

Text: Matthew 2:1-12

Subject: The Search of the Wise Men II

THE DECEPTION OF KING HEROD

⁷Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared.

⁸And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found *Him*, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also."

Matthew 2:7-8

1. King Herod called the wise men secretly

- a) That means, that he did not include the chief priests in this secret meeting
- b) He wanted to know when the star appeared to them
- c) He urged them to go to Bethlehem
- d) They were to search diligently for the young Child

2. His declared reason

- a) So that he too could worship the new-born King of the Jews
- b) This was totally untrue!

3. Question

Could they discern that King Herod was deceiving them?

THE WORSHIP OF THE MAGI

⁹When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was.

¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy.

¹¹And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

ii) Full of glory

3. Worship

a) The Wise Men saw the Christ-Child Matthew 2:11a

i) The Child was with the mother

ii) Worship was given to the Lord Jesus

iii) Worship was NOT given to Mary, the mother

iv) They prostrated themselves to the Lord Jesus

b) They presented gifts Matthew 2:11b

i) Gold
Honouring the Lord Jesus as King

ii) Frankincense
Worship of the Lord Jesus as Divine

iii) Myrrh
Understanding of the Lord Jesus as One who would die for
Our salvation

4. A special word of warning

a) They had a divine warning

b) A dream was given

c) Instruction: They were warned not to return to King Herod
Matthew 2:12a

d) The Wise Men heeded this word
They returned home another way Matthew 2:12b

CONCLUSION

1. Human Wisdom

a) Important

b) But severely limited

2. Divine Wisdom

a) Scriptures

i) They reveal

ii) They guide

b) Direct Divine instruction

i) The Star of Bethlehem

ii) A special dream

3. Appropriate Response

a) Process knowledge

b) Personal Faith

c) Practical expressions

i) Worship

ii) Obedience