

Matthew

Chapter 2



As you prepare for this week's study, begin by praying and asking God to open your heart and mind to understand the truths He has for you this week. Then read through this week's chapter, Matthew 2. As you read through the entire chapter, what are your first impressions? What stands out to you?

Mission 119: Search Matthew and listen to the commentary for Matthew 1-2, if you haven't already done so.

Day 1 - The Magi and the King

Matthew 2:1-15

Not much is known about these Magi (traditionally called "wisemen"). We don't know where they came from or how many there were. Tradition says they were men of high position from Parthia, near the site of ancient Babylon. Some scholars say these Magi were each from a different land, representing the entire world.ⁱ

1) What King is mentioned here? (v.1)

2) Research Magi. What is believed about their background?

3) How did the wisemen refer to Jesus? (v.2) How did Herod refer to Jesus? (v.4)

4) Why do you think the wisemen wanted to find Jesus?

5) What did Herod want the wisemen to do? (v.8)

6) How did the wisemen respond to seeing Jesus? Why? (v.11)

7) How did Joseph know to flee the country? (v.13)

8) What did the Angel of the Lord tell Joseph? (v.13)

9) How did Joseph respond? (v.14)

10) Where did they flee? (v.14)

11) When you read "Egypt" in Scripture, what other stories or events come to mind?

- 12) Read Exodus 12:31-42. Give a one-sentence summary of what happened here.

Day 2 - God's Protection

Matthew 2:16-23

- 1) What was Herod's response to being tricked? (v.16) What do you think this says about Herod?

- 2) What happened in verse 20?

- 3) How did Joseph respond? (v.21)

- 4) What happened in verses 22-23?

- 5) Read verse 2:23. What was Jesus called here?

- 6) There are five dreams in these first two chapters - four of the dreams are Joseph's and the fifth is the dream of the Magi. Note the message and the response for each dream.

a) 1:20 _____

b) 2:12 _____

c) 2:13 _____

d) 2:19-20 _____

e) 2:22 _____

7) **Is there anything in this chapter new to you?

Day 3 - Connecting the Dots...

1) Micah 5:2 is quoted in Matthew 2:6. What essential fact do we learn in this Old Testament prophecy?

2) Read 1 Samuel 17:12. Who else came from Bethlehem?

3) From what we know of the lineage, how were David and Jesus connected? Through whose line were they connected? How were they connected through Mary's line in Luke 3?

4) Read Hosea 11:1-4. What was Hosea recounting here?

5) Do you see a similarity between this Hosea passage and the fact that Jesus was brought out of Egypt in Matthew 2:19?

6) Read Jeremiah 31:15-17. Why was Rachel weeping?

7) Why was this prophecy quoted in Matthew 2:18?

8) What did God promise in Jeremiah 31:16-17, 31-34?

9) Read Isaiah 11:1-5. What will come from the stump and roots?

10) **Which prophecy stood out to you the most? Why?

Day 4 - Walking the Way of Jesus

1) **What qualities of God were displayed in this chapter?

- 2) The Magi bowed down and worshipped the baby. Read Acts 14:11-15 and Revelation 19:10. What does this say to you about worship?

- 3) **When was the last time you paused where you were and bowed down and worshipped the Lord?

- 4) How did the consistency of Joseph's response to the dreams speak to his character?

**Reflect on your own life. Have there been times you have responded like Joseph to a word from the Lord? Have there been times when you haven't?

- 5) The angel of the Lord told Joseph to take Mary and Jesus and to go to the land of Israel. And Joseph went. (v.20) Joseph was warned in another dream and specifically went to the district of Galilee. (v.22) The first dream was general; the second dream was more specific. Has there been a time in your life when the Lord spoke broadly at first and then got more specific as you went and moved? When are times you have heard the Lord broadly? When are times you have heard the Lord specifically?

**Give a testimony of a time when you experienced God's hand of protection.

- 6) Regarding verse 23, there are multiple assumptions or ideas about how to interpret this “prophecy that was fulfilled,” even though this prophecy is not found in the Old Testament. What do you do when you encounter difficult or confusing verses like this in scripture? What is your tendency?

**What key point did you learn this week about walking the narrow road?

- 7) Take five minutes and give thanksgiving to the Lord for His Word. Then take another five minutes and ask the Lord if there is anything else He wants to speak to you. Write down anything you hear.

- 8) **What key point did you learn this week about walking the way of Jesus?

Day 5 - What Do You Think?

“But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” (Matthew 6:33, NIV)

Today, read chapter 2 with a seeking posture, and be attentive to where God is forming your heart, reordering your priorities, and inviting you into His kingdom life. As you do, take time to reflect on how God’s living Word is at work in your life.

Use the questions below to notice where you sense His invitation, conviction, or encouragement. You do not need to answer every question each week. Instead, choose two or three that stand out and spend time with them. Pay attention to where God is leading you toward deeper trust, understanding, and transformation.

- 1) **What part of God's redemptive story became larger, stranger, or more beautiful after studying this chapter?

- 2) **What insights gained from this chapter challenged you to think or act differently?

- 3) Where do you see yourself in this story? Are you the hero, someone in the crowd, or someone in need of grace being revealed?

- 4) **What part of God's kingdom seemed upside down in this passage compared to the kingdom of this world?

- 5) **Did any mystery remain unresolved after reading this chapter? Rather than solving it, how might living with that mystery deepen your trust in God?

- 6) What invitation did Jesus extend here to experience transformation in your life?

- 7) If we lived out the truths we've read about in this chapter in our families, workplaces, churches, and neighborhood, what might become more beautiful about our community? What might become uncomfortable?

ⁱ *Life Application Study Bible*, Notes and Bible Helps, Matthew 2:1-2, p1528.