

Matthew 2:1-12 ¹"Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the reign of King Herod. About that time some wise men from eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem, asking, ²"Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose, and we have come to worship him." ³King Herod was deeply disturbed when he heard this, as was everyone in Jerusalem. ⁴He called a meeting of the leading priests and teachers of religious law and asked, "Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?" ⁵"In Bethlehem in Judea," they said, "for this is what the prophet wrote: ⁶'And you, O Bethlehem in the land of Judah, are not least among the ruling cities of Judah, for a ruler will come from you who will be the shepherd for my people Israel.'" ⁷Then Herod called for a private meeting with the wise men, and he learned from them the time when the star first appeared. ⁸Then he told them, "Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child. And when you find him, come back and tell me so that I can go and worship him, too!" ⁹After this interview the wise men went their way. And the star they had seen in the east guided them to Bethlehem. It went ahead of them and stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they were filled with joy! ¹¹They entered the house and saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²When it was time to leave, they returned to their own country by another route, for God had warned them in a dream not to return to Herod." (NLT)

Numbers 24:17 "I see Him, but not here and now. I perceive Him, but far in the distant future. A star will rise from Jacob; a scepter will emerge from Israel. It will crush the heads of Moab's people, cracking the skulls of the people of Sheth." (NLT)

Psalms 72:10-11 ¹⁰The western kings of Tarshish and other distant lands will bring Him tribute. The eastern kings of Sheba and Seba will bring Him gifts. ¹¹All the kings will bow before Him, and all nations will serve Him." (NLT)

SEARCHING FOR A SAVIOR

1. Seek the TRUTH.

Matthew 2:1b-2 “¹ ... About that time some wise men from eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem, asking, ² “Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose, and we have come to worship him.”

Jeremiah 29:11-12 “¹¹ For I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. ¹² In those days when you pray, I will listen. ¹³ If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me.”

John 8:31-32 “³¹ Jesus said to the people who believed in Him, “You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings. ³² And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” (NLT)

2. Surrender the THRONE.

Matthew 2:3-8 “³ King Herod was deeply disturbed when he heard this, as was everyone in Jerusalem. ⁴ He called a meeting of the leading priests and teachers of religious law and asked, “Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?” ⁵ “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they said, “for this is what the prophet wrote: ⁶ ‘And you, O Bethlehem in the land of Judah, are not least among the ruling cities of Judah, for a ruler will come from you who will be the shepherd for my people Israel.’” ⁷ Then Herod called for a private meeting with the wise men, and he learned from them the time when the star first appeared. ⁸ Then he told them, “Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child. And when you find him, come back and tell me so that I can go and worship him, too!” (NLT)

Luke 14:25-27 “²⁵ A large crowd was following Jesus. He turned around and said to them, ²⁶ “If you want to be my disciples, you must, by comparison, hate everyone else—your father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes even your own life. Otherwise, you cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ And if you do not carry your own cross and follow me, you cannot be my disciples.” (NLT)

Matthew 16:13-18 “¹³ When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” ¹⁴ “Well,” they replied, “some say John the Baptist, some say Elijah, and others say Jeremiah or one of the other prophets.” ¹⁵ Then He asked them, “But who do you say I am?” ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, “**You are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God.**” ¹⁷ Jesus replied, “You are blessed, Simon son of John, because my Father in heaven has revealed this to you. You did not learn this from any human being. ¹⁸ Now I say to you that you are Peter (which means ‘rock’),

and upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it." (NLT)

3. Experience the JOY.

Matthew 2:9-10 “⁹ After this interview the wise men went their way. And the star they had seen in the east guided them to Bethlehem. It went ahead of them and stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were **filled with joy!**”

Luke 2:9-11 “⁹ Suddenly, an angel appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord’s glory surrounded them. They were terrified, ¹⁰ but the angel reassured them. “Don’t be afraid!” he said. “I bring you good news that will bring **great joy** to all people. ¹¹ The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David.” (NLT)

Colossians 1:11-14 “¹¹ We also pray that you will be strengthened with all His glorious power so you will have all the endurance and patience you need. May you be **filled with joy**, ¹² always thanking the Father. He has enabled you to share in the inheritance that belongs to His people, who live in the light. ¹³ For He has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of His dear Son, ¹⁴ who purchased our freedom and forgave our sins.” (NLT)

4. Recognize the GIFT.

Matthew 2:11-12 “¹¹ They entered the house and **saw** the child with his mother, Mary, and **they bowed down** and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.”
¹² When it was time to leave, they returned to their own country by another route, for God had warned them in a dream not to return to Herod.”

Colossians 1:15-20 “¹⁵ Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation, ¹⁶ for through Him God caused everything in the heavenly realms and on earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can’t see—such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world. Everything was created through Him and for Him. ¹⁷ He existed before anything else, and He holds all creation together. ¹⁸ Christ is also the head of the church, which is His body. He is the beginning, supreme over all who rise from the dead. So **He is first in everything**. ¹⁹ For God in all His fullness was pleased to live in Christ, ²⁰ and

through Him God **reconciled everything** to Himself. He **made peace** with everything in heaven and on earth by means of Christ's blood on the cross." (NLT)

2 Corinthians 9:14-15 "14 And they will pray for you with deep affection because of the **overflowing grace** God has given you. 15 Thank God for this gift too wonderful for words." (NLT)

BOTTOM LINE

John 8:12 "Jesus spoke to the people once more and said, "I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won't have to walk in darkness, because you will have **the light that leads to life.**" (NLT)