

MATTHEW 2

NLET

MAGI COME TO JERUSALEM TO FIND THE KING OF THE JEWS

1 Now, the Jesus having been generated in Bethlehem of the *region* of Judea in the days of Herod the King, look! Magi¹ from *of the direction of the sun's* rising were present in Jerusalem, 2 saying, "Where is the One Who has been brought forth² as king of the Jews?

For, we saw the Star *that is HIS* in the *direction of the sun's* rising. And, we have come to prostrate ourselves *in worship* before Him."³

3 Now, having heard *this*, Herod the King³ was agitated. And, all Jerusalem *was agitated* with him.

4 And, having gathered together all the Chief Priests and Scribes of the People, he was inquiring of them where the Anointed *One* is being brought forth⁴.

5 Now, they said to him, "In Bethlehem of the *region* of Judea.

For, in this way it has been lastingly written by agency of the prophet: 6 **"And, you, Bethlehem in the Land of Judea, are in no way least among the leading cities of Judea. For, FROM YOU shall come forth One Who leads, Who shall be a shepherd for the People that are Mine – namely, the descendants of Israel."**⁵

7 Then, Herod, having secretly called the magi, ascertained from them exactly the time when the Star appeared.

8 And, having having sent them to Bethlehem, he said, "Having gone, accurately examine *things* closely⁶ concerning the Child.

Now, whenever you might find Him, report *it* to me, in order that I, for my part, also might prostrate myself *in worship* before Him."

THE MAGI FIND THE KING OF THE JEWS IN BETHLEHEM

9 Now, the *magi*, having heard the king, went.

And, look! The Star which they had seen in the *direction of the sun's* rising led them forward, until having come, it stopped⁷ above where the Child was!

10 Now, having seen the Star, they rejoiced with joy – a great joy, *an exceedingly great joy!*

11 And, having come into the house, they saw the Child with Maria, the mother *that is* His.

And, having fallen *down*, they prostrated themselves *in worship* before Him.

And, having opened the treasures *that were* theirs, they offered to Him gifts:

- gold, and
- frankincense, and
- myrrh

12 And, having received a *divine* warning in relation to a dream not to return to Herod, by another way they went back to the place *that was* theirs.

HEROD BRUTALLY BUT FUTILELY ATTEMPTS TO UTTERLY DESTROY THE CHILD

13 Now, after they went back, look! A *heavenly* messenger of Yahweh⁸ appeared in relation to a dream to Joseph, saying, "Having gotten up, take along the Child and the mother *that is* His by night; and, flee to Egypt. And, be being there until I should ever tell you.

For, Herod is about to seek the Child in order to utterly destroy It."

14 Now, having gotten up, he took along the Child and the mother *that is* His at night and withdrew to Egypt.

15 And, he was there until the death of Herod, in order that the utterance by the ⁹ Lord by agency of the Prophet might be fulfilled, saying, **"Out of Egypt I called the Son *that is* Mine."**¹⁰

16 Then, Herod, having seen that he had been mocked by the magi, was made exceedingly angry. And, having dispatched *soldiers*, he annihilated all the

¹ 'Magi' – likely, royal astronomers from Babylon

² 'brought forth' – or, possibly, 'brought forth into the Created Order'

³ 98% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have 'Herod the King' here instead of 'the king – namely, Herod'.

⁴ 'is being brought forth' – or, possibly, 'is being brought forth into the Created Order'

⁵ A reference to Micah 5:2

⁶ 96% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have 'accurately examine things closely' here instead of 'examine things closely accurately'.

⁷ 98% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have 'stopped' here instead of 'stood'.

⁸ 'YaHWeH' – a transliteration of the Hebrew word יהוה. The New Testament writers often use the unarticulated Greek word for 'Lord' to translate this divine, four-consonant name, especially when quoting Old Testament passages. It means 'the One Who is' or 'He exists'.

⁹ 97% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), include the definite article 'the' here.

¹⁰ A reference to Hosea 11:1b.

male children – *that is*, the ones in Bethlehem and in all the surroundings *that are* its – from two years and under, according to the time which he had ascertained from the magi.

17 Then, the utterance by¹¹ Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled, saying,

18 **“A sound in Ramah was heard:**

Lamentation and¹² mourning – much of it.

It is Rachel, one who is weeping for the children that are hers.

And, she does not desire to be consoled;

Because, they are NOT!”¹³

JESUS AND HIS FAMILY END UP LIVING IN NATZARET

19 Now, after the Herod died, look! A heavenly messenger of Yahweh¹⁴ in relation to a vision while asleep appeared¹⁵ to the Joseph in Egypt, 20 saying, “Arise! Take the Child and the mother *that is* His; and, go into the land of Israel. For, the ones who were seeking the life of the Child has lastingly perished.”!

21 Now, the *Joseph*, having arisen, took the Child and the mother *that is* His along; and, he went¹⁶ into the land of Israel.

22 Now, having heard, “Archelaus is ruling over¹⁷ Judea in place of Herod, the father *that was* his¹⁸”, he was frightened to go back there.

Now, having been divinely warned in relation to a vision while asleep, he returned to the parts of the *region* of Galilee.

23 And, having come, he settled in a city being called ‘Natzaret’, in order that the utterancy by agency of the prophets might be fulfilled that He shall be called ‘a Natzarene’¹⁹.

¹¹ 98% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have a preposition that can be translated ‘by’ here instead of a different preposition that can be similarly translated.

¹² 99.2% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), include the words ‘Lamentation and’ here.

¹³ A reference to Jeremiah 31:15

¹⁴ ‘YaHWeH’ – a transliteration of the Hebrew word יהוה. The New Testament writers often use the unarticulated Greek word for ‘Lord’ to translate this divine, four-consonant name, especially when quoting Old Testament passages. It means ‘the One Who is’ or ‘He exists’.

¹⁵ 98% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have ‘in relation to a vision while asleep appeared’ here instead of ‘appeared in relation to a vision while asleep’.

¹⁶ 99% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have ‘went’ here instead of ‘entered’.

¹⁷ 95% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of

transmission (f35), include the preposition ‘over’ here.

¹⁸ 99.7% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have ‘Herod, the father that was his,’ here instead of ‘the father that was his – namely, Herod’.

¹⁹ ‘Natzarene’ – a transliteration of the Hebrew word נָצֹר, meaning, ‘Branch’. Only the prophet Isaiah in Isaiah 11:1 specifically identifies the coming Savior as a נָצֹר. Matthew refers to “prophets,” plural. The prophet Zechariah uses a synonym which means ‘Branch’ to refer to the coming Savior in Zechariah 3:8 and 6:12. Matthew’s Jewish readers would have been aware that this designation (Natzarene) had come to have a derogative meaning among the Jews, for many Jews despised this remote and insignificant city consisting of partly of Jews and partly of Gentiles and those who might come from this city. Indeed, the unbelieving Jews came to use this term in a derogatory way to refer to Jesus (and His disciples). Truly, many prophets (plural) foretold that the coming Savior would be so despised. Consider Psalm 22:6, Isaiah 49:7 and 53:3, Daniel 9:26 (cf. Lenski).