

"A STAR IS BORN"

The Gospel of Matthew 2:1-12

Advent 2015: Part 2 / Pastor Matt Jones, Del Rey Church

I. Introduction

- A. The book of Matthew (Matt. 1-28).
- B. The birthright of Jesus (Matt.1:1-17).
- C. The baby of Mary (Matt.1:18-23).

II. Mysterious Magi on a Miraculous Night (Matt. 2:1-12)

- A. The Messiah is born (1:25-2:1a).
- B. The message breaks (2:1b-8).
 - 1. The heavens publicize (1b-2)
 - 2. The Gentiles ponder (2-3)
 - 3. The king plots (3-8)

EXCURSUS:

Who were the Magi?

What was the Star?

- C. The Magi bless (9-12).

III. Conclusion – It's All about Jesus

- A. Jesus is revealed as Savior of all peoples.
- B. Jesus is rejected by secular powers.
- C. Jesus is received in sacrificial praise.

COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS

Reflective Questions for You and Your Small Group

1. What are your plans for Christmas? Are you stressed or worried about them? How can your Community Group pray for you this month?
2. The Magi gave up a lot to pursue the star of Bethlehem. We can see how they walked by faith. God revealed Himself and they responded in faith. Furthermore, it was a faith that was displayed by their works of sacrifice and worship. Discuss how the Magi model the doctrine of salvation by faith alone. Furthermore, discuss the doctrine of Lordship and how these men acted on their faith in the Messiah.
3. While Matthew is not offering the Magi to us as a character study per se, how are you challenged by them personally? Consider how they risked their lives and the sacrifices they offered in worship to Jesus. What do you learn from the example of these men about the Christian life you live?
4. Matthew is communicating to us in the beginning of chapter 2 a historic tragedy that is ironic, specifically these foreign kings who have come to the king of Israel asking him of the whereabouts of the king of Israel. Recall what has been discussed about Herod's status as a puppet king and Jesus as the true king. Considering this tragic irony of missing the King of kings, how might we be challenged to see our blind spots? We live in a nation said to be a Christian nation at yet now we have foreign countries sending us missionaries to evangelize America. How might we be missing the gospel, all the while talking about it? Discuss common distortions of the gospel in many churches that keep Christians from truly being missional, all the while claiming to be missional. Now, make the application closer to home... How might God want to take you personally into a deeper understanding of the simplicity and grace of the gospel of Jesus Christ? How might God want to use you to share the gospel?