

30 Days Together
“Immanuel - God With Us”
#30daystogether

Day #30 – December 25th

Text: Matthew 2:1-23

“After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ² and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

³ When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴ When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:

⁶ “‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.’”

⁷ Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸ He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

⁹ After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹ On coming to the house, they saw the child with His mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped Him. Then they opened their treasures and presented Him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

¹³ When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. “Get up,” he said, “take the child and His mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill Him.”

¹⁴ So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, ¹⁵ where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: “Out of Egypt I called my son.”

¹⁶ When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. ¹⁷ Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

¹⁸ “A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning,
Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more.”

¹⁹ After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt ²⁰ and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child’s life are dead.”

²¹ So he got up, took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. ²² But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning in Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Having been warned in a dream, he withdrew to the district of Galilee, ²³ and he went and lived in a town called Nazareth. So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets, that He would be called a Nazarene.

Devotion: Pastor Craig

We have reached the last day in our 30 days together. I have been blessed by the Scriptures, and I have been blessed by our people’s wonderful sharing of the Word of God. Together we have read, pondered, and shared the Word of God. Now we come to the last passage. Jesus’ first days as Matthew was inspired to share them with us.

What strikes you as beautiful in this passage? *(Go ahead and read it again and share your thoughts.)*

What is something 'new' that you have seen in this passage? *(Share away.)*

The theme of salvation is nothing new to mankind. We know we need a Savior. Joseph would be a minor 'savior' to Jesus. Matthew records that Joseph was directed to, "Take the child ... to Egypt. ... Herod is going to search for the child to kill Him."

It was not just the fictional Mandalorian who had to save a child. Joseph and our Heavenly Father 2000 years ago worked together to protect Jesus, The child. They protected Jesus so that He will be the one who "saves His people from their sins."

Herod was evil. And that evil tried to destroy the goodness of God wrapped in swaddling clothes. But evil could not defeat our Jesus. Evil is still at war with God, but evil has been defeated. Thank you Lord Jesus!

Closing Prayer: "Jesus, today I honor and celebrate Your birth for me. I rejoice that in the fullness of time You took on flesh and dwelt among us. Father, thank You for Joseph who was faithful, and for Jesus who is my Savior and Lord. Amen"