

Matthew 3 – Wise Men, Kings, Scribes and Priests

Matthew 2:1-12

Fallen Condition Focus (FCF): In our sin and idolatry we fail to live like the Magi

Four people or groups of people and how they responded to the birth of Jesus

Herod

- His character
- His attempt to eliminate Christ
- Sets himself against God's purposes

Population of Jerusalem

- "[Herod] was troubled, and **all Jerusalem** with him"
- Justifiable fear
- Their main concern is with their own necks
 - Seeking safety and comfort
 - Indifference to Messiah

Chief Priests and Scribes

- Represented political/religious extremes
 - Chief priests were Sadducees
 - Scribes were teachers of Judaism
- Professional clergy, Religious people – lives revolved around their faith
- Orthodox in their knowledge – Able to quote Micah 5
- After giving answer about Messiah, what do they do next?

Magi/Wise Men

- Gentiles and Pagans
- Sacrifice
- Worship
- Gifts
 - Great value – fit for a king
 - Origen, "Gold as to a king; myrrh as to one who was mortal (burial); and incense as to God (temple)"

We Three Kings of Orient Are

We three kings of Orient are
Bearing gifts we traverse afar.
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
Following yonder star.

Chorus:

O star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect Light.

Born a king on Bethlehem's plain,
Gold I bring to crown Him again,
King forever, ceasing never
Over us all to reign.

(Chorus)

Frankincense to offer have I.
Incense owns a Deity nigh.
Prayer and praising all men raising,
Worship Him, God on high.

(Chorus)

Myrrh is mine: Its bitter perfume
Breaths a life of gathering gloom.
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding dying,
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

(Chorus)

Glorious now behold Him arise,
King and God and Sacrifice.
Alleluia, Alleluia
Sounds through the earth and skies.

(Chorus)