

EPISODE NO. 217

Matt. 2:1-18

The Messiah Had to Come from Bethlehem

1 Jesus was born in Bethlehem, a town in Judea, during the time of King Herod the Great. Look, some wise men from the east traveled to Jerusalem. 2 They asked, “Where is the one who was born to be king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east, and we have come to worship him.”

3 When King Herod heard this, he was disturbed. Everyone else in Jerusalem was too. 4 He gathered all of the most important priests and teachers of the law from the people and asked them where the Messiah would be born. 5 They answered him, “In the town of Bethlehem in Judea, because this was written by the prophet Micah:

6 ‘And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judea,
you are surely not the least important among the leading towns of Judea,
because a Leader will come out from you.

He will shepherd my people, Israel.’ ” (*Micah 5:2*)

7 Then, in secret, Herod called for the wise men. From them he added up the exact time when the star appeared. 8-10 He said, “Go, search very carefully for information about the little child. When you find him, report to me, so that I, too, may come to worship him.” After they had listened to the king, they left. Herod sent them to Bethlehem.

Look, the star which they had seen in the east was leading them. When they saw the star, they were very, very happy. It finally stopped above the place where the child was. 11 They went into the house and saw the little child with Mary, his mother. They bowed down to worship him. They opened their treasures and brought him gifts — gold, perfume, and precious spices.

12 But God used a dream to warn them that they should not return to Herod. So, they returned to their country by a different road.

God Warned Them of Danger

13 After they had gone, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared to Joseph in a dream. The angel said, “Get up! Take along the little child and his mother and escape to Egypt.

Stay there until I speak to you again. Herod is about to begin searching for the little child to kill him.” 14 So, Joseph got ready. He took along the little child and his mother at night and left for Egypt. 15 He stayed there until Herod died, to make what the Lord God had said through the prophet come true:

“I called My Son out of Egypt.” (*Hosea 11:1*)

Herod Killed the Baby Boys

16 When Herod realized that the wise men had made a fool out of him, he was very angry. He ordered his men to kill all the little boys in and around the town of Bethlehem — the boys who were two years old or younger (the exact time which Herod had figured out from the wise men). 17 Then what God had said through Jeremiah the prophet came true:

18“A sound was heard in the town of Ramah.

It was crying and loud screaming.

Rachel is crying for her children:

She will not let anyone comfort her,

because the children are dead.” (*Jeremiah 31:15*)