

# The Gospel of Matthew

## Chapter 2

### Message 3

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## Introduction

Matthew chapter 2 is likely one of the most known portions of scripture. As such, we will examine a few “rarer gems” in the passage.

1. A comparison of Matthew 2 and Luke 2.
2. Prophecy fulfilled.
3. The 1<sup>st</sup> question of the New Testament.
4. The Magi’s gifts.
5. The phrase “*out of Egypt have I called My Son*”.
6. The character of Joseph.

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## Matthew 2 vs. Luke 2

### Matthew Chapter 2:

- A Jew (Matthew) spoke of Gentiles (Magi) coming to Christ.
- The rich were shown Christ.
- Unwilling Preacher (Herod).
- Supernatural Star.

### Luke Chapter 2:

- A Gentile (Luke) spoke of Jews (Shepherds) coming to Christ.
- The poor were shown Christ.
- Willing Preacher (Angel).
- Supernatural Light.

There was **light** when there should have been **darkness** - Christ's **Birth**

There was **darkness** when there should have been **light** - Christ's **Death**

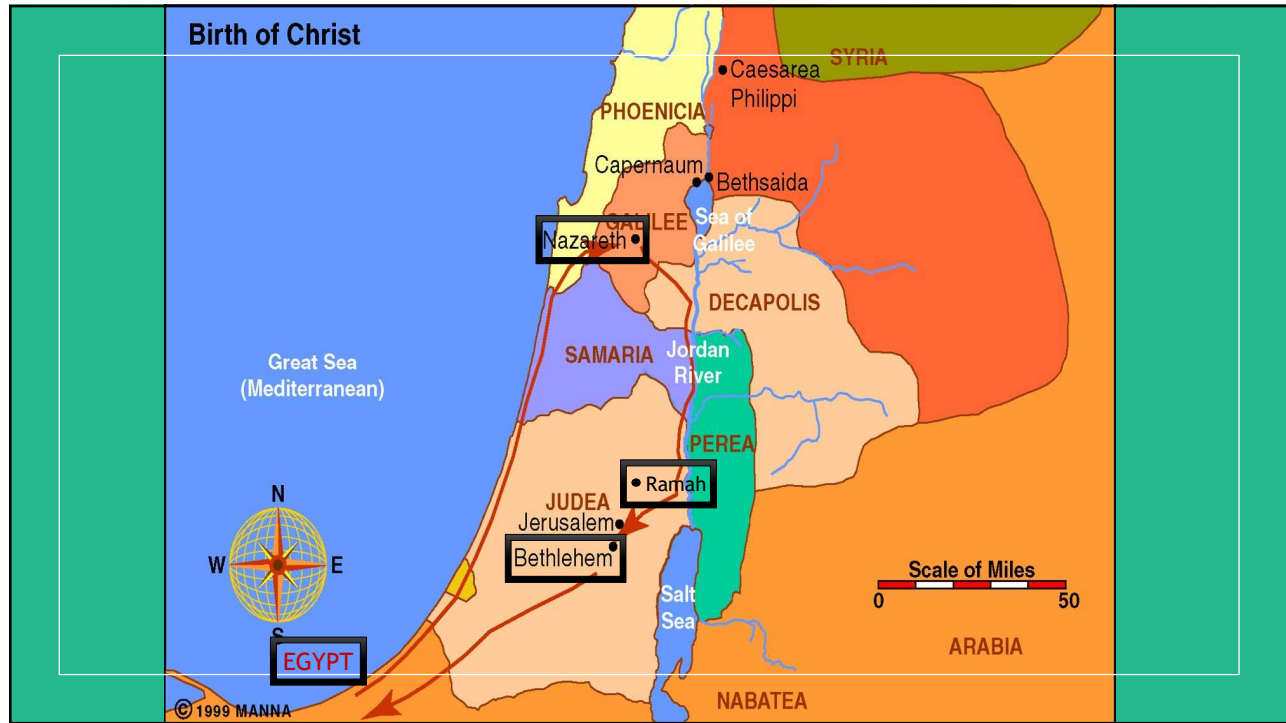
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## Fulfilled Prophecy

Reading the OT prophecies regarding the Messiah, it might have been hard for faithful Jews to imagine how one person could fulfill them all.

- Examining the prophecies to be fulfilled by the Messiah in Matthew 2; it hard to reconcile how He was to be:
  1. Born in **Bethlehem** - Mic. 5:2
  2. Called out of **Egypt** - Hos. 11:1
  3. Coincident with weeping in **Ramah** - Jer. 31:15
  4. A rod (Netzer) from the stem of Jesse, called a **Nazarene** - Isa. 11:1
- How can all these be fulfilled by one baby?

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## Fulfilled Prophecy

But then we read Matthew's account of Christ's birth and it all comes together; **literally, accurately** and **easily**.

- There's a lesson here. Prophecy is given by God to show His **omniscience** and **omnipotence** to the **next** generation (dispensation) not that we may "crystal ball" the future.
- In our day there are certain prophecies about the **2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Christ** that we may have difficulty consolidating.
- We see the parts of this jigsaw. God will one day put it together for us as He did Christ's 1<sup>st</sup> coming and no piece will be extra, missing or out of place.

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## 1<sup>st</sup> Question of the NT

The first question in the NT is posed here, “Where is He who has been born king of the Jews?” Matt. 2:2

- Posed by men seeking God
- Posed TO an unwanted ruler - Herod
- Answered BY an unwanted ruler - “*Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read, “Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.”* Jn. 19:19
- Note this answer was there for all to see, written in:
  1. Hebrew - the language of **Religion**
  2. Greek - the language of **Philosophy**
  3. Latin - the language of **Government**

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## 1<sup>st</sup> Question of the OT

Interestingly, the first sincere question in the OT is (the Serpent's feigned ignorance was not a question to Eve), “*God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?”* Gen. 3:9

- Posed by God seeking Man.
- Note, Adam never answers God - it is God who finds him.
- Where did God find man?
- He found him hiding amid the trees.
- Interesting place to hide from God, since this is where He met Adam to walk with him in the “cool of the evening”.
- **Men still hide from God in the place where He walks (Rev. 1) amid the Churches.**

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# 1<sup>st</sup> Questions of the Bible

An **allegory** can be seen here between God and man.

- When God calls for man, man in sin, does not answer Him. Rather it is God who must find man where he is.
- When man seeks after God, the answer of God's presence is plainly seen for all at the cross of Christ.

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# The Magi's Gifts

*"...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."* Matt. 2:19

1. GOLD - **What He was** (and is) - **DEITY**
2. FRANKINCENSE - **What He became** - **A MAN** - **His Life** (sweet-smelling savor)
3. MYRRH - **What He did** - **DEATH**

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# The Magi's Gifts

## Myrrh:

Myrrh is a gum-resin extracted from a thorny tree species of the genus *Commiphora*.

- A very aromatic spice, but it is exceptionally bitter.
- It was never used in the preparation of food. (occasionally a small amount was mixed with wine as an analgesic - a bitter drink indeed).



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# The Magi's Gifts

## Myrrh:

It is harvested by scoring a tree and collecting the crystalized sap that exudes (similar to frankincense).



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# The Magi's Gifts

## Myrrh:

Reference to myrrh appears several times in the Word of God.

- Prophetically, speaking of the Bridegroom (the Lord Jesus) the bride says, *"His lips like lilies, dropping sweet smelling myrrh"* SoS 5:13
- The inference being the words He spoke to her were sweet. Much as the words the Lords speaks to His disciples.
- Indeed, Peter says, *"Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life"*. Jn. 6:68

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# The Magi's Gifts

## Myrrh:

It was a common practice for the Jews to wrap a dead body in spices, including myrrh, which had the ability to cover even the stench of death.

- *"Nicodemus ... came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about 75 pounds in weight. So, they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews"*. Jn. 19:39-40
- This is why myrrh is associated with Christ's death.

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# The Magi's Gifts

## Myrrh:

Putting these two thoughts together that Christ's words smelt **sweet**, and that they could **remove the stench of death**, we are left with a beautiful analogy:

- The words He spoke to us, such as "*come unto Me*" and "*if I be lifted up, I will draw all men unto Me*" are **to us indeed sweet**. For they have the **power to remove death** itself.
- But at what cost to Him? That **BITTER, BITTER death**.
- So, Myrrh pictures the death of Christ - **sweet for us**, yet **bitter for Him**.

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# The Magi's Gifts

## The Millennial Kingdom:

Speaking of the Millennial Kingdom Isaiah says the King will again receive gifts, "*They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall bring good news, the praises of the LORD.*" Isa. 60:6

- Did you notice that only 2 of the 3 gifts are mentioned here? Gold and frankincense.
- Why no Myrrh in that day? Why will it be replaced with praise?

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# The Magi's Gifts

## The Millennial Kingdom:

There will be no Myrrh given to Him in the Millennial Kingdom because Christ's death was once and for all time.

- “*But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, He sat down at the right hand of God”* Heb. 10:12
- Furthermore, He will never again taste death, “*I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore.”* Rev. 1:18
- Better put - He has been raised into an INDISSOLUBLE LIFE.

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# The Magi's Gifts

## The Day of Grace:

Ought we to give gifts to the King of Kings in the Day of Grace?

### 1. GOLD - **What He was** (and is) - **DEITY**

- Elijah's words to the people come to mind, “*How long will you go limping (zig-zag) between two different opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him... the people did not answer him a word.*” 1 King. 18:21
- A turning point in the Nation. They had no conviction to serve the LORD.
- Are we ‘zig-zaging’ back and forth between Christ and the world?

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# The Magi's Gifts

## The Day of Grace:

Ought we to give gifts to the King of Kings in the Day of Grace?

### 1. GOLD - **What He was** (and is) - **DEITY**

• On 3 occasions the Nation of Israel was asked a very similar question

1. Joshua asked, "*choose this day whom you will serve.... we will serve the LORD!*" Josh. 24:15&21
2. Elijah asked, "*How long will you go limping (zig-zag) between two different opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him... the people did not answer him a word.*" 1 King. 18:21
3. Pilate asked, "*Shall I crucify your King?*" the people's response "*We have no king but Caesar.*" Jn. 19:15

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# The Magi's Gifts

## The Day of Grace:

Ought we to give gifts to the King of Kings in the Day of Grace?

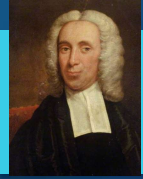
### 1. GOLD - **What He was** (and is) - **DEITY**

• Note the progression in their answers:

1. Joshua asked, "*choose this day whom you will serve.... we will serve the LORD!*" Josh. 24:15&21
2. Elijah asked, "*How long will you go limping (zig-zag) between two different opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him... the people did not answer him a word.*" 1 King. 18:21
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# The Magi's Gifts



## The Day of Grace:

Ought we to give gifts to the King of Kings in the Day of Grace?

### 1. GOLD - **What He was** (and is) - **DEITY**

• Isaac Watt's Hymn:

1) Alas! and did my Savior bleed  
And did my Sovereign die?  
Would He devote that sacred head  
For such a worm as I?

4) But drops of grief can ne'er repay  
The debt of love I owe:  
Here, Lord, I give myself away,  
'Tis all that I can do.

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# The Magi's Gifts

## The Day of Grace:

• Ought we to give gifts to the King of Kings in the Day of Grace?

### 2. FRANKINCENSE - **What He became** - **LIFE**

- In glory, Peter tells us, a great inheritance awaits the believer that is: *"incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fades not away, reserved in heaven for you"* 1 Pet. 1:4
  - Incorruptible = **Death** can't touch it
  - Undefiled = **Sin** can't change it
  - Fades not = **Time** can't move it

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# The Magi's Gifts

## The Day of Grace:

- Ought we to give gifts to the King of Kings in the Day of Grace?
- 2. FRANKINCENSE - **What He became** - LIFE
  - But the inheritance is for glory not for today.
  - Did Christ leave us anything here, on earth?
  - Indeed, He did! He left us at least 2 things:
    1. “leaving you an example, so that you might follow in His steps”  
1 Pet. 2:21 - and what was that example? - The next 2 versus tell us:
      - “He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in His mouth. When He was reviled, He did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but continued entrusting Himself to him who judges justly.”

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# The Magi's Gifts

## The Day of Grace:

- Ought we to give gifts to the King of Kings in the Day of Grace?
- 2. FRANKINCENSE - **What He became** - LIFE
  - What was the other thing He left for us?
    2. “Peace, I leave with you; My peace I give to you.” Jn. 14:27
  - In the midst of the reviling and suffering - there is Peace!

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# The Magi's Gifts

## The Day of Grace:

- Ought we to give gifts to the King of Kings in the Day of Grace?

### 3. MYRRH - **What He did** - **DEATH**

- Matthew records our Lord's words "*If anyone would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me*" Matt. 16:24
- Paul sums it up this way "*that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and may share His sufferings, **becoming like Him in His death.***" Phil. 3:10

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# The Magi's Gifts

## The Day of Grace:

- Ought we to give gifts to the King of Kings in the Day of Grace?

### 1. GOLD - The gift of one's **PERSON**

### 2. FRANKINCENSE - The gift of one's **LIFE**

### 3. MYRRH - The gift of all we are and have, even to **DEATH**

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## “Out of Egypt”

*“Thus says the LORD, Israel is my **firstborn son**” Ex. 4:22*

*“When Israel was a child, I loved him, and **out of Egypt I called my son.**” Hos 11:1*

- Matthew views this prophesy as being completely fulfilled by the Lord Jesus, “... an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the Child and His mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” And he rose and took the Child and His mother by night and departed to Egypt and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, “**Out of Egypt I called My Son.**” Matt. 2:13-15

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## “Out of Egypt”

It is interesting that the Lord Jesus, the Obedient Son, should be compared to Israel - a nation of disobedient children.

- Nevertheless, as certainly as Israel was called out from Egypt, so was our Lord.
- But the PURPOSES for which they were called out are just as different as was their sonship.
  - The **disobedient Israel was called out for their good**. They were miraculously removed from slavery and the lash of the task master and called to the promised land flowing with milk and honey.
  - But the **Obedient Son**, was called out from relative safety, to a place where only the **Roman flagellum and rugged cross** awaited Him.

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# The Character of Joseph

Though Joseph never spoke a word in Scripture, his actions spoke volumes.

- On 3 occasions it is recorded that “Joseph **TOOK**”.
- In each simple, obedient act Joseph fulfilled a prophecy in scripture.

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# The Character of Joseph

1. “When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he **took his wife**.” Matt. 1:24

He took what was **REJECTED**

2. “And he rose and **took the Child and His mother** by night and departed to Egypt”. Matt. 2:14

He took **RESONSIBILITY**

3. “And he rose and **took the Child and his mother** and went.... and lived in a city called Nazareth”. Matt. 2:21&23

He took the **RIGHTEOUS** path, **REALIZING** the Lord’s leading

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# The Character of Joseph

We don't need great men in the Assemblies today.

We need men who believe in a GREAT GOD.