

October 5, 2025



**Week 5 – THE VISIT OF THE WISE MEN (Matt. 2:1-18, pp. 35-41)**

Matthew is the only gospel-writer to tell us about the visit of the wise men from the east. **Who were these wise men?** \_\_\_\_\_

**What did the wise men want to do?** \_\_\_\_\_

**How would they have knowing about the one born to be “king of the Jews?”** (see Daniel 2:46-49) \_\_\_\_\_

After following the star from the east, the wise men find their way to Jerusalem and pay a visit to Herod. **Who is Herod and what is he known for?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Why do the wise men go to King Herod to inquire about the Messiah?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Zechariah doubted God’s Word. Mary and Joseph submitted to His will. What did Herod do in response to God’s Word and will?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Why does he respond this way?** \_\_\_\_\_

**According to CFM p 37, who is acting through Herod?** \_\_\_\_\_

Despite the common depictions in our Christmas nativities, the wise men did not likely join the shepherds at the manger. Instead, they arrived from the east sometime later.

**About how old is Jesus when the wise men arrive? (see Matt. 2:16)**

Herod’s violent rejection of God’s Word and will spills over into his command to slaughter the baby boys in Bethlehem. Though it is often overshadowed by our ongoing celebration of Christmas, still the church honors these children annually on December 28 (*The Feast of the Holy Innocents, Martyrs*) **How does the slaughter of the Innocents fulfill prophecy?** (see Jer. 31:5) \_\_\_\_\_

**How and why does God protect Jesus from Herod?** \_\_\_\_\_

**How does the Holy Family’s flight to and return from Egypt also fulfill prophesy?** (see Hosea 11:1) \_\_\_\_\_

God allowed the wise men to reveal Jesus’ birth to Herod. He protected Jesus, but He allowed the innocent boys of Bethlehem to die. **Why would God do that?** \_\_\_\_\_

*The question why there is evil is not a theological question, for it presupposes that it is possible to go back behind the existence that is laid upon us as sinners. If we could answer the question why, then we would not be sinners. We could blame something else. (Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Creation and Fall, 120-121)*

*The question of suffering (theodicy) is a pagan question, not a Christian one. “Christ suffered,” is Peter’s constant refrain that puts our suffering in context. (Bryan Wolfmueller, Doxology p. 13)*

**What “good” does God bring from the evil acts of Herod?** \_\_\_\_\_

**What (who) sustains us in the face of the evil in this world?** \_\_\_\_\_

**For Next Time:**

*Week 6 – TWELVE YEAR OLD JESUS in the TEMPLE (Lk 2:20-52, pp. 43-49)*