



# Matthew

## Lesson 2

### Matthew Lesson 2

*In chapter 1, Matthew records one of the greatest events in history; the appearance of God in the flesh born on earth. Though God has interacted with His creation since the beginning of time, He has never personally revealed Himself in a way that people could see, touch, and experience his visible presence. But now, in the child Jesus, God is manifesting Himself to mankind. Though the Jews have been waiting for millennia for the Messiah, God's Savior, to come, this isn't the appearance most have been expecting. It was believed that when Messiah showed up, He would be a conquering king from the line of David that would defeat the*

*enemies of the Jews and return the nation to its position of power and authority over all the earth. Jesus' genealogy proved His potential position, but He would spend much of the last years of His life identifying their misunderstanding of what His kingdom would look like and convincing them that He was the promised Savior. He lived in constant scrutiny and false accusations from the religious leaders as He loved, healed, and taught the people. But this process of denying His identity, as well as His ultimate rejection and crucifixion, was His idea not theirs. He was born to die, and their denial of Him was working right in with God's plan.*

#### Read Chapter 2

- 1. According to Luke 1:26-27, where was Mary living before Christ was born? (Find this place on the map.)*
- 2. How did it come about that Jesus was born in Bethlehem? Luke 2:1-5 Find Bethlehem on the map. How many miles is it from Nazareth to Bethlehem?*

3. *After Jesus was born, what would take place within the next six weeks for Mary and Joseph? See Leviticus 12:1-8 and Luke 2:21-24.*



*The “magi” were probably a group of Persian priests that specialize in astrology, interpretations of dreams, and magic. If they first saw the star at the time of Jesus’ birth, this appearance before Herod could have taken place up to two years later (see also Matthew 2:16) because of the time it would have taken them to travel to Jerusalem. Because of their important positions, they would have been traveling with a large group of servants as well as military protection. This would have been a notable as well as threatening group of people to enter Jerusalem. However, it seems the question they asked was the most troubling to Herod and the people.*

4. *What was their question to Herod, and why would this upset all Jerusalem? 2:2-3*
5. *The last time Israel had a King was in 586 B.C. Read 2 Chronicles 36:11-21. Who was the last king, and how did he lose the throne?*
6. *Why did Herod gather the priests and scribes together, and what did they say to him? Vs. 4-6*
7. *Describe the scene of the Magi finding Jesus. 2:9-12*

8. *What 2 details contributed to Joseph and Mary going to Egypt? 2:2,15*
9. *What did Herod do in response to this, and what prophecy did that fulfill? 2:16-18*
10. *Why did Joseph and Mary decide to leave Egypt, where did they go? What prophecy did that fulfill? 2:19-23*

***Prayer requests:***

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***Group time notes:***

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