

THE UNFOLDING MYSTERY OF REDEMPTION

Lesson 12: The Beginning of the End to Sin Luke 1; Matthew 1

I. The New Testament Begins

1. A Continuation and Fulfillment of the Old Testament
2. Starts with Four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John)
3. Presents Jesus as the Long-Awaited _____

II. The Angel Visits Zechariah To Announce the Forerunner (Luke Ch. 1)

The Forerunner's ministry would have two major components:

1. To _____ the people for the coming of the Deliverer
2. To _____ out the coming Deliverer when He arrived

III. The Angel Visits Mary (Luke 1:26-38)

Isaiah 7:14: *"Therefore the Lord Himself shall give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call Him Immanuel."*

IV. Mary Visits Elizabeth (Luke 1:39-45)

When Mary goes to visit Elizabeth, some significant things happen:

- (1) Elizabeth's baby _____ in her _____
- (2) Elizabeth was _____ with the _____
- (3) Elizabeth calls Mary, "the mother of _____"



V. Mary's Song (Luke 1:46-56)

VI. Birth of John the Baptist (Luke 1:57-66)

A. Zechariah's Song (Luke 1:67-80)

VII. The Boyfriend's Discovery (Matthew 1:18-25)

A. Mary Found to be _____ (v. 18)

B. Joseph was a _____ man (v. 19)

This didn't mean that he was **perfect**, but that he was zealous/committed to **keeping the law**.

C. Joseph doesn't _____ Mary's story (v. 19)

Joseph's Options:

1. Have her stoned (Deuteronomy 22:22-21)
2. Charge her with adultery in Roman court
3. File divorce papers quietly (Matthew 1:19)



D. The Angel appears to Joseph (v. 20-23)

E. Joseph takes Mary home to be his wife (v. 24-25)

1. They set up home in _____

2. But... the Deliverer needs to be born in _____(Micah 5:2)

VIII. The Journey to Bethlehem (Luke 2:1-5)

IX. The Birth of the Awaited Deliverer (Luke 2:6-7)

X. The Magi

A. Why They Came

B. When They Came



XI. The Escape to Egypt (Matthew 2:13-15)

XII. Manhunt for the Child (Matthew 2:16-18)

“A voice is heard in Ramah...” (Jeremiah 1:15)

XIII. “Sidetrack” to Nazareth (Matthew 2:19-23)

Reading Homework:

- Luke 2:41-52, and chapter 3
- Matthew 3:1-17, John 1:29-34
- Isaiah 42:1-4, Matthew 4:1-11

Go Deeper:



“Mary’s Song”

Go Deeper:



“Zechariah’s Song”



Supplemental Notes on the Magi and Herod (Matthew 2:1-12)

It is hard to sort out tradition and legend from truth, when it comes to the Magi. As we see these guys portrayed on Christmas cards and Nativity sets, it is hard to tell fact from fiction. In reality, not much is known for sure about them. Here is what some have said:

Who They Were:

Some have said that one of them was White, one Black, and one Asian, representing Shem, Ham and Japheth, the three sons of Noah. But there is no historical basis for this anywhere. Someone has even given them names: Caspar, Balthasar, and Melchior. And it is claimed that their skulls were found in the 12th century by Bishop Reinald of Cologne, where they are exhibited in a casket. The story goes on and on, and most of it is just speculation and legend. The Old Testament gives us a little bit of background on who they might have been:

- They were probably astrologers and interpreters of dreams... magicians, like the ones that Nebuchadnezzar called to help him interpret a dream. "**Magi**" is the root of the word "magician"
- They were practitioners of the occult, using sorcery, wizardry, astrology and witchcraft. So kings would often use them as counselors. They were very influential.
- One historian, Herodotus says that the Magi were a priestly caste, who came from the Medo-Persian area, where Iran is today.

How Many There Were:

It has generally been assumed that there were three Magi. This is calculated from the fact that there were three types of gifts given, gold, frankincense and Myrrh. But the Scripture doesn't say how many there were...there may have been more or less. They probably did come with a great company of soldiers and servants, so even if there were only three Magi, there would have been a lot of others with them. And their gifts were probably a lot more than one little container of Gold, one of Frankincense and one of Myrrh...kings were given huge gifts, and it is likely that this was a substantial gift. It would have been a tremendous help to Joseph and Mary.

XIV. Notes on Herod

He was 'Herod the Great', the first Herod in a long line of rulers over Jerusalem. He was a treacherous, scheming, man, filled with paranoia. He was afraid of Aristobulus, his favorite wife's brother, so he had HIM put to death, and then he had HER put to death, too. He was afraid that one of his eldest sons might try to take his throne, so he had BOTH of them killed, just to make sure. One of the very last things he did on his deathbed before he died was to command that all of the most distinguished citizens of the entire Jewish nation be gathered before him. When they arrived, he had them surrounded by soldiers. He commanded that when HE died, all of them be slaughtered, too, just so that there would be weeping at the time of his death, even if it wasn't for HIM. When he **did** die, they **didn't** carry out his orders.



Herod was appointed over the Jews by the Romans and called Himself "The King of the Jews". **So it is not surprising that a man this paranoid would be upset when he heard from the Magi that the King of the Jews had just been born.**

