

**Providence Reformed Baptist Church**

**Sunday, September 13, 2020**

**Sermon Series: The Gospel of the Kingdom – Matthew**

**6. Jesus of Nazareth (Part 1) – Matthew 2:1-12**

**Pastor Phillip M. Way**

- I. King Herod – vs. 1
  - A. An Idumean – Edomite
    - 1. Descended from Esau – Gen. 25:30; Rom. 9:10-13
    - 2. Converted to Judaism by force
    - 3. Appointed Tetrarch by Mark Antony
    - 4. Questioned as to his Jewishness, committed to refurbish the Temple
  - B. The History of Edom and Israel
    - 1. Edom refused to allow Israel to pass through their land on the way to the Promised Land – Numbers 20:14-21; 21:4-9; 24:15-19
    - 2. Defeated and subjected by David at the Valley of Salt – 2 Sam. 8:13-14; 1 Kings 11:14-22; 1 Chron. 18:12-13; Psa. 60:2
    - 3. Rebelled against Solomon and won independence as the kingdom split
    - 4. King Jehoshaphat conquered them again 50 years later – 2 Chron. 17:11; 1 Kings 22:47-49
    - 5. Rebelled under Joram – 2 Kings 8:20-22
    - 6. King Uzziah subjected them again – 2 Kings 14:7, 22; 2 Chron. 25:11-12
    - 7. Rebelled again – 2 Chron. 28:17
    - 8. Conquered by Assyria
  - C. A Cursed People
    - 1. Condemned by Isaiah, Jeremiah, Obadiah, and Malachi (plus others) – Isa. 63:1-4; Mal. 1:1-5; Obadiah 1
    - 2. During the intertestamental period, fought against the Maccabees
    - 3. John Hyrcanus conquered them in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC and forced their conversion to Judaism
    - 4. Fought with the Jews against Rome in 70 AD
- II. The King of the Jews – vs. 2-3
  - A. Wise Men from the East
    - 1. Magi – magicians, skilled astrologers and astronomers from Persia – Dan. 1:20; 2:2, 10, 27-30, 46-49
    - 2. Not many wise – 1 Cor. 1:26 – yet some seek Him – Ryle Quote #1
  - B. The Star
    - 1. A comet
    - 2. The conjunction of Saturn and Jupiter in the constellation Pisces in 6 BC (Johannes Kepler) – next occurrence Dec. 21, 2020
    - 3. Shekinah Glory – it moved, stopped, and persisted for at least 2 years – see vs. 9
  - C. The Stir – both Herod and Jerusalem stirred up by their arrival
- III. The King Born in Bethlehem – vs. 4-8
  - A. Where? The House of Bread – Ryle Quote #2 (they knew, but didn't go)
  - B. Bethlehem of Judea, just north of Edom – Micah 5:2
  - C. The Conspiracy to Commit Murder (vs. 7-8)

- IV. The King Worshipped by Wise Men – vs. 9-12
  - A. The Young Child, now Housed
  - B. Exceeding Joy, Worship, and Gifts – from Gentiles first!
    - 1. Gold – King
      - a. Persian custom: when you appear before a King you offer a gift of gold
      - b. Signifying royalty
      - c. Perhaps funded trip to Egypt?
    - 2. Frankincense – Worship/Priesthood – Phil. 4:18
      - a. Mixed with oil to anoint the priests
      - b. Firstfruit and free-will offerings – Lev. 2:1-3, 11-16
        - 1) Never mixed with sin offerings
        - 2) Incense, salt, with no leaven - sinless
      - c. Our Great High Priest – Heb. 4:14-16; 5:6
    - 3. Myrrh – Death/Prophet
      - a. Embalming – John 19:39
      - b. Pain killer – Mark 15:23
      - c. Remembering the prophets – Acts 7:52-53; 1 Thess. 2:14-16; Deut. 18:15; Matt. 7:5
    - 4. Proclaiming Jesus to be Prophet, Priest, and King
  - C. Divinely Warned they Departed

Ryle Quote #1 – “There may be true servants of God in places where we should not expect to find them.”

Ryle Quote #2 – “Should it not have been the Pharisees first to see the newborn King?”