

# King of Kings

*Matthew 2*

## **I. Scripture reading: Matthew 2**

**II. King of Kings:** We've already seen that Jesus was born from a bloodline of kings; Matthew made that very clear by providing us with a genealogy in the very opening of his Gospel account. Here in chapter 2, we get to see how the appearing of this King affected the kings of earth who ruled at the time of his coming.

## **III. Caesar Augustus: "the son of a god"**

Adopted by Julius Caesar in his youth, Gaius Julius Caesar Augustus, considered himself the son of a god because the Senate of Rome deified Julius Caesar after his death. Augustus is considered to be the first and greatest emperor of Rome. It was during his reign that a census was ordered and, as Luke wrote, that census compelled Joseph to take Mary and her unborn child to Bethlehem. Unbeknownst to the worldly "king of kings" and "son of a god", the true King of kings and the unique Son of God was born in a small town within his empire. Jesus: the first, the greatest, the only.

## **IV. Herod the Great: "king of the Jews"**

Herod the Great was appointed to rule over Judea and its Jewish residents by his Roman masters. He was, therefore, considered the king of the Jews within the Roman Empire. This was the madman that was notorious for ruthlessly disposing of threats to his power. When some visitors from the East came announcing that they had come to Jerusalem seeking the newborn king of the Jews, Herod followed his instincts: kill the threat. The worldly king of kings appointed the worldly king of the Jews, but the true King of the Universe had appointed another king of the Jews who could not be so easily destroyed.

## **V. The Magi: "wise men"**

These were not, as far as we can tell, royalty, but they were most likely at home in royal courts as advisors to rulers of the East. We sing "We Three Kings", but we don't know how many there were. What's more, we're pretty sure they weren't kings. Nevertheless, we consider that these powerful and influential men traveled from afar to honor the special king of the Jews whose birth was announced in the heavens. These men came to worship and honor the king, not ignore or hunt him. This is why we consider them truly wise.

## **VI. Jesus: The Son of God**

**The King of the Jews**

**The Wisdom of God**

## **VII. Conclusion - Jesus: The King of... You**

It's too easy and comfortable to think only about Jesus' kingship over the rulers of past ages. This morning we must see these examples as a reason for us to consider this: Jesus is YOUR King and He is mine. How will you respond to the King? Will you ignore Him? Will you stand against Him and openly resist Him? Please, we beg you, do not do either of these. We implore you to do as the strangers from the East did: seek Him out, honor and adore Him as the God-sent King of kings. Amen.