

# Matthew 2:1-12

## Visitors from the East

- ◆ Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem in Judea, during the time when Herod was king. Soon afterward, some men who studied the stars came from the East to Jerusalem and asked, “Where is the baby born to be the king of the Jews? We saw his star when it came up in the east, and we have come to worship him.” When King Herod heard about this, he was very upset, and so was everyone else in Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the teachers of the Law and asked them, “Where will the Messiah be born?” “In the town of Bethlehem in Judea,” they answered. “For this is what the prophet wrote: ‘Bethlehem in the land of Judah, you are by no means the least of the leading cities of Judah; for from you will come a leader who will guide my people Israel.’” So Herod called the visitors from the East to a secret meeting and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem with these instructions: “Go and make a careful search for the child; and when you find him, let me know, so that I too may go and worship him.” And so they left, and on their way they saw the same star they had seen in the East. When they saw it, how happy they were, what joy was theirs! It went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. They went into the house, and when they saw the child with his mother Mary, they knelt down and worshiped him. They brought out their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, and presented them to him. Then they returned to their country by another road, since God had warned them in a dream not to go back to Herod.
- ◆ No man can stop the plans of the Lord, Herod tried it and it was all in vain. I liked how they referenced the scriptures to know about the birth of Jesus, despite having all the knowledge they couldn’t stop the prophecy. Having knowledge and implementing it are different facets, we can also have knowledge about the word but the question is how do we apply/implement it in our lives?
- ◆ God guides and leads his people, the men from the east were guided by a star from the Lord. When they went astray, they couldn’t see it anymore, when they went back on course the star reappeared. Let’s get back on course so that the Lord continues to guide and lead us. The Lord continued guiding them even after they had seen the Messiah, they were told to use a different route to avoid Herod.
- ◆ The men from the east thought Herod had good intentions, they believed his word and would have gone back to him with the word about the whereabouts of Jesus Christ. The Lord who knows the intentions of the heart led these men away from Herod. We also need the Lord’s guidance, we don’t see or know people’s intentions but the Lord does; if trust and follow the Lord’s instructions/guidance we will be led away from those with rotten intentions.
- ◆ The birth of Jesus was surrounded by danger but it prevailed in spite of all the dangers. The Lord is greater than all the dangers. Our lives are also surrounded by danger but we should have faith and trust in the Lord who is greater than all things and we will prevail.