

The Young Child Lives & Herod Dies!

1) Herod is troubled, 2:1-6.

■ Jesus was born and Herod and all Jerusalem were troubled. Why?

- Human Level: Troubled soul versus faithful servant.
- Spiritual Level: The Dragon versus God Most High.
- Personal Level: Herod versus Joseph.

2) Herod plots murder, 2:7-18.

- Herod implements his plan, 2:7-11.
- God thwarts Herod's plan, 2:12-15.
- Herod's rage boils over to murder, 2:16-18.

3) Herod is dead, 2:19-23.

- Herod dies as one who opposed God.
- Jesus lives.

Ten Prophecies about Jesus' Birth by Mark Driscoll

Here are ten prophecies from the Old Testament, fulfilled in the coming of Jesus:

- Jesus will come from the line of Abraham. Prophecy: Genesis 12:3 . Fulfilled: Matthew 1:1.
- Jesus' mother will be a virgin. Prophecy: Isaiah 7:14 . Fulfilled: Matthew 1:18-23.
- Jesus will be a descendent of Isaac and Jacob. Prophecy: Genesis 17:19 and Numbers 24:17 . Fulfilled: Matthew 1:2.
- Jesus will be born in the town Bethlehem. Prophecy: Micah 5:2 . Fulfilled: Luke 2:1-7.
- Jesus will be called out of Egypt. Prophecy: Hosea 11:1 . Fulfilled: Matthew 2:13-15 .
- Jesus will be a member of the tribe of Judah. Prophecy: Genesis 49:10 . Fulfilled: Luke 3:33.
- Jesus will enter the temple. This is important because the temple was destroyed in A.D. 70 and was never rebuilt. Prophecy: Malachi 3:1 . Fulfilled: Luke 2:25-27.
- Jesus will be from the lineage of King David. Prophecy: Jeremiah 23:5 . Fulfilled: Matthew 1:6.
- Jesus' birth will be accompanied with great suffering and sorrow. Prophecy: Jeremiah 31:15 . Fulfilled: Matthew 2:16.
- Jesus will live a perfect life, die by crucifixion, resurrect from death, ascend into heaven, and sit at the right hand of God. Prophecies: Psalm 22:16 ; Psalm 16:10 ; Isaiah 53:10-11 ; Psalm 68:18 ; Psalm 110:1 . Fulfilled: 1 Peter 2:21-22 ; Luke 23:33 ; Acts 2:25-32 ; Acts 1:9 ; Hebrews 1:3 .
- <http://theresurgence.com/2012/12/24/10-prophecies-about-jesus-birth>

Who were the wise men, the Magi?

The Magi were probably descendants of a very powerful priestly line that reaches all the way back to Abraham and Ur of the Chaldees. There is a definite connection with Daniel, and some wonder if Daniel's influence had a significant effect on their thoughts of the Most High God whom Daniel worshiped.

The Magi were an impressive group. We know there were three gifts but we do not know how many wise men there were. Likely there were many more than three as they swept into Jerusalem on that troubling day.

John MacArthur writes:

- Hundreds of years before Jesus was born. Six hundred. God was setting up the situation for a great Hebrew prophet [Daniel] to rule a group called the Magi so that one day when a baby was born in Bethlehem some of those Magi would find their way to the house where the baby was. That's planning history. And so the syncretistic, hybrid religion of the Magi very much like Judaism, monotheistic and hereditary priesthood, blood sacrifice, believed also in supernatural revelation, believed in prophecy, these common things sort of made Judaism an easy thing for them to accept. And I believe in my heart -and this is just what I believe because of what I see happen in Matthew 2 - that apparently there were some God fearing Gentile Magi historically existing in that eastern part of the world.
- The Magi were so powerful that historians tell us that no Persian was ever able to become king except under two conditions: one - he mastered the scientific and religious discipline of the Mag, and two - he had to be approved of and crowned by the Magi.
- Do you know what they called the wisdom of the Magi? They had a name for it. The name for it was this - the law of the Medes and the Persians. That law was the law or the code defined by the Magi. The law of the Medes and the Persians was the code the scientific religious discipline of the Magi and their wisdom was that which was required for anyone to be a monarch in Persia.
- These were powerful men. And they were not only responsible for making every monarch that was made in that era but they were responsible for setting up the judges as well ... Same thing was true of anybody who was raised in a nobility in the East, the were raised in the law of the Medes and the Persians. All nobility, raised by them. And they were the king makers. They were the kingmakers. And no one ruled at all apart from them. Now, as I mentioned earlier on of their special skills was interpreting dreams. And when they failed to do that and Daniel moved in on top of it and became the chief as we saw in Daniel 5:11, the set-up was made by God to set the scene for Matthew chapter 2.
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