

# Jesus, Lord of the Nations

## Micah 5:1-5

*The Ruler to Be Born in Bethlehem*

Now muster your troops, O daughter of troops; siege is laid against us; with a rod they strike the judge of Israel on the cheek.

2 But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for Me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days.

3 Therefore He shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of His brothers shall return to the people of Israel.

4 And He shall stand and shepherd His flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord His God. And they shall dwell secure, for now He shall be great to the ends of the earth. 5 And He shall be their peace.



We saw His star when it rose and have come to worship Him. Matthew 2:2

## **Matthew 2:1-12 - *The Visit of the Wise Men***

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, 2 saying, “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star when it rose and have come to worship Him.”

3 When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; 4 and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.

5 They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: 6 ““And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd My people Israel.””

7 Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. 8 And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found Him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship Him.”

9 After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. 10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.

11 And going into the house they saw the Child with Mary His mother, and they fell down and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered Him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. 12 And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

*(Read also: Psalm 72:10, Isaiah 60:3,6,9)*

## **A Closer Look - Jesus, True God and True Man**

The season of Epiphany focuses on Jesus as true God and true man. God the Father sent His Son, born to a woman, to live the perfect life and die in agony to pay for the sins of the world. Because He was true God, His birth, death and resurrection allows all nations, who believe on His name, to live with Him forever.

### **True Man**

1. In the Old Testament, God chose Abraham to be the father of many nations. He was to be the bloodline for Jesus, Son of God and Son of man. Jesus would be called one of the “Sons of Abraham.”
  - a. How did God describe Abraham’s descendents? ~ *And He brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them.” Then He said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” 6 And he believed the Lord, and He counted it to him as righteousness. Genesis 15:5-6*
  - b. The lineage of the Jesus can be traced through Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (Israel). (Matthew 1:1-17 lists this royal line.) How many generations were there from God’s covenant or promise with Abraham to Jesus birth? ~ *So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations. Matthew 1:17*
2. Jesus was true man, but what is Joseph told of Mary’s child? ~ *“Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.” Matthew 1:20-21*
3. Jesus refers to Himself as the “Son of Man.” What question does He then ask the disciples? What is Peter’s response? ~ *“Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” 14 And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” 15 He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” 16 Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Matthew 16:13-16*

## True God

4. The wise men bowed down and acknowledged that this infant was indeed the Christ, the Son of God. What was the significance of the visit of the Wise Men to the child, Jesus? Note: The wise men were Gentiles. They were not born into the family of Abraham. ~ *“Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star when it rose and have come to worship Him.” Matthew 2:2*
5. During Jesus ministry, Peter and the other disciples witnessed many miraculous things. Tell what happened in this story. How did the disciples react? ~ *And Peter answered Him, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.” 29 He said, “Come.” So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. 30 But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, “Lord, save me.” 31 Jesus immediately reached out His hand and took hold of him, saying to him, “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?” 32 And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. 33 And those in the boat worshiped Him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.” Matthew 14:28-33*
6. Martha’s brother, Lazarus, died four days before this account in John. How does Jesus describe Himself? What does Martha say of Him? ~ *Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. 22 But even now I know that whatever You ask from God, God will give You.” 23 Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” 24 Martha said to Him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” 25 Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in Me, though he die, yet shall he live, 26 and everyone who lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?” 27 She said to Him, “Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.” John 11:21-27*
7. What did one of the Roman soldiers proclaim as He witnessed Jesus death? *And when the centurion, who stood facing Him, saw that in this way He breathed His last, he said, “Truly this man was the Son of God!” Mark 15:39*