodness and faithfulness will pursue me all my days, and I will live in the Lord's house for the rest of my life.

- Re-read, put it all together. Not the cute little Christmas story is it.
- **2:7-12**
 - Not an ordinary star! It stopped over a particular house. Try that some night.
 - Imagine this showing up at your house! Whose house? Perhaps a family member's, perhaps Joseph started a shop and rented a house. Don't know.
 - All gifts in recognition of His kingship. These men normally chose who the king would be. They recognized He was born to it. Probably influence of Daniel.
 - Dream interpretation was also their thing.

2:13-18

- Appeared to who? **Joseph**, head of the family. **Husbands, you have a responsibility to be actively listening for and to the Lord, and acting upon what He says.**
- Double fulfillment again of prophecy. Initial context is about **Exodus** from **Hosea**.
- Jesus could have been two by this time.
- Demonstration of Herod's paranoia, violence.
- Prophecy fulfilled. Pattern of Satan's attempts to destroy Meshiach. Cain and Abel, circumstances leading to the flood, Judah's sons, Pharaoh and killing boys, Mordecai in Esther, nations invade, etc.
- **The enemy will go overboard trying to destroy God's work in your life. God will protect you through those times, if you listen and obey.**
- Readers of the day may have remembered this event.

2:19-23

- Death of Herod. Ew.
- Joseph seemed to want to go back to Bethlehem, but ended going back to where they originally lived in the first place, Nazareth.
- Nazareth never mentioned in OT, so what does this mean? Word play. Very Jewish. Not Nazarite either, like Samson. One of the titles of Meshiach is the branch, **Is. 11:1**.
- Sometimes you end up back where you started. Don't resist or have disdain for the ways in which God will take you to get you where you need to go. Our journey here.

What can we glean?

- Personal sovereignty.
 - Herod was threatened by this challenge to His sovereignty. Violently. The world.
 - Magi sought Him out. Not to make Him king, but to recognize kingship.
 - Question isn't "have you made Him king" but "have you recognized His right by birth to be your king, and have you surrendered yourself to Him, have you bowed down and worshipped Him as your king?"
- From ch 1 Jesus came to save, to be God with us. From ch 2, came to be king and shepherd.
- Jesus is Meshiach. Born in the house of bread as the bread from heaven, the bread of life. Born a king, raised to be the sacrificial lamb and the shepherd of God's people.
- He came to save, to be with us, to be our king and shepherd. Have you surrendered your sovereignty?