

## Jesus: No Spin

### Matthew Chapter Two: Dragon Rage

personal / group study for use with the message of September 27 and 28<sup>th</sup>, 2008

This is the next lesson in the series from the Gospel of Matthew. Matthew wrote this account for the Jewish people so they could recognize that Jesus is the One they have been longing for, the One that their scriptures point to. Jesus is still the One the world longs for.

#### Introduction.

As you study Matthew Chapter Two you will recognize two groups of wise men. One group traveled to find Jesus and worship Him. The other wise man is Joseph, who again, is obedient to the will of God. Joseph traveled to protect Jesus by taking the baby out of Herod's reach.

- Joseph was in the center of God's will, yet still experienced hardship. So don't assume that you aren't on the path God has for you, just because you are having trouble. Remember Jesus told His followers "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world" (John 16:33).

King Herod's reaction was actually incited by Satan against the Savior-King (see Revelation 12:1-5).

#### Read.

**Matthew 2:1-23:** *"After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, 'Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him.'"*

*"When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born. 'In Bethlehem in Judea,' they replied, 'for this is what the prophet has written: 'But you Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel.' Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, 'Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship Him.'"*

*"After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the Child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped Him. Then they opened their treasures and presented Him with the gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.*

*"When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. 'Get up,' he said, 'take the Child and His mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the Child to kill Him.'" So he got up, took the Child and His mother during the night and left for Egypt, where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: "out of Egypt I called my son."*

*"When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:*

*"A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning,  
Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted,  
Because they are no more."*

*"After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the Child's life are dead.'"*

*"So he got up, took the Child and His mother and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning in Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Having been warned in a dream, he withdrew to the district of Galilee, and he went and lived in a town called Nazareth. So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets: "He will be called a Nazarene."*

**Revelation 12:5, 17:** "She gave birth to a son, a male child, who will rule all the nations with an iron scepter. And her Child was snatched up to God and to His throne. Then the dragon was enraged at the woman and went off to make war against the rest of her offspring—those who obey God's commandments and hold to the testimony of Jesus."

*\*All scripture taken from the New International Version (NIV) unless otherwise noted.*

## Questions.

As you study the scriptures remember that we are dependent on God's Holy Spirit to teach us and guide us as we study.

### ThinkAboutIt...

1. What is the greatest gift you have ever received?
2. What one passage of scripture in this weeks reading is the most amazing to you? Why?

### ReflectOnIt...

3. What do the Magi teach you about worship?
4. Record at least four names or titles of Jesus in this chapter.
5. What are the wise men searching for? What do they find?
6. Look for evidence of God's sovereign hand in this passage. Write down what you find.
7. If Joseph hadn't listened to the angel of the Lord, what would have happened to Jesus?
8. Who incited King Herod's murderous plan?

### RespondToIt...

9. Read the verses from Revelation, what do they have to do with this record of King Herod and Baby Jesus?
10. Joseph is a beautiful example of parental love and obedience to God. Because he recognized that he was responsible to protect baby Jesus, he was careful to obey God. Are you responsible to God for the care of someone else? Do you recognize that your obedience to God has an impact on others who look up to you?

## Extra.

Read Matthew 2:15, 18, 23. Record the prophecies fulfilled in those verses. Explain why it is important that Jesus is the fulfillment of these Old Testament scriptures?