

**Matthew 2 vss 1 to 12 What will it take for you to draw near to Jesus?
Dec 20, 2009**

Intro:

1. Are you ready to pay the price of inconvenience?

Matthew 2:1 (HCSB) ¹ After Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of King Herod, wise men from the east arrived unexpectedly in Jerusalem,

Matthew 13:44-46 (HCSB) ⁴⁴ “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure, buried in a field, that a man found and reburied. Then in his joy he goes and sells everything he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls.

⁴⁶ When he found one priceless pearl, he went and sold everything he had, and bought it.

2. Are you ready to study the instruction of nature and scripture?

Matthew 2:2 (HCSB) ² saying, “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him.”

Psalms 19:1-2 (HCSB) ¹ The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky proclaims the work of His hands.

² Day after day they pour out speech; night after night they communicate knowledge.

Romans 1:18-20 (HCSB) ¹⁸ For God’s wrath is revealed from heaven against all godlessness and unrighteousness of people who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth,

¹⁹ since what can be known about God is evident among them, because God has shown it to them.

²⁰ From the creation of the world His invisible attributes, that is, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what He has made. As a result, people are without excuse.

Daniel 9:25-26 (HCSB) ²⁵ Know and understand this: From the issuing of the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince will be seven weeks and 62 weeks. It will be rebuilt with a plaza and a moat, but in

difficult times.

²⁶ After those 62 weeks the Messiah will be cut off and will have nothing. The people of the coming prince will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come with a flood, and until the end there will be war; desolations are decreed.

Gabriel said, with **the issuing of the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem**. This decree was the fourth of four decrees made by Persian rulers in reference to the Jews. The first was Cyrus' decree in 538 B.C. (2 Chron. [36:22-23](#); [Ezra 1:1-4](#); [5:13](#)). The second was the decree of Darius I (522-486) in 520 B.C. ([Ezra 6:1](#), [6-12](#)). This decree actually was a confirmation of the first decree. The third was the decree of Artaxerxes Longimanus (464-424) in 458 B.C. ([Ezra 7:11-26](#)). The first two decrees pertain to the rebuilding of the temple in Jerusalem and the third relates to finances for animal sacrifices at the temple. These three say nothing about the rebuilding of the city itself. Since an unwalled city was no threat to a military power, a religious temple could be rebuilt without jeopardizing the military authority of those granting permission to rebuild it. No one of these three decrees, then, was the decree that formed the beginning of the 70 sevens.

The fourth decree was also by Artaxerxes Longimanus, issued on March 5, 444 B.C. ([Neh. 2:1-8](#)). On that occasion Artaxerxes granted the Jews permission to rebuild Jerusalem's city walls. This decree is the one referred to in [Daniel 9:25](#).

The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures by Dallas Seminary Faculty.

In The Jewish Calendar, this prophecy covers from March 5, 444 BC to March 30, AD 33 – the date of the triumphant entry of Christ.

3. Are you ready to seek Jesus in spite of:

-irritation?

-ignorance?

-imposters?

Matthew 2:3 (HCSB) ³ When King Herod heard this, he was deeply disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him.

Matthew 2:4-6 (HCSB) ⁴ So he assembled all the chief priests and scribes of the people and asked them where the Messiah would be born.

⁵ “In Bethlehem of Judea,” they told him, “because this is what was written by the prophet:

⁶ And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the leaders of Judah: because out of you will come a leader who will shepherd My people Israel.”

Micah 5:2 (HCSB) ² Bethlehem Ephrathah, you are small among the clans of Judah; One will come from you to be ruler over Israel for Me. His origin is from antiquity, from eternity.

Matthew 2:7-8 (HCSB) ⁷ Then Herod secretly summoned the wise men and asked them the exact time the star appeared.

⁸ He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. When you find Him, report back to me so that I too can go and worship Him.”

Mark 13:5-6 (HCSB) ⁵ Then Jesus began by telling them: “Watch out that no one deceives you.

⁶ Many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am He,’ and they will deceive many.

2 Corinthians 11:3-4 (ESV) ³ But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ.

⁴ For if someone comes and proclaims another Jesus than the one we proclaimed, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or if you accept a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it readily enough.

5. Are you ready to be inspired to worship Jesus?

Matthew 2:9-12 (HCSB) ⁹ After hearing the king, they went on their way. And there it was—the star they had seen in the east! It led them until it came and stopped above the place where the child was.

¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were overjoyed beyond measure.

¹¹ Entering the house, they saw the child with Mary His mother, and falling to their knees, they worshiped Him. Then they opened their treasures and presented Him with gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

¹² And being warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their own country by another route.