

A Voice in Ramah Part II

Matthew 2:1-12 ¹After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, ²asking, “Where is the One who has been born King of the Jews? We saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him.” ³When King Herod heard this, he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴When he had assembled all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired where the Christ 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 be the shepherd of My people Israel.’” ⁷Then Herod called the Magi secretly and learned from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸And sending them to Bethlehem, he said: “Go and search carefully for the Child, and when you find Him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship Him.” ⁹After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stood over the place where the Child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced with great delight. ¹¹On coming to the house, they saw the Child with His mother Mary, and they fell down and worshiped Him. Then they opened their treasures and presented Him with gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they withdrew to their country by another route. (BSB)

Matthew 2:16-20 ¹⁶When Herod saw that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was filled with rage. Sending orders, he put to death all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, according to the time he had learned from the Magi. ¹⁷Then what was spoken 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.” ¹⁹After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt. ²⁰“Get up!” he said. “Take the Child and His mother and go to the land of Israel, for those seeking the Child’s life are now dead.” (BSB)

Intro: This is the second part of a two-part sermon on a prophecy from Jeremiah. Here are the details of the prophecy:

- *Rachel died giving birth to Benjamin.
- *She had been traveling to Bethlehem.
- *The prophecy stated that she was weeping for an upcoming tragedy regarding the death of her children, the Israelites.

I. Here are the details of today's message.

- A.** The Magi showed up in Jerusalem looking for the King of the Jews who was just **born**. V.1
- B.** Herod wanted to **destroy** anyone threatening his throne so he asked the Magi to come back to him once they found the child. V.3
- C.** The Magi went to Bethlehem and found the **toddler** living in a house and they worshipped him. V.10-11
- D.** The Magi were warned in a **dream** not to go back to Herod. V.12
- E.** Then Herod **ordered** a mass murder of children two years old and under who were living around Bethlehem. V.16
- F.** This fulfilled the **prophecy** regarding Rachel weeping. V.17-18
- G.** Herod **died** and the threat to Jesus was gone. V.19

II. What can we learn from this?

- A.** When God is raising up a special leader the enemy responds by **killing** children.
- B.** We are either on God's side or we **are not**.
- C.** Our enemy is not **omniscient**.
- D.** God's will **outlasts** any human leader.
- E.** We must ask ourselves, what is **God doing** in this generation?
- F.** We must **pick a side**!

What is 20/20 spiritual vision? It is a **determination** that we will adapt our **priorities** to what God wants to do in us and through us this **year**.