

# **Sunday School Lesson**

**December 26, 2021**

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**A JUST KING IS BORN**

**Matthew 2:1-12**

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# Questions for Us Today

How do you celebrate the birth of the King of Kings, Christ Jesus?

2

How have you sought the Lord?

What gifts have you provided (back) to God?

# Sunday School Lesson Segments

**December 26, 2021**

1. Points of Information: Matthew
2. Lesson Context
3. Lesson Text

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# Points of Information – Matthew

4

Matthew's original name was Levi. Although Matthew refers to himself by this name (which most of know him by), the Gospels according to Mark and Luke refer to him by his original name: Levi. The name "Matthew" means "Gift of Jehovah."

The Gospel according to Matthew is one of the three Synoptic Gospels – written with similar content, points of view and sequence. The others were written by Mark and Luke.

# Points of Information – Matthew

5

Before being called to Discipleship by Jesus, Matthew's occupation was as a tax collector. This line of work was dreaded by the populace for at least a couple of reasons. These servants of the Roman Empire collected taxes for the despised and oppressive government. And, with the government's permission, they were allowed to collect extra monies above the tax amounts for themselves. Hence, they were regarded as veritable "leeches" upon their own people.

# Points of Information – Matthew

Matthew became one of the original Twelve Disciples when he was called by Christ Jesus. This was recorded by Luke (5:27-28), by Mark (2:14) and by Matthew himself (9:9).

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Immediately after he was called to follow Jesus, Matthew invited Our Lord and Savior to his home for a feast along with a number of his (Matthew's) friends and associates (including other tax collectors). Jesus accepted the invitation and went to Matthew's home, facing criticism from Pharisees, scribes and others. Matthew 9:9-11; Mark 2:14-16; Luke 5:27-30.

## Points of Information – Matthew

As he establishes the case for Jesus as the Messiah, Matthew begins the Gospel (Verses 1:1-17) with a genealogical listing – tracing the lineage of Jesus as the Son of God from the Hebrew patriarch, Abraham. Another Gospel writer, Luke, presents a genealogy of Our Lord and Savior (Luke 3:23-38) in a reverse order, and goes all the way back to Adam, presenting Jesus as the Son of Man.

## Points of Information – Matthew

In a fitting closing, the Great Commission ("Go ye therefore...") – from Christ Jesus – is recorded in the final Verses of the Gospel according to Matthew (28:19-20).



# A Just King is Born – Context

9

In today's Scriptural passage, we see a threatening episode during the reign of a very cruel ruler, Herod, designated as the "King of the Jews."



10

# **A Just King is Born**

**Matthew 2:1-12**

## Matthew 2:1-2 (NRSV)

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking "Where is the child who has been born King of the Jews? For we observed His star at its rising, and have come to pay Him homage."

## Matthew 2:3-4

When King Herod heard this, he was frightened and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.

## Matthew 2:5-6

They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel'."

## Matthew 2:7

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared.

## Matthew 2:8

Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage."

## Matthew 2:9

When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was.



## Matthew 2:10

When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.

## Matthew 2:11

On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary His mother; and they knelt down and paid Him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

## Matthew 2:12

And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

**Songs for Us Today:**

**O Little Town of Bethlehem**

**What Child is This**

**Hark the Herald Angels Sing**

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