

**LESSONS THIS QUARTER**

- 1) 6 December 2015..... Matthew 03 .....The Preaching of John the Baptist
- 2) 13 December..... Matthew 01 ..... The Genealogy of Christ
- 3) 20 December.....Matthew 02.....The Magi**
- 4) 27 December..... Matthew 04 ..... The Temptation of Jesus
- 5) 03 January 2016..... Matthew 05a..... The Sermon on the Mount
- 6) 10 January..... Matthew 06..... Benevolence Giving
- 7) 17 January..... Matthew 05b..... Personal Relationships
- 8) 24 January..... Matthew 07..... Judging Others
- 9) 31 January..... Matthew 08..... More Miracles
- 10) 07 February..... Matthew 09-10 ..... More Miracles
- 11) 14 February..... Matthew 11..... Tough Questions
- 12) 21 February..... Matthew 12..... Time to Pick a Fight

**INTRODUCTION**

- How did some non-Jewish people figure out the coming of the Jewish Messiah while the Jews totally missed it?
- Why is it seemingly easier for Gentiles to accept the Jewish Messiah as Lord and Savior than it is for a Jew?
- Why would the creator of the universe, the King of Kings, come to His people in the humblest of situations?

Passage	Comments
Matthew 2:1-10	<p><b>Who Were These Magi from the East?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The source of information for the non-Jewish magi from the East who visited Jesus as a child presumably came from the prophet Daniel during the Jewish captivity in Babylon</li> <li>• <b>A Moving Star</b> – No known astronomical event (e.g., a comet, planetary alignment, exploding star, etc.), so it was either a direct miracle or an anomaly of some sort...OR, consider: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oGULWa2r-bk">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oGULWa2r-bk</a> and <a href="https://answersingenesis.org/holidays/christmas/an-evaluation-of-the-star-of-bethlehem-dvd/">https://answersingenesis.org/holidays/christmas/an-evaluation-of-the-star-of-bethlehem-dvd/</a></li> </ul>
2:6	<p><b>MICAH 5:2</b> "AND YOU, BETHLEHEM, LAND OF JUDAH, ARE BY NO MEANS LEAST AMONG THE LEADERS OF JUDAH; FOR OUT OF YOU SHALL COME FORTH A RULER WHO WILL SHEPHERD MY PEOPLE ISRAEL." – written between 750-686 B.C.</p>
2:18	<p><b>JEREMIAH 31:15</b> "A VOICE WAS HEARD IN RAMAH, WEEPING AND GREAT MOURNING, RACHEL WEEPING FOR HER CHILDREN; AND SHE REFUSED TO BE COMFORTED, BECAUSE THEY WERE NO MORE." – written between 626-586 B.C.</p>
Was Jesus born in a barn or in a house?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Bible makes no mention of any innkeeper who told them the inn was full for the night</li> <li>• Translators of most English versions chose the word "inn" to translate the Greek word καταλυμα (kataluma), which is not the best word to use</li> <li>• Jesus used this same Greek word in <b>Luke 22:11</b> to refer to a "guest room" or the "Upper Room"</li> <li>• The Greek language has a specific word for hotel or inn. In fact, Luke used it in <b>Luke 10:34</b>, when he wrote about the Good Samaritan who took the beaten man to the "inn" (pandocheion, πανδοχειον) and paid the "innkeeper" (pandochei, πανδοχει, v. 35) to care for the man</li> <li>• Since Luke was quite familiar with the proper term for inn, why didn't he use it in telling the birth of Jesus? The probable answer is Joseph and Mary did not attempt to stay at an inn</li> <li>• The Bible states there was no room for them in the kataluma – or upper "guest room"</li> </ul>
	<p><b>There is support for animals being in the house</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The account of Jephthah (Judges 11) records he planned to sacrifice the first thing which came out of his house upon his return from fighting</li> <li>• Apparently, he expected an animal to come out of his house. Instead his daughter came out, and she remained a virgin all her days</li> </ul>
Luke 2	<p><b>Bethlehem was Joseph's Home Town</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mary likely gave birth to Jesus in the lower level of a crowded in-law's house, in which animals might have been brought in for the night. She then wrapped Jesus in swaddling cloths and laid Him in a manger (feeding trough used as a crib)</li> </ul>

Out of 365 Messianic prophecies, over 60 have been fulfilled, and 15 of those refer to His birth			
#	Fulfilled Prophecy	OT Passage	NT Passage
1.	Heir to the throne of David	Isaiah 9:6-7	Matthew 1:1
2.	From the tribe of Judah	Genesis 49:10	Matthew 1:1-3
3.	Of the seed of Abraham	Genesis 12:3	Matthew 1:1-16
4.	Born of the seed of a woman	Genesis 3:15	Matthew 1:18
5.	Born of a virgin	Isaiah 7:14	Matthew 1:18
6.	He will come to save you	Isaiah 35:4	Matthew 1:21
7.	His name called Immanuel, "God with us"	Isaiah 7:14	Matthew 1:23
8.	Called "The mighty God, The everlasting Father"	Isaiah 9:6	Matthew 1:23
9.	Born in Bethlehem	Micah 5:2	Matthew 2:1
10.	Would be a Prophet of the children of Israel	Deuteronomy 18:15	Matthew 2:15
11.	Called out of Egypt	Hosea 11:1	Matthew 2:15
12.	Slaughter of the children	Jeremiah 31:15	Matthew 2:18
13.	Would be a Nazarene	Judges 13:5; Amos 2:11; Lam. 4:7	Matthew 2:23
14.	Presented with gifts	Psalms 72:10	Matthew 2:1, 11
15.	His pre-existence	Micah 5:2	John 1:1, 14

Passage	Comments on Dreams
Are dreams still God-given TODAY?  For more see S/S notes on <a href="#">Daniel 7-8</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1:20. <b>Dream #1.</b> Joseph receives his 1<sup>st</sup> dream from an "angel of the Lord" to marry Mary and raise her special kid</li> <li>• 2:12. <b>Dream #2.</b> The Magi, non-Jews received a warning by God in a DREAM, not to return to Herod</li> <li>• v13. <b>Dream #3.</b> Joseph was warned a 2<sup>nd</sup> time in a dream by an angel of the Lord to travel to Israel</li> <li>• v19. <b>Dream #4.</b> Joseph was warned a 3<sup>rd</sup> time in a dream by an angel of the Lord to travel back to Israel</li> <li>• v22. <b>Dream #5.</b> Joseph was warned a 4<sup>th</sup> time by God in a dream, this time to head for Galilee</li> </ul>

**CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS**

- Over 60 major messianic prophecies were filled in Jesus Christ, 15 at His birth and 30 at His resurrection.
  - The chance of just 8 prophecies being fulfilled in 1 person is 10<sup>17</sup>
  - The chance of 48 prophecies being fulfilled in one person is 10<sup>157</sup>
  - According to the scientific laws of probabilities anything over 1x10<sup>50</sup> is impossible
  - **Therefore, scientifically, Jesus is who He said He is – the Messiah**
- Though we cannot be dogmatic whether angels did or did not sing at the birth of Christ; or whether Mary gave birth to Jesus in an open-air barn or not, we should always strive to validate our beliefs according to what the Bible actually says and acknowledge other positions as speculative

**NEXT WEEK: Matthew 04.** When Jesus finished his 40-day fast He was fully prepared to, first & foremost, proclaim the Gospel, then secondarily, to heal anyone and everyone of anything and everything, anytime and every time, anywhere and everywhere He and His disciples went – BUT for what purpose?

