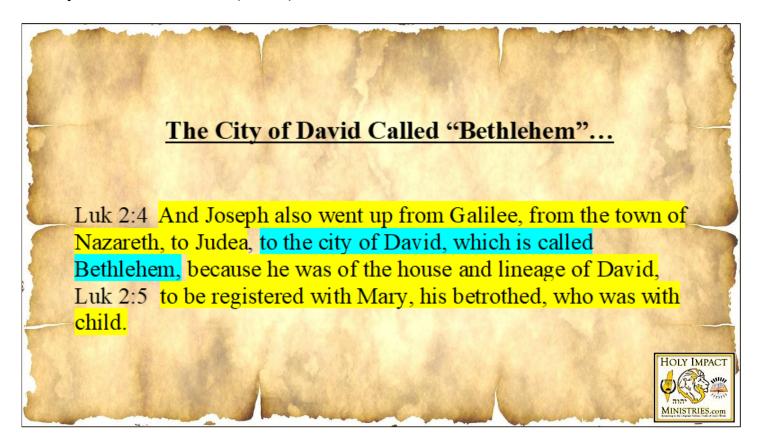




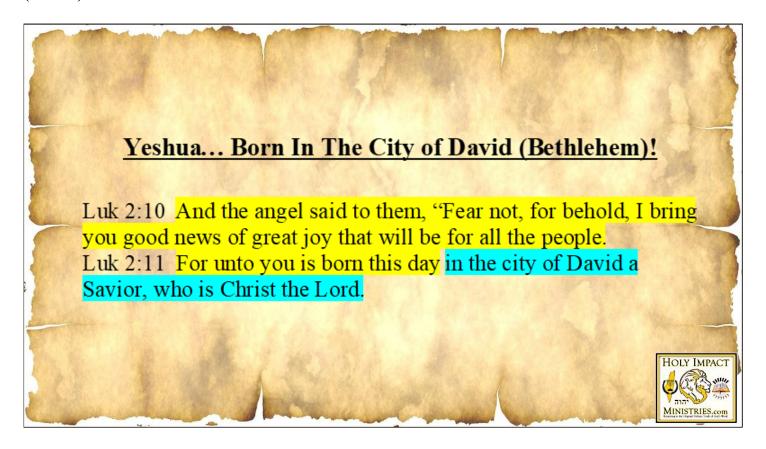
# Matthew Chapter 2b The Birth of A King & The Devil's Search

This morning as we move into Matthew chapter 2, we're going to see more of the Apostle Matthew's drive to show us and to prove to us the Davidic line of Yeshua Jesus throughout his Hebrew writings.

And as we read through Matthew chapter two, we'll clearly see that Matthew does not mention anything about Nazareth because Matthew clearly wanted to emphasize our Messiah's Davidic background by being born in Bethlehem, and so he begins the story of the birth of Yeshua with what had happened in Bethlehem in the city of David. And yes... Bethlehem was indeed called the city of **David. Luke 2:4 (scrn 1)** 



#### (scrn 2)



The actual town that our Messiah was born in was indeed Bethlehem not to be confused with another town by the same name that was about seven miles northwest of Nazareth. And it was clearly paramount in Matthew's eyes to make sure that his readers would understand that Yeshua Jesus came from the tribe and territory that produced the line of Davidic kings which was Bethlehem. And it was not only important for Matthew to make these things known in his writings, but it was also important for the Apostle John to make these things known in his writings as well. **John 7:40-42 (scrn 3)** 

# Yeshua Was A Bethlehemite Not A Nazaene!

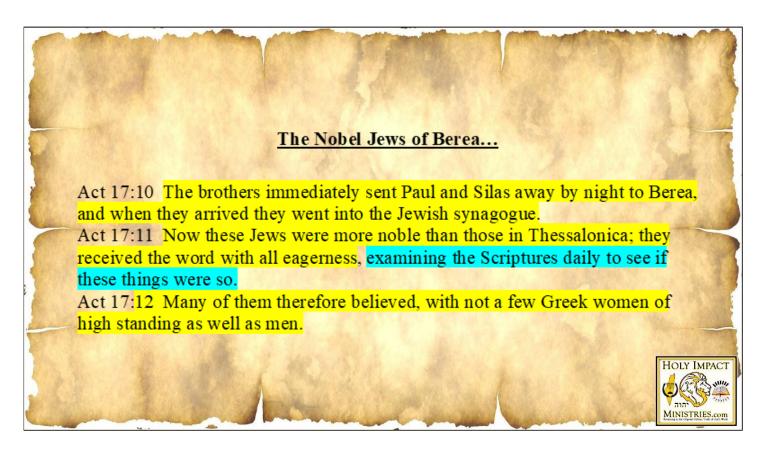
Joh 7:40 When they heard these words, some of the people said, "This really is the Prophet."

Joh 7:41 Others said, "This is the Christ." But some said, "Is the Christ to come from Galilee?

Joh 7:42 Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the offspring of David, and comes from Bethlehem, the village where David was?"



John makes it clear to us that the Jews expected their Messiah to be born in Bethlehem also known as "the city of David" and to be from David's family. And this is exactly why it is written that the Nobel Jews of Berea were able to identify Yeshua by searching the scriptures. Acts 17:10-12 (scrn 4)



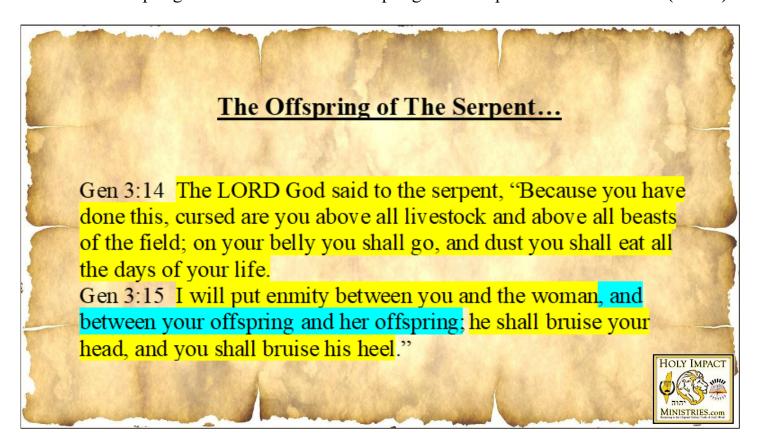
You see, these noble Jews of Berea knew that what the Apostle Paul was telling them about their Messiah was the truth because they had searched the Scriptures daily to see if what Paul was telling them was true or not. And we must remember... that these noble Jews of Berea were not searching the New Testament Scriptures because there was no New Testament at that time. The only Scriptures that they would have had to search would have been the Old Testament Scriptures which included the curse of the serpent, and prophecy of Deuteronomy chapter 18 which speaks of a prophet likened unto Moses, and 2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel chapter 7 which includes that covenant promise of David and that this Messiah would come from the very body of David, and Micah chapter 5 which told the Nobel Jews of Berea that their Messiah would indeed be born in Bethlehem, and Isaiah chapter 53 and a whole host of other Scripture that had already introduced them to their Messiah. Not to mention everything written in the Torah, the writings of the prophets and the Psalms that all pointed directly to... Yeshua Hamashiach (Jesus in the Greek) as being... the only begotten Son of God.

What's important to understand here is that the noble Jews of Berea did not need the New Testament Scriptures to tell them who their Messiah was. They knew from reading the Old Testament Scriptures who their Messiah was because their Messiah had already been introduced to them in the Old Testament. And these Scriptures that the noble Jews of Berea used to identify and point directly at their Messiah are the very same Scriptures that the church today wants to toss to the wind and call a curse. Which should not surprise us in any way when we consider who our adversary is and what it is that he wants to accomplish. Anything that shows people the true identity of our Messiah would immediately be attacked by our adversary without question, and this should be of no surprise to us.

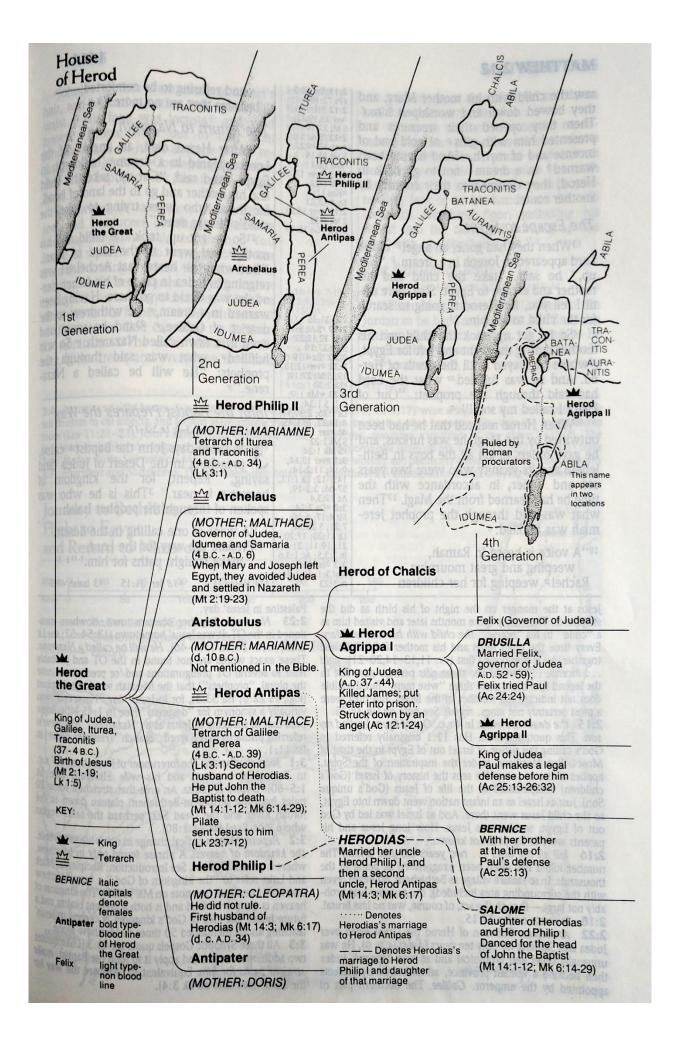
It was because our Messiah was born in Bethlehem (also known as the city of David) that the Nobel Jews of Berea were sure that this Yeshua was indeed... the seed of Abraham... the prophet likened unto Moses... the descendant of David... and the only begotten Son of Yehvoah God. And we'll come back to this fact in just a few moments.

But moving forward... I'd like to spend just a few minutes on exactly who King Herod was and why it's important for us to understand who it was that was controlling this human gentile king. This King that we find in Matthew chapter 2 who had decided to murder all Jewish children under the age of two years of age in order to stop this Jewish King from arriving on earth was indeed a monster controlled by the serpent himself.

It was written from the beginning in the book of Genesis that Yehvoah God would put enmity between the offspring of the woman and the offspring of the serpent. **Genesis 3:14-15 (scrn 5)** 



If our Messiah called the Pharisees and the Scribes of his time children of the Devil (and he did in John chapter 8)... then there should be no doubt in our minds that this King Herod was indeed also a child of the Devil himself, and to better equip us with just some of the history of this monster... I have taken a snapshot from one of our Bible study books in order to help us all understand just who this king Herod was. (PIC VEIWER)

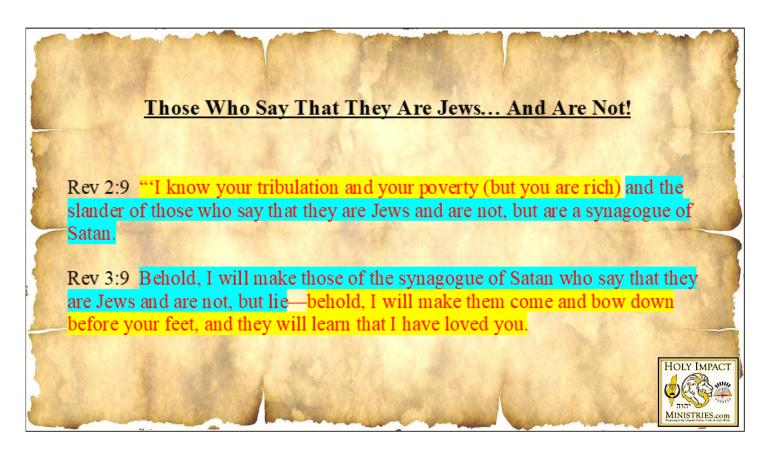


You may not be able to view this chart very well on-line, but we did publish it in our free downloadable PDF file for today's study, and you'll be able to find that on our website this week. But the point that we wanted to make was that there were several other kings that went by the name of "Herod" in the Bible, none of which were good by any stretch of the imagination. The house of "Herod" was always well known for being the sons of the Devil who clearly showed themselves time and time again to be... sons of the Devil.

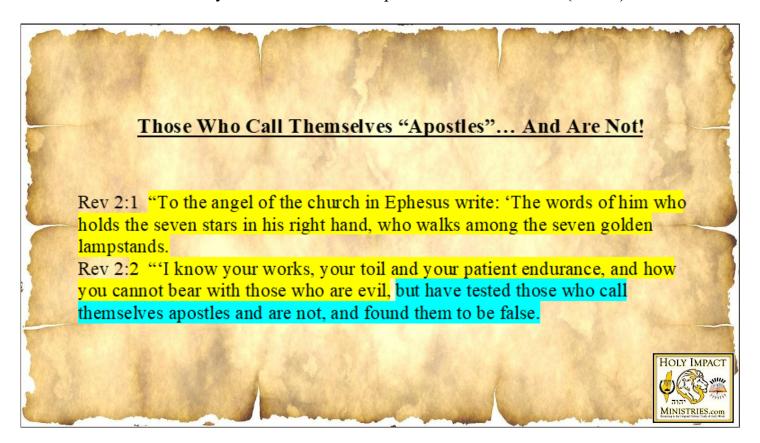
The King Herod of the book of Matthew was not a Jew but an "Idumean" who was appointed king of Judea by the Roman Senate in 40BC. Like most rulers of that day this King Herod had murdered his wife, his three sons, his mother-in-law, his brother-in-law, his uncle and many others not to mention all the Hebrew Jewish children under the age of two years old.

If you were to study the history of this king Herod, you would find that he was well known for his pomp and pageantry. Herod was well known for building theaters, and amphitheaters, and monuments and pagan alters and fortresses including his greatest work of all which was the rebuilding of the temple in Jerusalem which began in 20BC and was completed 68 years later after his death.

This king Herod often times sided with the Jewish Pharisees and the Scribes of his time when it came to things that benefited him, and it is written that even though Herod was an Arab, that he was a practicing Jew... but make no mistake about it my friends... this king Herod was no Jew at all. And just like many of the Jewish leaders of that time who claimed to be practicing Jews... our Messiah made it very clear who these fake Jews were. (scrn 6)



During our Messiah's time there were many who claimed to be Jews and were not, and at the same time there were many who claimed to be Apostles... and were not. (scrn 7)



Knowing and understanding that these things were going on during the days of our Messiah and his apostles... we must ask ourselves... are these things still going on today in our time? The unarguable answer to that question is, yes indeed they are.

To this very day there are men who teach nothing more than the wisdom of men. To this very day there are a multitude of denominational empires that have been built solely on the wisdom of men and the men who have come before them.

Today almost every church leader seems to be standing on the shoulders of some man who has come before him teaching and preaching one man-made doctrine, or dogma or another. The hypocrisy and the theologies and philosophies and the traditions of men knows no bounds within our modern day so called "Christian Churches" today.

Today in our time much like back in the time of our Messiah, the wisdom of today's pastors, priests, bishops, rabbis and popish leaders was not given to them by God... but by men and their so called "early church fathers" and their prestigious "Bible commentators" and their rabbinical sages.

Today's pastors, priests, bishops, rabbis and popish leaders simply purchase their wisdom from their favorite man-made collage or seminary school. The wisdom that they think that they have has become nothing more than a dollar store trinket given to them with a fancy piece of paper to hang on their wall.

Many so-called men today are not even called pastors anymore... they call themselves "Doctors" who once again have a knowledge and an understanding that they have purchased with money. This concept of purchasing the gifts of God was addressed clear back in the days of the Apostles and was written about in the book of Acts! Acts 8:18-22 (scrn 8)

# Purchasing The Gift of God For Money...

Act 8:18 Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money,

Act 8:19 saying, "Give me this power also, so that anyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit."

Act 8:20 But Peter said to him, "May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money!

Act 8:21 You have neither part nor lot in this matter, for your heart is not right before God.

Act 8:22 Repent, therefore, of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord that, if possible, the intent of your heart may be forgiven you.

Once again, we should all be very, very carful to whom it is that we listen to concerning the word of Yehovah God. If this man has not been sent by God... then he has no claim to the truth of God. If a man has been sent by men and his earthly denominational empires of men to preach the wisdom of men... then what truth is in him? And by whose authority does he teach, Gods or mans?

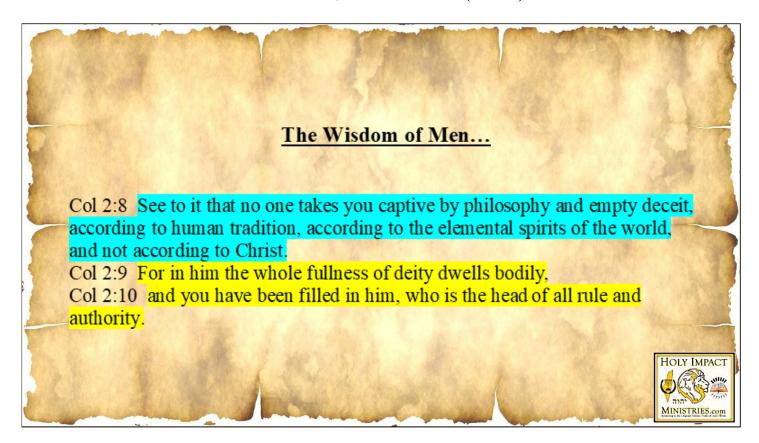
I tell you the truth my friends... the mixing and mingling of Yehovah God's word is worse than a simply lie, because a simple lie can often times be easily seen as a lie. But a lie mixed and mingled with truth... is often times not noticed as a lie because there is some facsimile of truth found within it. And our adversary is well aware of the power of mixing and mingling the truth of God's word with lies. And it is because of this very deception that many... if possible, even the very elect... have... and will fall.

And this my friends is why we always teach and preach that everyone who is listening to us here today would please... please always take what you have heard from us and test it through not only the fire of prayer... but also through the fire of Scripture and the spoken word of Yehvoah God himself, asking in the name of the Son if what you have heard here today be true or not.

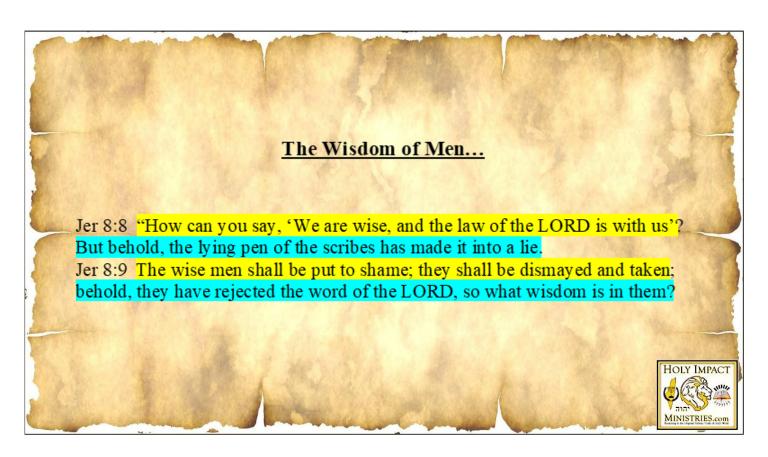
In the end... the truth that we teach was not originally ours. This truth belongs solely to Yehovah God our Father in heaven, and this truth that we share with you here today was not given to us by any man... but this truth was given to us by Yehovah and by Yehovah alone through prayer and supplication and an earnest desire within our hearts to not only hear... but to

do... what it is that our Father has spoken to us through his prophets, Apostles, and his only begotten Son Yeshua Hamashiach.

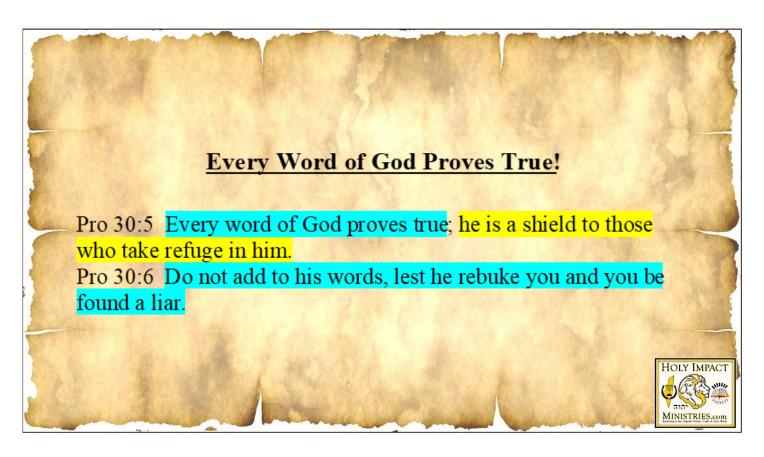
Keeping this in mind... let us all remember that if what we hear from the mouth of a man does not coincide with our Father's God breathed Scripture... then what we hear from that man is not the truth. Here is what our God breathed Scripture tells us about the difference between the wisdom of God... and the wisdom of men; Colossians 2:8 (scrn 9)



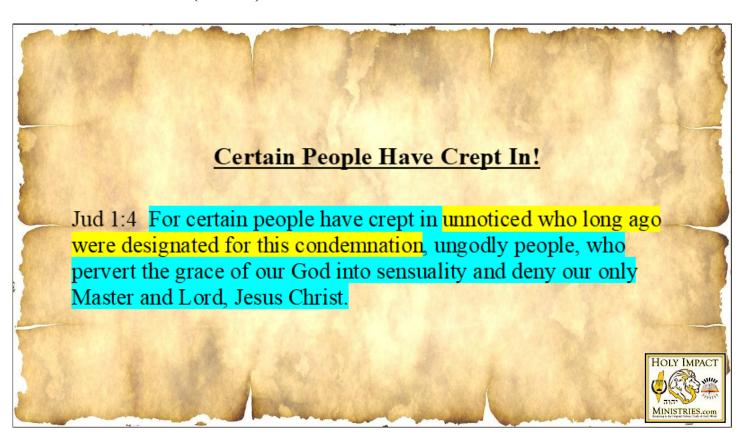
(scrn 10)



Once a man adds to... or takes away from God's word he has fallen into the pit of sin. And the transgression of the law is the biblical definition of sin according to 1<sup>st</sup> John chapter three verse 4. Therefore... those who add to Yehvoah God's feast days, and appointments or his Sabbaths, and laws and commandments will be found to be liars. Not says I... but says our God breathed Scripture. **Proverbs 30:6 (scrn 11)** 



The Apostle Jude tells us very clearly to be carful of those who would creep into the body of our Messiah unnoticed. (scrn 12)



And it is because of these certain people who have crept in, these ungodly people who have perverted the grace of our God into sensuality and denied our only Master and Lord Yeshua Hamashiach that we now have latterly thousands of different man-man denominational empires of men all teaching and preaching something different in order to gain power and prestige through their pomp and their pageantry all the while mixing and mingling the truth with a lie and a lie with the truth, adding to... and taking away from the very word of Yehvoah God and thereby leading many including even the very elect if it were possible... astray.

You see it's all about turning the grace of our God into sensuality. For them... "Do as thou wilt is the whole of the law" (which comes directly from the Devil's Bible itself) has become their mantra! "Do as thou wilt is the whole of the law" is the new cry of today's modern day so called Christian church. The law of God is not only done away according to them, but according to them it has even become a curse to those who keep it. Which means that it was also a curse for the Apostle Paul who always lived in observance of the law according to Romans chapter 7 verse 25 and Acts chapter 21 verse 24.

And it is because of the deception of those who have crept in in order to turn the grace of our God into sensuality... that there are many misconceptions concerning the birth of our Messiah and exactly who he was... is... and always will be.

According to the very Jewish Apostle Matthew... our Messiah was not a Nazarene... he was a Bethlehemite. Most people thought that our Messiah was a Nazarene because he primarily grew up in Nazareth, but... we must remember that our Messiah was not born in Nazareth... he was born in Bethlehem the city of David in order to fulfill the prophecy of David and **Micha chapter 5 (scrn 13)** 

### Yeshua Not a Nazarene... But A Bethlehemite!

Mic 5:2 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.

Mic 5:3 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. Mic 5:4 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.

There have been many misconceptions concerning the birth of our Messiah over the ages that are simply not supported according to our God breathed Scripture. The traditions of men and the adding to... and the taking away from God's word has certainly not served them well to say the least.

Let's start with the three wise men who many say did not come to give their gifts until our Messiah was almost two years old. This teaching is certainly not compatible with the teachings of the Apostle Matthew concerning his account of what had transpired during the birth of our Messiah and yet... there are some things to consider according to Scripture.

The first question that should be asked is why did Matthew begin the story of the birth of our Messiah by starting with the three wise men before Joseph and Mary had fled to Egypt? According to Matthew the three wise men had already arrived and gone before Joseph and Mary had fled to Egypt and before King Herod began to murder all the Hebrew mail children under the age of two.

Some will teach that these three wise men did not come until Yeshua would have been about two years old and this is why Herod wanted all the Hebrew male children murdered that were 2 years old or under. But according to Scripture there is really no actual proof of such a thing. Herod who was afraid of this Jewish king being born was most likely covering his bases so to speak. After all... the wise men who had told him about this Jewish King being born never returned to him to tell Herod where the child was as Herod had commanded them. And therefore, it could have simply been that Herod did not trust what he was told by these wise

men that never returned to him and simply wanted to make sure that the scope of his demonically inspired plan to murder the child king would be fulfilled.

Another argument that some will make is that in Luke chapter 2 we're told that Yeshua was born in a "manger". But Matthew chapter 2 tells us that the three wise men came to a house that Joseph and Mary were living in Matthew chapter 2 verse 11.

So when did the three wisemen come to visit the baby Yeshua?

What we need to understand here is that Luke never mentions the three wise men in Luke chapter 2 during his explanation of the birth of our Messiah. Matthew on the other hand found the visitation of these three wise men important enough to add to his account of the birth of our Messiah right away in the beginning.

Clearly the two men were telling the same story but when we read the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter of the book of Luke... we get different information than what we get from Matthew chapter two. Why? Because this same story was being told from the viewpoint of two different men. What seemed important to one may not have seemed important to the other. The memory of one man may have recalled things that the memory of the other did not. For one reason or another one man may have seen or heard something different because of what they were told by the witnesses that would have been there. And it for this very reason that this story can indeed be seen as a true story. The two somewhat different recollections of both Matthew and Luke do not argue with one another but rather give us more information about the event.

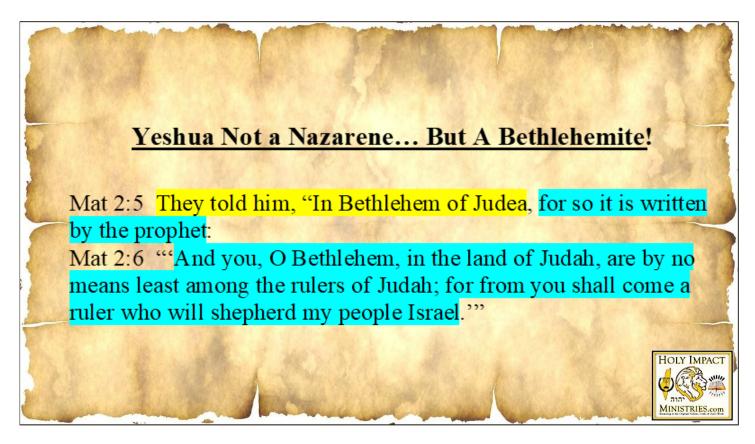
We must remember that the story of the birth of our Messiah had many different events that had happened during his birth. There were many moving parts to this story, and there would have been many different accounts of that story according to several different people who would have visited Joseph and Mary at different points in time during this event.

We must remember that only Joseph and Marry would have known that there was no room at the inn. The shepherds that came sent by and angel would have only known what they saw while they were there. The people at the temple would have only known what transpired during the circumcision, and so on and so forth. And so... it should be evident to us that these different accounts would have had to be cohesively put together by both Matthew and Luke in order to tell the story of the birth of our Messiah. Only Joseph and Marry would have known the whole story from the beginning to the end. And so, both Matthew and Luke would have written the story that they were told by the people who were witnesses to these events. And they would have had to piece these things together in order to share the story of the birth of our Messiah correctly and accurately.

And so, there is a lot to be considered when reading about this event whether it be from the Apostle Matthew or the Apostle Luke. But the point of Matthew mentioning the three wise men from the east was not exactly what time that they came to pay homage to our Messiah... but

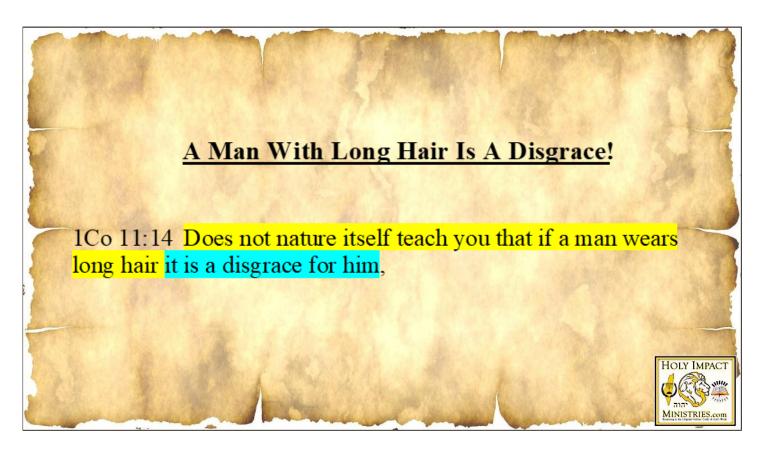
that they did come to pay homage to him. These three gentile kings knew full well who he was and that's the point that needs to be understood.

No matter whether the three wise men came to visit baby Yeshua in Bethlehem when he was born or a few months later in Nazareth where he was taken to live as a boy... the point is that they came... and that they knew who he was. He was indeed... the King of the Jews. But there should be no doubt in our minds that our Messiah was indeed a Bethlehemite and not a Nazarene and Matthew makes sure that we understand this in his writings. **Matthew 2:5-6** (scrn 14)



Why was Yeshua Jesus called a Nazarene by those who were around him? They called him a Nazarene because they thought that he had come from Nazareth because that's where he was raised. But above all... we must remember that our Messiah was born in Bethlehem fulfilling the prophecy of Micah and the covenant promise of David found in 2<sup>nd</sup> Samuael chapter 7.

Many suppose that their Jesus had long hair because it was known that the Nazarenes wore their hair long. But we must remember that our Messiah was a Hebrew Jew who had come from the house of David and the tribe of Judah. He was a God-fearing Jew before he was anything else, and even the Apostle Paul tells us that it was a shame for a man to have long hair in 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians chapter 11 verse 14. (scrn 15)



There is simply no doubt in my mind that our Messiah would not have brought shame or disgrace to his Father or the Gospel message that he came to deliver by having long hair, but the truth of the matter is, that have no picture that was ever taken of our Messiah. And therefore, we have no true idea of how he wore his hair. But... there is no doubt in my mind that our Messiah would not have gone along with the crowd just because the Nazarenes in town had decided to ware their hair long as some surmise.

Once again, it should be clear to us all that they wrongly called our Messiah a Nazarene just because he lived in Nazareth as a boy, and they simply assumed that this is where he came from. But we must remember that our Messiah was born not in Nazareth but in Bethlehem. And he was not a gentil... but a Jew.

Matthew tells us that when king Herod had decided to murder this newborn King of the Jews... that he had decided to murder all Jewish children under the age of two years old.

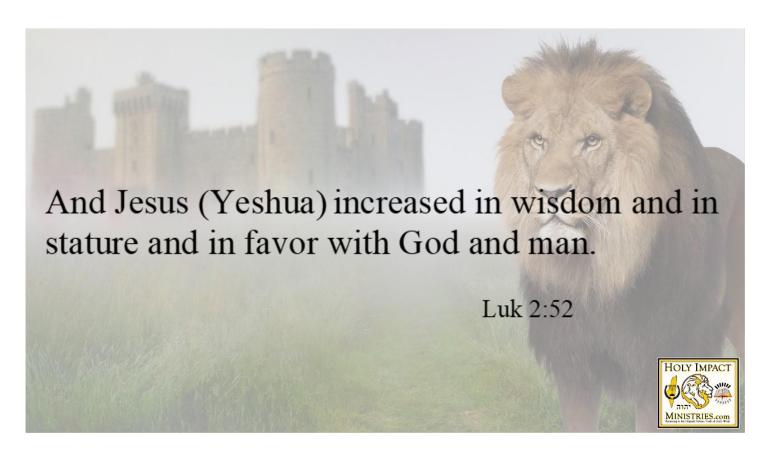
It was this event that caused Joseph and Mary to flee to Egypt after the birth of our Messiah. And oddly enough just as Matthew tells us... our Messiah was also called out of Egypt just like the rest of the children of Israel were called out of Egypt before finally landing in Nazareth where he lived as a young boy. But just because our Messiah lived in Egypt for a period of time... we do not call our Messiah and Egyptian... do we? Even Matthew who was once again a Hebrew Jew... knew the prophecy of where his Messiah was going to come from. And Matthew tells us this in Matthew chapter 2 verse 6. But where did Matthew get this prophecy from? Once again... he got this prophecy from what we today call the "Old Testament". Once

# Yeshua Not a Nazarene... But A Bethlehemite!

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So... what do we know so far about our Messiah from the Apostle Matthew? We know that our Messiah was the son of David and the son of Abraham. We know about the covenant promise of David who our Messiah came from. We know his human lineage and his heritage. We know that it was Yehvoah himself through his Spirit that created and conceived Yeshua Jesus is the womb of his mother Marry. We know that his name was commanded by Yehvoah God to be... "Yeshua". We know that our Messiah was born in Bethlehem and was a Bethlehemite. We know that King Herod was the offspring of the Devil who was acting out the desires of his father the Devil. We know that our Messiah was called out of Egypt just like all the children of Yehovah had been. And we know that after all of this... that Joseph and Mary settled in Nazareth to raise the boy Yeshua and that he would be called a Nazarene (even though he was born in Bethlehem). And just as we are told in Luke chapter two verse 52... the boy Yeshua increased in both wisdom and in stature and in favor with God... and man. (scrn 17)



There is much more to mention about the birth of our Messiah and who he was according to the very Jewish Apostle Matthew, and we'll dive even deeper into this compelling evidence as we continue our journey through the book of Matthew next Thursday evening at 7pm Eastern standard time but until then I would like to do as I always do, and that is to ask that everyone within the sound of my voice would please... take what you have heard here today to your own prayer closet, and to bow your head, and bend your knee, and face the holy promised land of Jerusalem, and ask in the name of Yeshua Hamashiach if what you have heard here today be true... or not.

Ask, seek, and knock on his door, and his door alone and the proper door will be opened to you. And if you will do that, and if you will stay the course to the end... you and I will surely walk through the gates of his soon coming kingdom together.