

## Introduction

1. Interesting occurrences: Wise men come to see Jesus  
Herod acts viciously; killed babies  
Joseph takes his family to Egypt  
Jesus brought back to Nazareth
2. Matthew does not provide further details about Christ's early life.
3. Many Old Testament prophecies are fulfilled in Matthew 2.



## Select Verses

- 2:1 - *"Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem."*
- 2:11 - *"And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh."*
- 2:16 - *"Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently inquired of the wise men."*
- 2:23 - *"And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, He shall be called a Nazarene."*

## Select Thoughts / Themes

1. The world at the time Jesus was born.
  - a. Herod Antipas' vicious actions:  
Had John beheaded; Tried Jesus
  - b. Extreme fear, jealousy, anger.



**Author** – Matthew  
**Date** – 58-60 AD

**Chapter 2 of 260**  
in the New Testament

2. Prophecies were made centuries earlier about the Messiah –
  - a. His birth, life (how He would be treated).
  - b. His death (type of death, vicarious suffering).
3. The prophets were messengers of God.
  - a. They would not have known the facts by themselves.
  - b. They spoke of facts unknown at that time.
4. Jesus left the beauty and glory of heaven to come to earth for what reason / purpose?



### To Consider Further...

1. Why and when were the prophecies made regarding Christ?
  - a. How important are these fulfillments?
  - b. How many prophecies were made about Christ?
  - c. Itemize some of the prophecies.
2. What gifts were brought to the young child?
  - a. Who brought the gifts?
  - b. How many wise men came to see the baby Jesus?
3. What would cause Herod to be concerned and fear the birth of a Messiah?
  - a. Why are people today so opposed to Christianity?
  - b. What should be our reaction to such opposition?
4. Joseph carried his family to Egypt for what reason?
  - a. Of whom was he afraid?
  - b. Was it important for Jesus to be brought back to Nazareth?
5. Have you thought of Jesus' early life as a son to a carpenter?
  - a. Do you think he was a normal young child?
  - b. What verse in Luke refers to his relationship to his parents?