

# Matthew Series

by Alexander F. Venter

## A.3. Events surrounding the birth of Jesus

Matthew 2:1-12 (audio #003)

**MAIN THEME:** “*This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the Son of David*” (verse 1:1-2)

### Purpose of ‘Matthew Chapter 2’

- ❖ To show that Jesus is the Jewish Messiah through the visit of the ‘Magi’

### Socio-Political: Context, Clashes & Contrasts

- ❖ **King Herod vs King of the Jews:** (Matt 2:1-4) Political power that is proud and repressive (Matt 2:7-8; 2:16-18) will always be challenged and judged by Messiah and His people. The vulnerability of the Church is the witness to the powers (Eph 3:10)
- ❖ **Jerusalem vs Bethlehem:** (Matt 2:3-6) the Messiah, Israel’s true shepherd, comes from ‘the least’ (rural) and not from ‘the city of the King’ — Jerusalem, the place of the false leaders of Israel (Matt 2:4), who never even went out to worship their King!

### The Supernatural: Prophecy, Signs & Dreams

- ❖ **The ‘proof’ of Old Testament predictions:** (Matt 2:5-6 cf. Micah 5:2) prophesied about 700 before Christ, the ‘Son of David’. King David was born in Bethlehem around 1010 BC
- ❖ **The ‘Star of Bethlehem’:** natural or supernatural phenomena debated. The point is: God uses natural and supernatural signs to lead people to His Messiah. Matthew also alludes to the prophecy of ‘Jacob’s star’ (Num 24:17) for the Jews
- ❖ **Dreams and angels:** (Matt 2:12-13) Matthew presents these as God’s supernatural means of communication (mentioned 4 and 5 times each in Chapters 1 & 2). Note that they happen at God’s initiative (not sought after) in times of need (Heb 1:14)

### The Seekers: Gentiles, Journey & Worship

- ❖ **Who are the Magi?** They were upper society educated court advisors who studied books and the stars — type of astrologers from Persia (Iran)
- ❖ **How God led them and their response:** God used studies, superstition and dreams and they responded with remarkable faith and perseverance
- ❖ **The revelation of the Messiah:** first to the poor Jewish peasants, then to the wealthy educated Gentiles — the Jewish aristocracy and religious leaders missed it!
- ❖ **They worshipped Him with gifts:** (Matt 2:11) Matthew clearly refers to Ps 72:10-11 and Is 60:6 showing the Gentiles coming to worship the Hebrew God (in His Messiah). The worship is with Kingly gifts (do not spiritualise the gifts!)

### For Reflection and Study

- ❖ How does God’s coming challenge the status quo and turn society’s values upside down? Does the Church challenge the government today? How?
- ❖ List all the implicit contrasts in this story — what does it say to us today?
- ❖ How has God called or led you supernaturally? And how have you responded?
- ❖ Have you had a revelation of Messiah? How did you respond? Consider how you worship Him and what you give to Him — is it adequate? Could it be more?

You Here	MATTHEW: Prologue, Discourse 1 to 5 & Climax	
➡	Chapter 1-2	A. PROLOGUE: <i>Roots and Birth of Messiah</i>
	Chapter 3-7	1. Life in the Kingdom of the Heaven
	Chapter 8-10	2. Authority and Advance of the Kingdom
	Chapter 11-13	3. Nature and Opposition of the Kingdom
	Chapter 14-18	4. Glory and Conflict of the Kingdom
	Chapter 19-25	5. Grace and Judgements of the Kingdom
	Chapter 26-28	B. CLIMAX: <i>The Passion &amp; Resurrection of Jesus</i>



**About Alexander Venter:** Author of the ‘Matthew Series’

The ‘Matthew Series’ is the product of Alexander Venter’s teaching ministry since 1975 when he became a church planter and pastor. Alexander has been empowered over many years by many relationships to make available Kingdom Treasures in the form of relevant Christian resources, to equip people for life and ministry in God’s Kingdom. These teachings are based on the scriptures from **Matthew 13:44-52** – “*God’s Kingdom (His life and rule) is like a treasure found in a field. On finding the treasure the person goes away and sells all they have and purchases the field, in order to explore the treasure*”. A teacher who is trained in the Word of God brings out these treasures – both old and new realities of God and his Kingdom – to all who seek after God.