

INTRODUCTION

- * Last week we began a new study - "Focusing on the Messiah in the book of Matthew."
- * Matthew was a Jewish man writing about the Jewish Messiah to a Jewish audience. As we study his account of life and ministry of Jesus (Y'shua) we want to keep looking at it from that context.
- * Today, we consider a passage that contains one of the most famous segments of the Christmas celebration - the visit of the Wise Men.

INSTRUCTION**I. PROLOGUE (Luke 1:26-27; 2:1-5) ... The Departure from Nazareth****II. REACTIONS TO THE BIRTH OF THE MESSIAH****A. The E_____ of the Magi (v. 1-12)**

1. THEIR P_____ (cf. Deuteronomy 23:4; Acts 7: 2-4; Daniel 1-2; Numbers 24:17)
2. THEIR P_____
3. THEIR P_____ (v. 11)
4. THEIR P_____ (v. 11)

B. The A_____ of the Scribes (v. 4-6)**C. The A_____ of the King (v. 3-4, 7-8, 13-18)**

1. HIS DECEPTION WITH THE MAGI
2. HIS SLAUGHTER OF THE INFANT BOYS

III. EPILOGUE (Matthew 2:19-23) ... The Return to Nazareth**A. The A_____ Appearance (v. 19-20)****B. The P_____ Fulfillment (v. 21-23; cf. Isaiah 11:1; John 1:45-46; Isaiah 53; Psalm 22)****INTROSPECTION**

- * WHAT KIND OF BELIEF AND FAITH DO YOU HAVE? ARE YOU EXPECTANT AND COMMITTED?
- * ARE YOU WILLING FOR THE WORD OF GOD TO CHANGE YOUR PLANS?
- * HOW HAS THE BIRTH OF THE MESSIAH IMPACTED YOUR LIFE?
- * IS THERE A NEED TO "CHANGE THE WAY YOU THINK" ... AND, THEREFORE, ACT?

INTERACTION ... Thoughts & Questions to ponder for later discussion

It may be helpful to re-read the passage before the discussion.

- * Because of sin, there have been and continue to be, horrific and violent acts of men upon men. How do we as believers answer the question, "Where is God in all of that?"
- * What affect does God using potential astrologers have upon your faith? What impact does it have upon your interactions with people today?