

*For unto us a Child is born,
Unto us a Son is given;
And the government will be upon His shoulder.
And His name will be called
Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God,
Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.*



Lessons from the Nativity



A dramatic, low-key photograph of a nativity scene. In the foreground, the silhouettes of a person riding a donkey and a person walking alongside it are visible against a bright, orange and yellow sunset sky. In the upper right corner, a bright star with a cross-like glow is positioned. The overall mood is solemn and reverent.

Lessons from the Nativity

Review

Matthew 1

Tamar



Rahab



Bathsheba



Ruth



From the Family Tree

Matthew 1:1-17

Unusual – four women mentioned

**Men and Women both of Value in the
Kingdom of God**

Unusual - Three from immoral past
- One from immoral ancestry

God's grace extends to all

Tamar



Rahab



Bathsheba



Ruth



From the Family Tree

Matthew 1:1-17

The Lord is the God of:

Different personalities

Of various circumstances

Of succeeding generations



Joseph was a righteous man
Matthew 1:18-24

Joseph's righteousness was manifested in mercy.
He did not want to disgrace Mary

**If you want to condemn others for their choices,
even evil ones –
You do not yet understand what it means to be a
follower of Jesus Christ.**

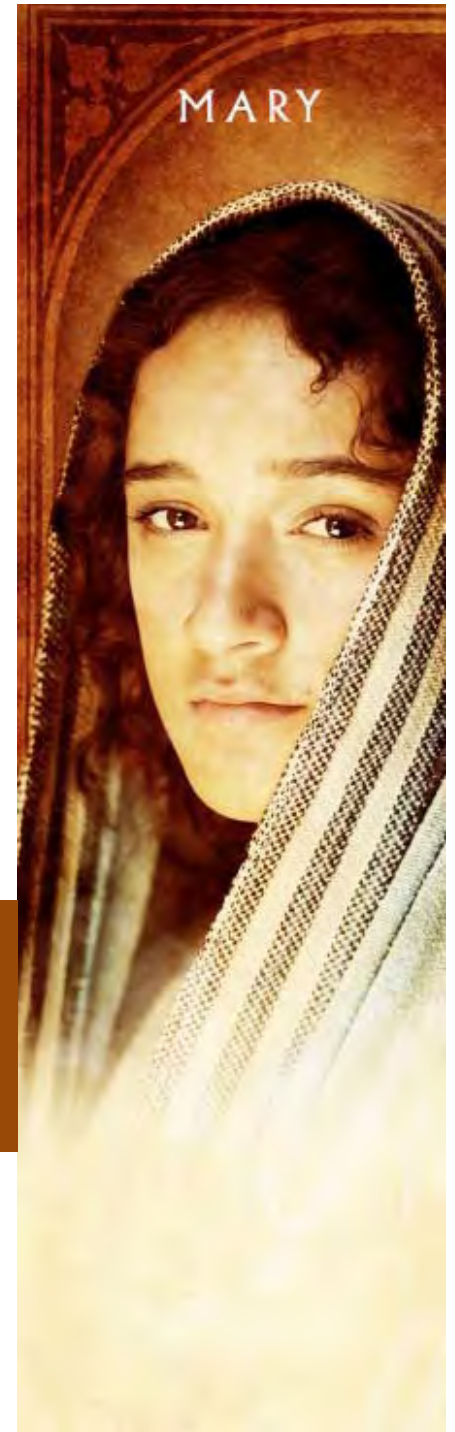
Holy Spirit's Working

Matthew 1:18

Mary was the first person in the New Testament to give herself as a living sacrifice.

We are to follow her example – Romans 12:1.

**If you do not make yourself a living sacrifice,
you do not yet understand what it means to be
a follower of Jesus Christ**





First Promise of The New Testament

Matthew 1:21

*And she will bring forth a Son,
and you shall call His name
JESUS,
for He will save His people
from their sins.*



First Promise of The New Testament

Matthew 1:21

*...for He will save His people
from their sins.*

**He did not come just to save people
from hell.**

**If you do not realize that Jesus came to save
you from committing sins in your life,
you do not yet understand what it means to
be a follower of Jesus Christ**



Immanuel

In all the areas of life

The Decisions of life

The Difficulties of life

The Dimensions of life

The Disturbances of life

**If you do not have a living relationship with the
God who is with you
you do not yet understand what it means
to be a follower of Jesus Christ**



Joseph obeyed the Lord Matthew 1:24

Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS.

He chose to follow God's Revelation and set aside his own reason in dealing with a difficult matter that would affect the lives of many.

**If you do not walk in the obedience of faith,
you do not yet understand what it means
to be a follower of Jesus Christ**



Matthew 1:19, 24

vs. 19 *Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly.*

vs. 24 *Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS.*

Joseph was a man of:

Justice

Discretion

Obedience

Self Discipline

The background of the slide is a dramatic, low-key photograph. It depicts a landscape at sunset or sunrise, with a sky filled with warm, orange and red clouds. In the upper right corner, a bright, multi-pointed star (the Star of Bethlehem) shines prominently. In the lower left foreground, the silhouettes of two figures are visible against the bright horizon. One figure is mounted on a donkey, and the other is walking beside it, holding a rope. The overall mood is solemn and reverent.

Lessons from the Nativity

Matthew 2



Wise Men Matthew 2:1-2

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.”

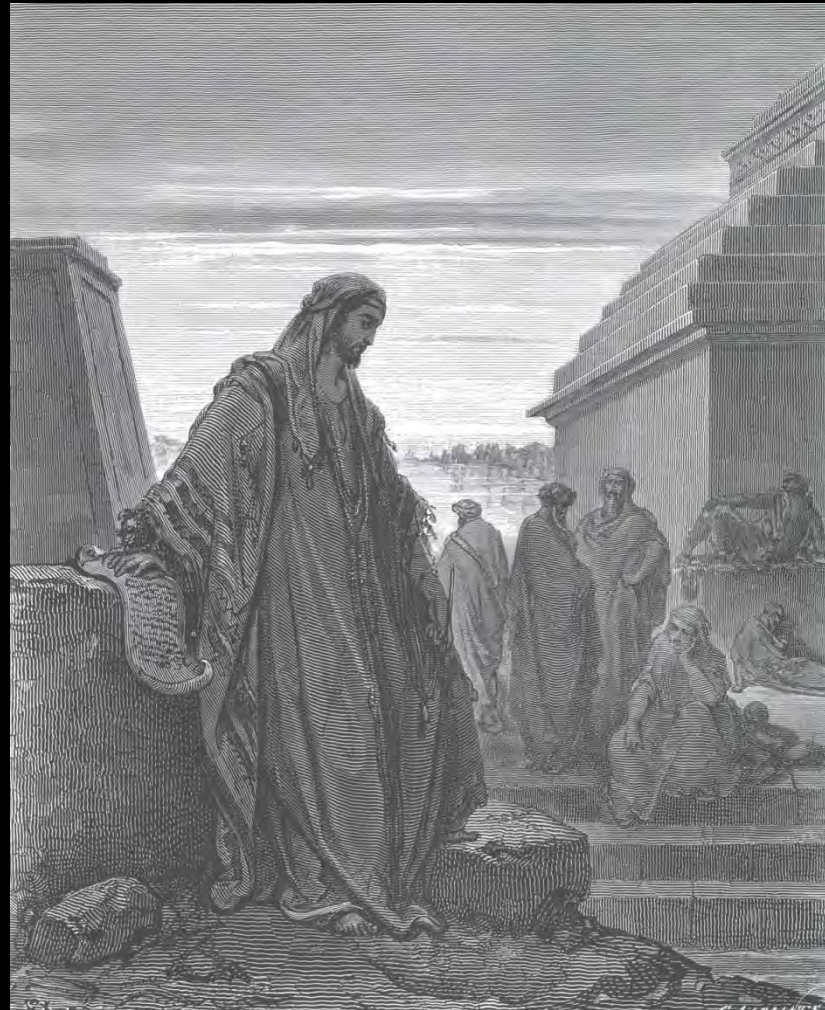
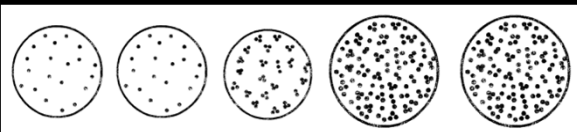
- 1. Wondered at a supernatural event**
- 2. Seeking the King foretold**



How Did They Know?

Daniel 2

The Coming Empires





Babylonian
Empire



Medo Persian
Empire



Greek
Empire



Roman
Empire



Babylonian
Empire

Medo Persian
Empire

Greek
Empire

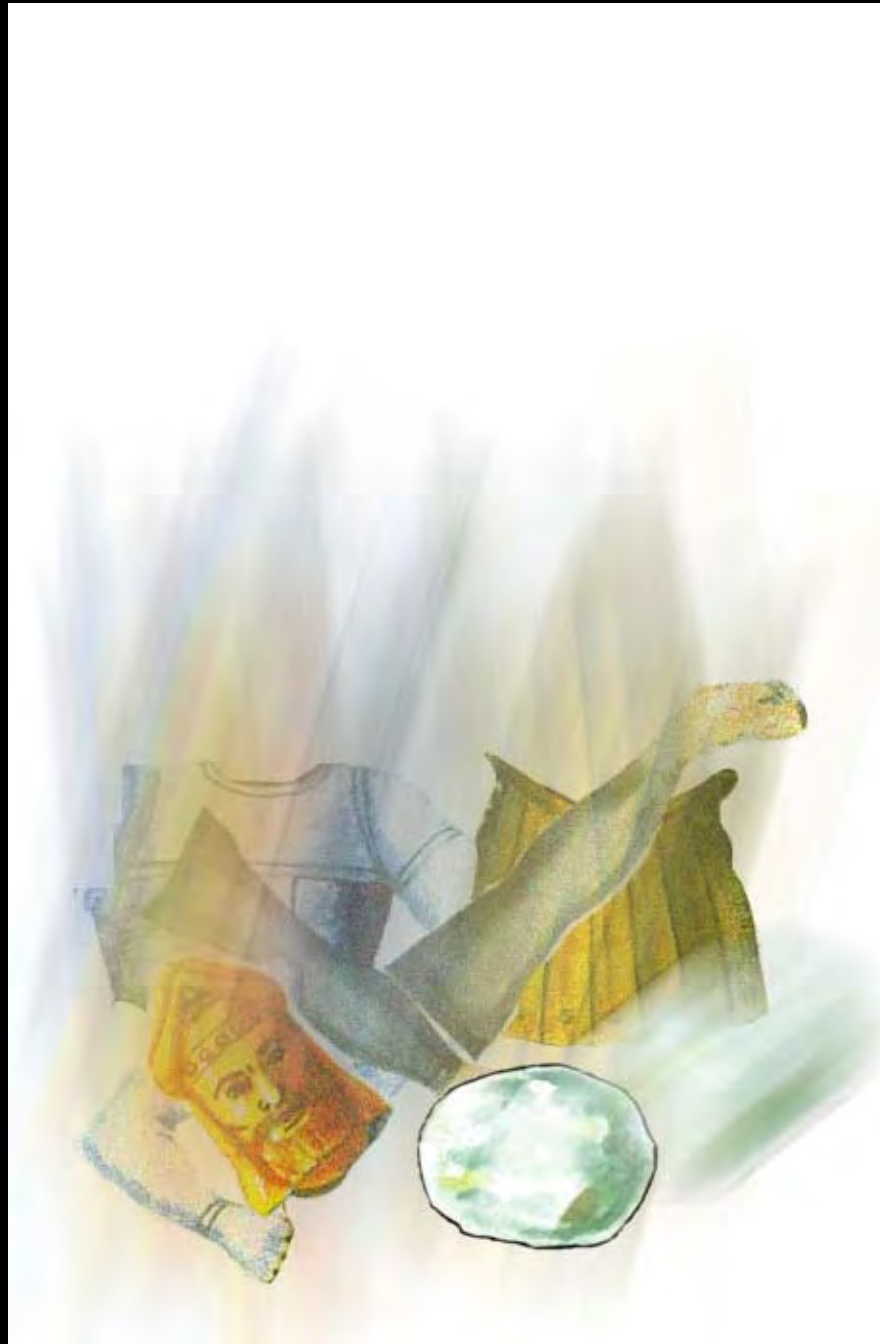
Roman
Empire



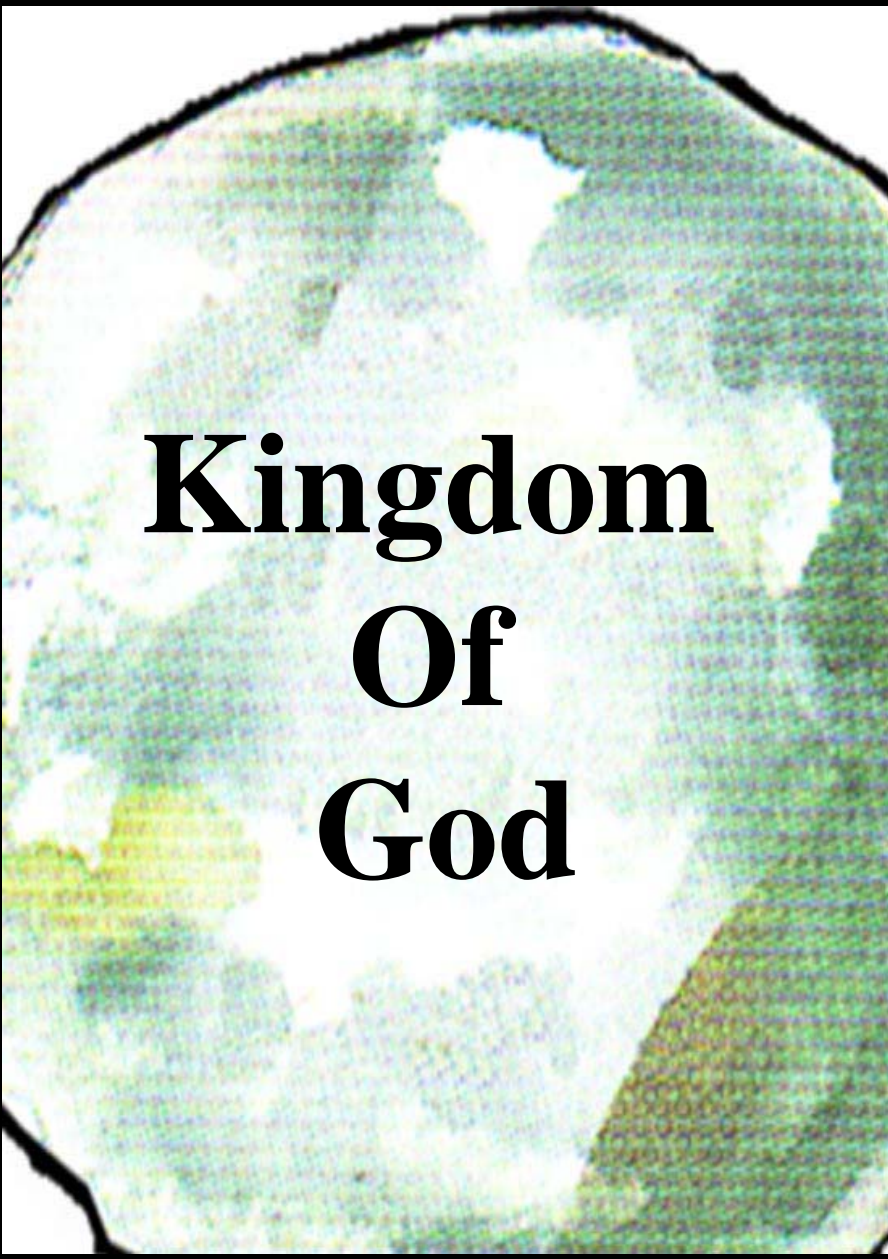






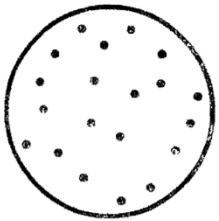




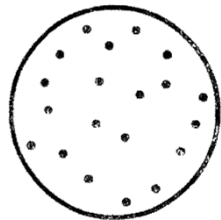


Kingdom Of God

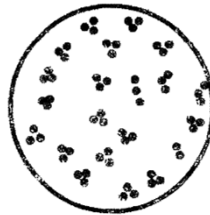
The Empires



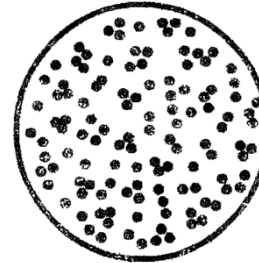
Assyria



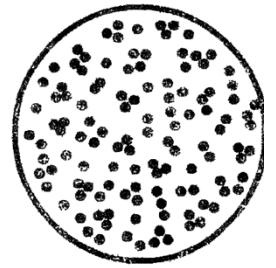
Babylon



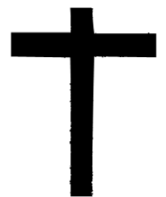
Persia

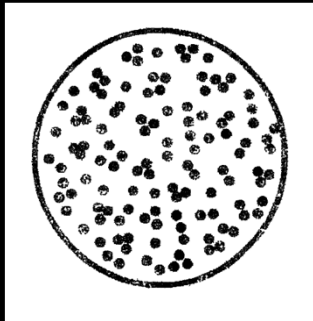


Greece

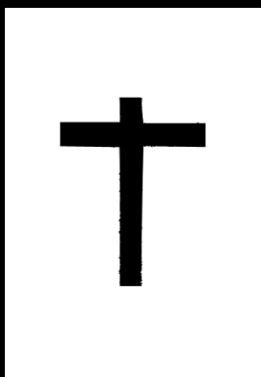


Rome



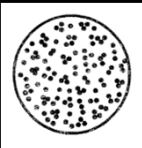


Rome



“But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.”

Galatians 4:4-5

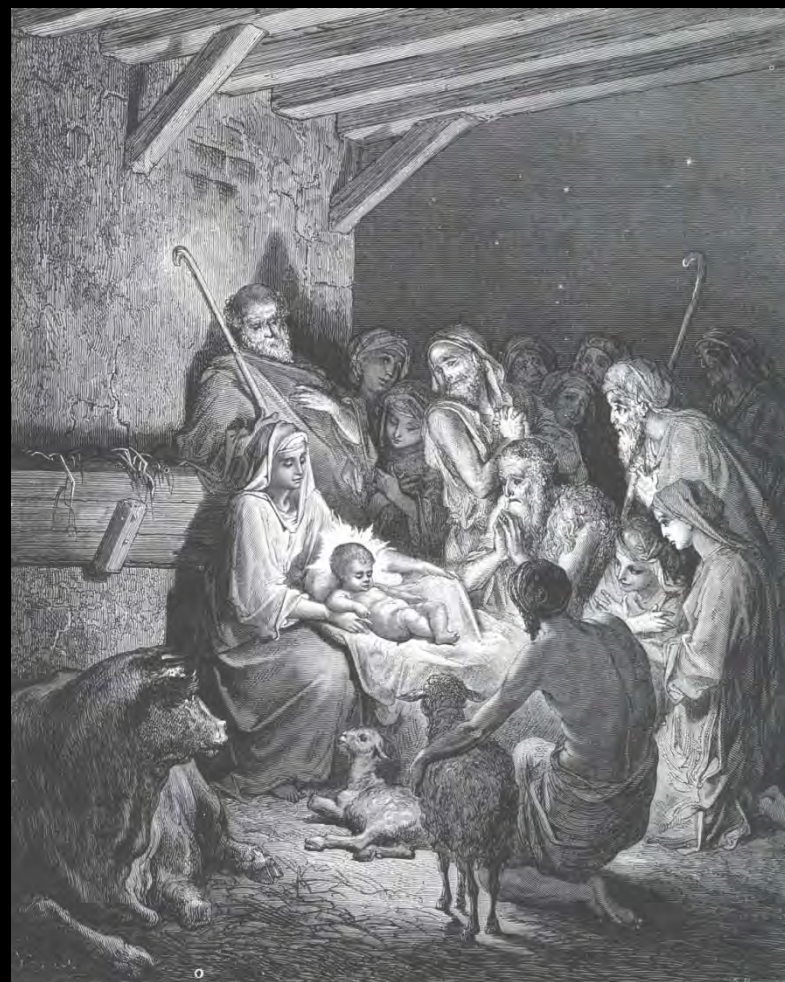


Rome



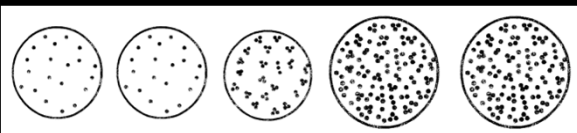
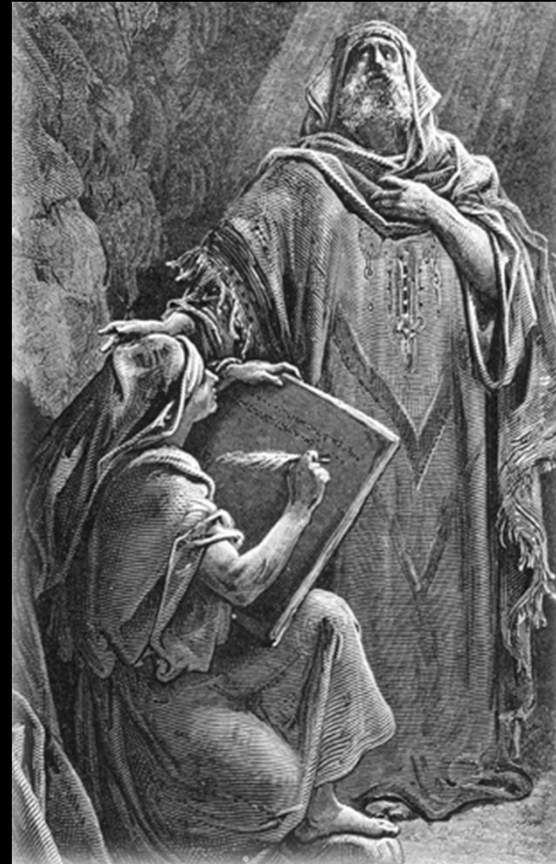
The Messiah

His
Incarnation



Isaiah 60

**The
Coming
Ruler**

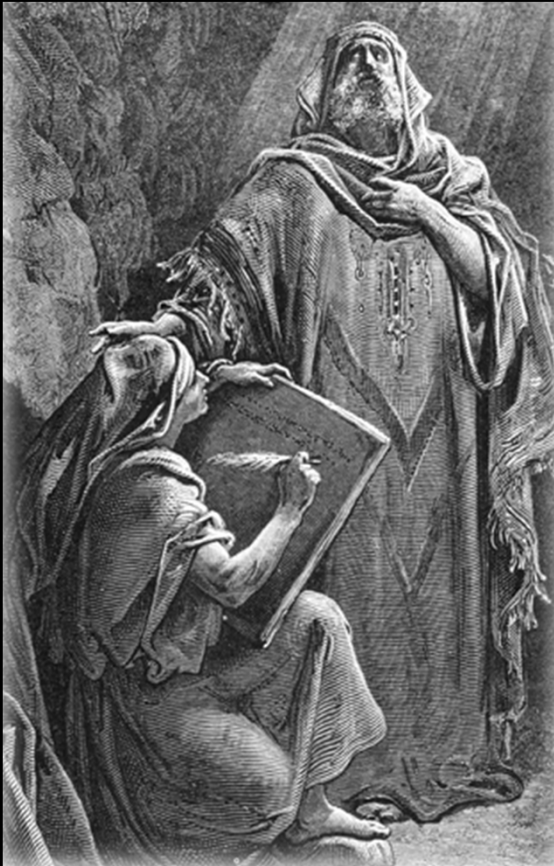


Isaiah 60:1-3



**Arise, shine;
For your light has come!
And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you.
² For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth,
And deep darkness the people;
But the LORD will arise over you,
And His glory will be seen upon you.
³ The Gentiles shall come to your light,
And kings to the brightness of your rising.**

Isaiah 60:4-6



Lift up your eyes all around, and see:
They all gather together, they come to you;
Your sons shall come from afar,
And your daughters shall be nursed at *your* side.
⁵ Then you shall see and become radiant,
And your heart shall swell with joy;
Because the abundance of the sea shall be
turned to you,
The wealth of the Gentiles shall come to you.
⁶ The multitude of camels shall cover *your land*,
The dromedaries of Midian and Ephah;
All those from Sheba shall come;
They shall bring gold and incense,
And they shall proclaim the praises of the LORD



Wise Men Matthew 2:1-2

*“Where is He who has been born King of the Jews?
For we have seen His star in the East
and have come to worship Him.”*





Herod Matthew 2:3

³ When Herod the king heard *this*, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

1. Herod – half Jew, half Idumaeon
2. Set as governor in 47 B.C.
3. Given title of King in 40 B.C.
4. Kept peace, great builder,
5. Old age became paranoid
 - Murdered his wife, Mariamne
 - Murdered his mother , Alexandria
 - Murdered oldest son, Antipater
 - Murdered sons, Alexander & Aristobulus



Herod Matthew 2:3

³ When Herod the king heard *this*, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

“ It is safer to be Herod’s pig (*in Greek HUS*) than Herod’s son (*in Greek HUIOS*).”



Augustus the Roman Emperor



Herod Matthew 2:4

⁴ And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.

Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him





Herod

Matthew 2:4-6

⁴ And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.

So they said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet:

**⁶ ‘But you, Bethlehem, *in* the land of Judah,
Are not the least among the rulers of Judah;
For out of you shall come a Ruler
Who will shepherd My people Israel.’”**



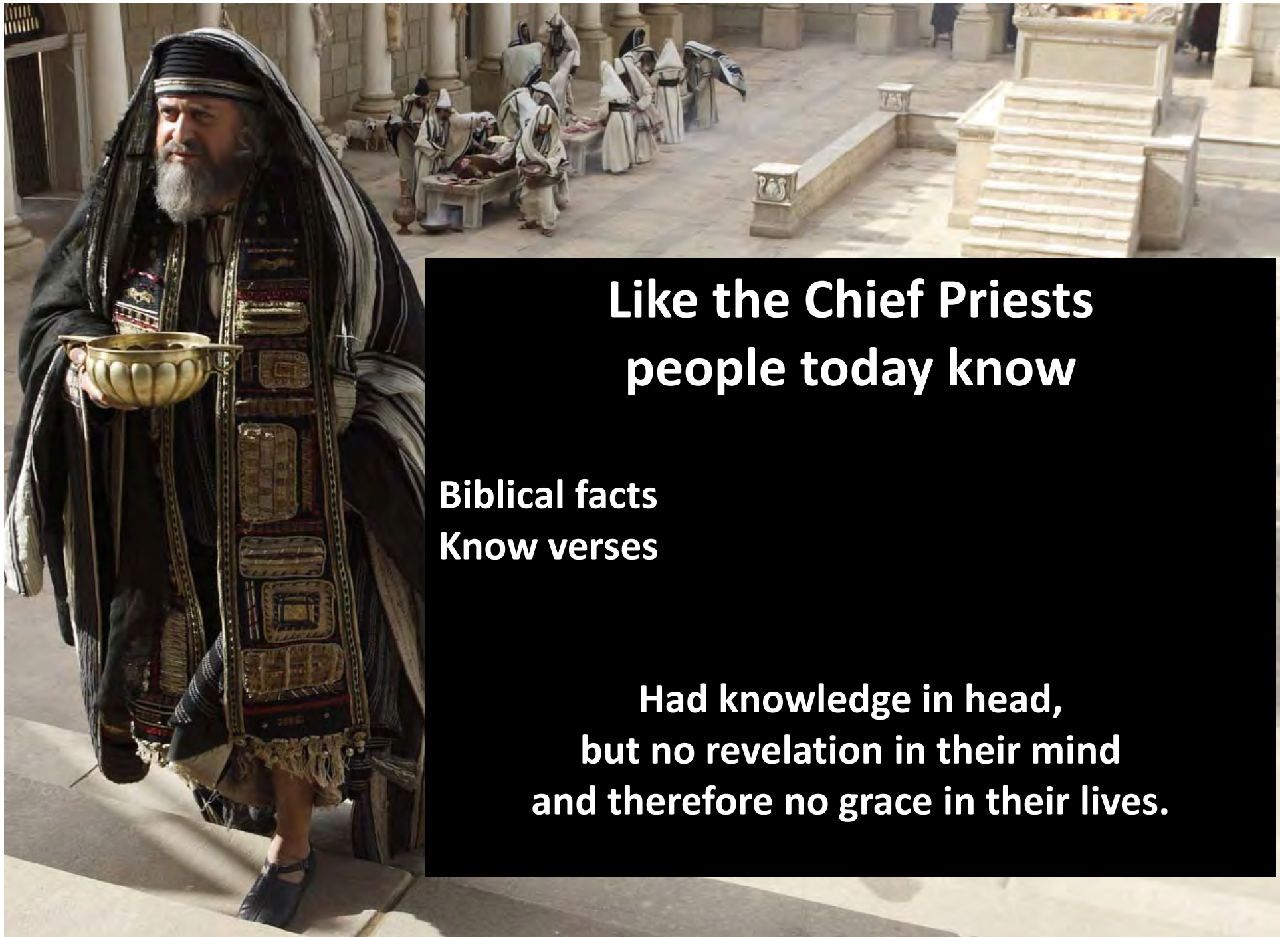
The Chief Priests and Scribes

Trained in the Scriptures all their lives.

They knew he was to be born in Bethlehem

They knew the passage of Scripture Micah 5:2

But there was no revelation.



**Like the Chief Priests
people today know**

**Biblical facts
Know verses**

**Had knowledge in head,
but no revelation in their mind
and therefore no grace in their lives.**



Herod Matthew 2:7-8

⁷ Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared. ⁸ And 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."



The Wise Men Matthew 2:9-10

⁹ When 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. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy.





The Wise Men Matthew 2:11-12

¹¹ And 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.

¹² Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way.



The Wise Men

Matthew 2:11

And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh



Gold

**Most precious of metals
Universal symbol
of value & wealth
Symbol of nobility & royalty**

Jesus was born a King

The Wise Men

Matthew 2:11

And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh



Frankincense

Used in temple & royal processions
Costly sweet smelling incense
Changed the atmosphere of life

**Jesus affected everyone who came
near to him**

The Wise Men

Matthew 2:11

And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh



Myrrh

Expensive Perfume
Mixed with wine as anesthetic
Mixed with spices for burial

**Jesus was born to die in time on
earth that we might live forever
with Him**



Matthew 2:13-14

Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, “Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him.”

¹⁴ When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, ¹⁵ and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, “Out of Egypt I called My Son.”

Joseph was obedient to the revelation of God



Herod

Matthew 2:16-18

Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men. ¹⁷ Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying:

¹⁸ “A voice was heard in Ramah,
Lamentation, weeping, and great mourning,
Rachel weeping *for* her children,
Refusing to be comforted,
Because they are no more.”[[]



put to death all the male children who were in
Bethlehem and in all its districts,
from two years old and under,



My eyes have seen Your salvation
Which You have prepared
before the face of all peoples,
A light to bring revelation to the Gentiles,
And the glory of Your people Israel.

Luke 2:30-32 (New King James Version)



**Behold, this Child is destined
for the fall and rising
of many in Israel,
and for a sign
which will be spoken against**

Luke 2:34 (New King James Version)

**The response to Jesus
reveals what is in the hearts of people**



Responses to Jesus Herod

Agitation

Fear

Hatred

Hostility

Will not have anyone challenge his right to rule his own way.

Selfishness



Responses to Jesus Priests and Scribes

Acknowledged the possibility

Life is good now, why care?

Don't rock the boat

Avoidance

God does not really get involved

Indifference



Responses to Jesus The Magi

Wonder at supernatural event

Seeking the King foretold

Acclaiming Him as King

Gave gifts fit for a King

God does as He promised.

Worship



Responses to Jesus Of Joseph

**His delight *is* in the fear of the LORD,
And He shall not judge
by the sight of His eyes,
Nor decide
by the hearing of His ears;**

Isaiah 11:3



Responses to Jesus Of Joseph

Was not moved by circumstance

Did not follow his own reason

Acted on the revelation of the Lord

Following the revelation of God

Obedience

Lessons from the Nativity

