



# **The King is Born!**

**Matthew 1:18-25**

**Sermon given on December 24, 2022**

**Calvary Chapel French Valley**

**Christmas Eve Service**

**Pastor Rick Lancaster**

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## *Matthew 1:18-25*

### Opening Comments

- Welcome to the Christmas Eve service.
- Christmas is the celebration of the birth of Christ Jesus.
- Jesus was a real person who was born, lived, and died about two thousand years ago.
- Everything about Him was amazing and wonderful.
- One of the verses that gets quoted often this time of year is (**Isaiah 9:6**) written almost 700 years before He was born.

**For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

- These are just some of His titles.
- He is also Savior, Messiah, God in the flesh.
- We have been going through the gospel of Matthew this year.
- One of the main objectives of Matthew was to portray Jesus as King.
- We are going to start in **Matthew 1** this morning.
- You can follow along if you have your Bible.
- We will look at a few of the accounts surrounding the birth of King Jesus.
- First, let's begin with a word of prayer.

### Teaching

- **The King is Born!**
- Matthew's gospel begins with a genealogy, which with ends Mary's husband Joseph.
- Joseph's genealogy showed that Jesus was descended through the royal line of King David.
- After the genealogy, Matthew gives a brief account of the conception of Christ.
- **Matthew 1:18-25**
- Jesus' conception was not natural or normal.
- Turn to **Luke 2**

- At the time that Mary conceived they were living in Nazareth in the northern part of Israel.
- But that is not where Jesus was to be born (**Micah 5:2**).  
**But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel, whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting.**
- The Bible predicted that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem, which is just a few miles from Jerusalem.
- And so, God providentially arranged for them to go to Bethlehem.
- **Luke 2:1-7**
- Nothing about this king was very noble at this point.
- His parents were poor and the place where He was born was about as humble as you could find.
- That theme is continued with the first people who acknowledge His birth.
- **Luke 2:8-20**
- Shepherds were not highly esteemed.
- They were considered to be low-class, dirty, and coarse.
- Of all the people God would choose to announce the birth of the King, you would put shepherds low on the list.
- But God doesn't think or act like we do – sometimes not even the way we think He should.
- The good news of the birth of King Jesus was not just for royalty, it is for everyone.
- Turn to **Matthew 2**
- But the news of the birth of King Jesus did reach the palace in a very unusual way.
- It came from some men who travelled a great distance to honor the newborn King of the Jews.
- **Matthew 2:1-2**
- If you have a nativity, like the one we have in the back, it has three wise men visiting Jesus.
- We don't actually know if it was three – maybe it was more.
- Doesn't matter. What matters is why they were there.
- Somehow, they knew something special had happened in Israel.
- The wise men (magi) were philosophers, priests, and astronomers.

- All we know for certain is that they saw a star that they interpreted meant something important had happened.
  - It is possible that they had access to the writing of the Old Testament prophets, like (**Numbers 24:17**).
- I see Him, but not now; I behold Him, but not near; a Star shall come out of Jacob; a Scepter shall rise out of Israel...**
- The account of the wise men has always been one of the more amazing parts of the account of Christ's birth to me.
  - God moved in the hearts and minds of these men, probably not God-followers, to travel about 1,000 difficult and dangerous miles just to visit and bless the newborn King.
  - It causes me to wonder, could God be moving in the heart and mind of someone on my behalf?
  - He also used the wise men to let the civil and religious leaders of Israel hear about this important event.
  - **Matthew 2:3-4**
  - Herod asks the religious leaders about where the Scriptures said the Christ/Messiah would be born.
  - One of the saddest parts of this account is they knew the answer to Herod's question.
  - **Matthew 2:5-6**
  - The wise men show up and tell them they have seen a strange star in the heavens indicating the King of the Jews has been born.
  - The king asks them where the Christ is going to be born.
  - They tell him, and as far as the Bible tells us, they did not go to see if the what the wise men believed was true. Why not?
  - The Christ or Messiah was promised by God to the Jews.
  - All their hopes for the future depended upon the arrival of the Messiah.
  - The shepherds heard the announcement and immediately went to see.
  - The Bible doesn't say why they didn't go – it makes me sad.
  - It is no different today.
  - Every Christmas, a large part of the world takes part in some kind of celebration of the birth of Christ.
  - Some might respond like Herod – who felt threatened by the idea that there was a king other than him.

- One of the realities of Christ being King is there can be only one king.
  - Herod was threatened that this newborn King was a potential usurper of his power and authority.
  - To receive Christ as your Savior you must be willing to step down off the throne of your life and let Him be King of your life.
  - For some this is an impossible request.
  - Another of the realities of Christ as King is that when He comes into someone's life, He changes things.
  - I am not the same man as I was before I got saved.
  - My life changed directions and I know the changes He implemented made me a better man.
  - The religious leaders didn't respond to the news that the Christ may have been born.
  - If the Christ had been born – it would change everything.
  - For some people, the thought of Jesus asking them to change something in their lives is just too much to ask.
  - But for some, like the wise men, once they understand who this King is, will travel great distances so that they can meet Him.
  - **Matthew 2:7-11**
  - Imagine what this might have been like for Joseph and Mary.
  - The wise men show up and worship their baby and then give Him very valuable gifts.
  - Everything about this baby was special.
  - But we celebrate Christmas, not just because this special baby was born, but because what His life means to all of us (**1 Timothy 1:15**)
- This *is* a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners...**
- We give gifts because God has given us the gift of eternal life through faith in Christ (**Romans 6:23**).
- For the wages of sin *is* death, but the gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.**
- Jesus was King at His birth.
  - His kingdom is the kingdom of heaven.
  - We don't see that kingdom actively operating in the world today.
  - Except, in the heart of His people.
  - Some day Jesus will return and establish His kingdom on this earth.

- And when He does (**Philippians 2:9-11**).

Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, <sup>10</sup> that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

- As believers we don't wait for that day – it is already here in our heart.
- On this Christmas, let us rejoice in the precious gifts of Christ – forgiveness of sin – the power to overcome sin – and the promise of heaven.
- Let us renew our fealty to King Jesus, the Christ.

- Fealty is an old word.

**Fealty: formal acknowledgement of loyalty to a lord.**

- King Jesus is our Lord - Jesus deserves and demands our loyalty to Him.
- Let's include in our celebration a reminder of our fealty to our King.
- For everything He has done for us and given us and promised us, He deserves it.
- **Pray!**
- **Have a merry Christ-filled Christmas!**