

## Christmas Bible Hour, Firm Foundation Christian Church, 2023

1. Our Text: Matthew 2:1-11
2. Teaching and Devotional Applications
  - a. 2:1-2, begins the record following the birth of the Christ Child in Bethlehem of Judea, “wise men” were magi (astronomers/astrologers who saw the unusual sight of a star in a fixed place—“His star” of Numbers 24:17), Scripture does not tell us how many nor are they kings, though they were men of means, probably traveling in caravan for safety (Cf. Luke 10:30), these were religious seekers who had rightly come to “Jerusalem”
  - b. 2:3-6, Herod calls the religious leaders together for information, though they intellectually knew the answer from Micah 5:2, they did not spiritually discern the fulfillment of the prophecy (1 Corinthians 1:26-27)
  - c. 2:7-8, Herod of course had a malicious motive born of paranoia to snuff out what he saw as a possible rival King
  - d. 2:9, this is no comet or alignment of planets, as such things do not stand over a fixed location, but was the fulfillment of the prophecy as the wise men had discerned, the Shekinah Glory, visible manifestation of God (Cf. Luke 2:9), we are not led by a star in the heavens today but by the Holy Spirit from the heavens, and are each on our own pilgrimage, we say with David (Psalm 5:3)
  - e. 2:10, Tis the season for the rejoicing at the discovery of the Savior of the world anew each day
  - f. 2:11, “gold”, a fitting gift for a King, gold mentioned 417 times in the Bible from Genesis 2:10-12 to Revelation 21:18-21, spiritually applied Cf. Matthew 6:21; 1 Corinthians 3:11-15
  - g. 2:11, “frankincense”, a fitting offering for worship of a deity associated with the priesthood of which Jesus is our High Priest (Hebrews 4:14), in the OT for worship (Exodus 30:34), in concert with the grain offering (Leviticus 6:15), and speaks of Christ’s holiness and sinlessness (Leviticus 5:11)
  - h. 2:11, “myrrh”, a fitting offering for He was born to die (for the sins of the world), used as a burial spice in John 19:39, associated with beauty (Esther 2:12) and specifically Messianic beauty (Psalm 45:6,8)