

## LEARNING FROM THE LIFE OF JESUS:

### THE INFANT WHO WOULD BECOME KING Matthew 2.1-23

Have you ever seen a baby in the finest clothes with the finest baby equipment and the perfect parents and say to yourself, “That child has all the advantages in the world and is probably going places”? Of course, it doesn’t always work out that way.

The infant Jesus did not have the fine things of life as far as physical niceties are concerned. Yet angels, prophets and foreigners knew that He was destined to be the “King of kings.”

Matthew introduces Jesus as the new king. His genealogical line connected Him with Abraham and David, the messianic line (Matthew 1.2-17). Micah said He would come from Bethlehem and be ruler of Israel (Micah 5.2-5). The magi asked Herod, “*Where is He who has been born King of the Jews?*” (Matthew 2.2).

Jesus’ teaching in Matthew’s gospel is about the “*kingdom of heaven.*” The soldiers later mocked Jesus, saying, “*Hail! King of the Jews!*” (Matthew 27.29). When Jesus was crucified, the sign read, “*This is Jesus the King of the Jews*” (v. 37). After His resurrection, Jesus proclaimed, “*All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth*” (Matthew 28.18). Matthew is the gospel of the kingdom and the story of the King.

However, the difficulty lies in understanding what kind of a King Jesus would be, and what kind of a kingdom He would rule. Pilate asked Him, “*Are You a king then?*” Jesus responded, “*You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice*” (John 18.37). In the preceding verse (v. 36), Jesus had said, “*My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here.*”

The prophecies in our Matthew text show clearly that God ordained Jesus as His anointed King. They show how God protected Him so that He could assume His universal throne. Angels announced Him. Magi worshiped Him. Herod tried to kill Him. But God protected Him and made Him King! Have you submitted to God’s King? **Does Jesus rule your life?** [BTW]