

# New Year Priorities

Matthew 2: 1 – 12

30 December 2018

Series: Christmas 2018

# Matthew 2: 1 - 6

<sup>1</sup> Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, <sup>2</sup> “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him.” <sup>3</sup> When Herod the king heard *this*, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. <sup>4</sup> Gathering together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup> They said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for this is what has been written by the prophet: <sup>6</sup> ‘And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, Are by no means least among the leaders of Judah; For out of you shall come forth a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.’ ”

# Matthew 2: 7 – 12

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod secretly called the magi and determined from them the exact time the star appeared. <sup>8</sup> And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the Child; and when you have found *Him*, report to me, so that I too may come and worship Him.” <sup>9</sup> After hearing the king, they went their way; and the star, which they had seen in the east, went on before them until it came and stood over *the place* where the Child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. <sup>11</sup> After coming into the house they saw the Child with Mary His mother; and they fell to the ground and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they presented to Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. <sup>12</sup> And having been warned *by God* in a dream not to return to Herod, the magi left for their own country by another way.

# The Priority of Worship

- A Quick Textual overview.
- Four types of people described in text.
  - Herod types – Antagonistic toward worship.
  - “The People” types – Fearful of worship.
  - Priests and Scribe types – Apathetic to worship.
  - The wise men type – Desire to worship.
    - Even with less knowledge, and faulty theology.
    - Even at great sacrifice, and expense.

# The Value of Worship

- Notice that when the wise men “found” Jesus they worshipped Him and not Mary, and their worship included giving to Him.
- What the three gifts given Jesus say about worship? It is to be of the highest value!
  - Gold – The value of worship is the best of what you have (God deserves only the best).
  - Frankincense – The value of worship is a pleasant aroma to God (Pleasing God).
  - Myrrh – The value of worship is in sacrifice.

# Conclusion

- Scripture indicates that our eternity will be spent worshipping God, so shouldn't worshipping God be our priority for the new year?
- Wise men and women will take up every opportunity to learn more about Jesus and worship him.
- True worship will give what is most valuable, the first fruit, or the crème de la crème.