

The Gospel of Matthew

“The Origins of Jesus Christ”
(Part Three)
Matthew 2:1-12

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Origins of Jesus

Matthew 1:1-2:23

➤ **Overview**

- Matthew aims to show that Jesus of Nazareth is the Son of David, the promised Messiah
- Matthew frames five “scenes” that show how the origins of Jesus fulfill the Scriptures

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Visit of the Magi

Prominent Features

1. Bethlehem of Judea
 - the place of Jesus’ birth and his family ancestry
 - a small, insignificant village; a town in the tribe of Judah, the birthplace of David

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Visit of the Magi

Prominent Features

2. Herod the King (“the Great”)
 - Appointed “king of the Jews” by Rome; ruled Palestine from 40 to 4 B.C.
 - Known for his building projects, administration, oppressive taxation, ruthless tactics and extreme paranoia

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Visit of the Magi

Prominent Features

3. The Magi
 - Learned, respected men interested in astrology, interpretation of dreams, and magical arts
 - Gentiles “from the east” (Babylon?) who came to pay homage to the “King of the Jews”

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Visit of the Magi

Prominent Features

4. The Star
 - a sign from God given to indicate the time and place of Messiah’s birth
 - was it a naturally occurring phenomena or a supernatural sign?

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Visit of the Magi

Purposes

1. To show that Jesus' birth in Bethlehem is a fulfillment of Scripture about Messiah
 - the Jewish leaders unwittingly confirm the credentials of Jesus as Messiah
 - Jesus' birth in Bethlehem is a fulfillment of the prophesy of Micah 5:2

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Visit of the Magi

Micah 5:2-5

- *written about 700 B.C.*
 - an unequivocal prediction of God's coming ruler whose origins are from insignificant Bethlehem
 - this ruler will come as the Davidic King who will shepherd God's people

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Visit of the Magi

Purposes

2. To foreshadow the eagerness of the Gentiles "worship" of Jesus
 - this eagerness is contrasted with the apathy of the Jewish leaders and the hostility of Herod
 - an illustration of the nations who will come in glad worship of King Jesus (Ps. 72:10-11)

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