

EXPECTATION

Matthew 2:1 – 12

December 11, 2022

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MESSAGE NOTES

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is He who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw His star when it rose and have come to worship Him." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea ..." Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child ..." After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. Then they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.
— Matthew 2:1 – 10 (ESV)

... a star shall come out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel ... — Numbers 24:17 (ESV)

Important Questions:

- **Are you looking for God to lead you on a journey to the King?**

Matthew 2:1 – 2 (ESV)

Matthew 2:3 – 4 (ESV)

Matthew 2:7 (ESV)

And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found Him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship Him." After listening to the king, they went on their way.
— Matthew 2:8 – 9 (ESV)

- **Are you looking for God to lead you on a journey of expectation?**

Matthew 2:9 (ESV)

- **Are you looking for God to lead you on a journey of joy?**

Matthew 2:10 (ESV)

And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary His mother, and they fell down and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered Him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way. — Matthew 2:11 – 12 (ESV)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What is the greatest gift you remember getting as a child and why?
- What key truth did you take away from the teaching this Sunday?
- What are some things that you think God wants you to “see” about your relationship with Him this Christmas?
- What does it look like when we place people or things on the throne of our life over God? How does God sometimes help us to “see” that we have made something more important than Him?
- Who are some friends or family that God may be leading you to invite to Christmas Eve this year? Who is someone God has placed in your life that you could be wildly generous and kind toward in the name of Christ?
- What are some areas where you “see” God may be at work around you or in you right now?
- What does it look like for you to live with expectation and joy this Christmas?