

Study Notes and Questions for Matthew Chapter Two

- Jesus was born in Bethlehem in what tribal area. Explain why Matthew made a point of highlighting the fact that Bethlehem was located in Judea?
- What prophecy did Matthew cite regarding the place of Messiah's birth and why was that important to include?
- What time reference does Matthew use to date the birth of Jesus?
- What do we know about the Wise men from Matthew's description?
- Study Note: **King Herod** (2:1). Often called "Herod the Great," he ruled from 37–4 BC. He was ruthless in both consolidating and keeping power, even executing his wife Marianne in 29 BC, his mother-in-law Alexandra in 28 BC, and his brother-in-law Costobarus in 25 BC. He was married ten times and changed his will six times to try to satisfy the desires of each of his wives regarding royal succession.
- God used a dream to warn both the Wise Men and Joseph concerning Herod. Dreams occur frequently in Matthew 1–2 as a means of divine guidance. Why do you think Matthew highlights these incidents?
- What two statements from the Old Testament does Matthew use in this chapter to speak of fulfillments in the life of Jesus?
- Why do you think that God instructed His Joseph to flee with Mary and the baby to Egypt rather than just confront the enemy?
- What explanation was given in the teaching to explain the statement, "He would be called a Nazarene"?
- From what you know of Matthew's gospel so far, summarize in your own words what you think is the purpose of this book.