

Series: Christ The King Is Born #1345

Title: Matthew 2.1-3

Jesus Is The Child and The King

Thank you for joining me today from wherever you are and by however you listen as we meet together coast-to-coast here in the United States and all the way around the world. This is our final episode in our series, preparing us for Christmas, by the title Christ The King Is Born, and based on Matthew chapter 2, verses 1-3. We have talked about the coordinates, the contrasting Kings, and the coming of the magi. Yesterday we began a reflection on the worship these magi gave to the Lord Jesus, the baby, born King. I have found compelling the writing WH Griffith Thomas has given these verses in Matthew. And we will follow his outline again today.

Let me read to you one more time Matthew 2, verse 2. Listen to the magi's question when they arrive in Jerusalem, **"Where is He who has been born King of the Jews?"** Dr. Griffith Thomas takes the magi's question and breaks it down as follows. "Where is He?" The magi or the wise men sought a person. Jesus Christ is a Person. Because we are people, we need a person. He is human and He shared in our humanity. Because we are humans, we need a human. A religious system will not do for us. A theory will not do. Not even a church will do. We need a person. We need this person, the Person who is Christ. And the magi find a person. He is there, in the house, He is with His mother Mary. He is seen. He is heard. He is touched. He screams and He cries just like every other baby. He needs to be fed and burped and changed. He needs to be cuddled and cared for. This encounter between the magi and Jesus is a *very human* encounter.

Jesus is a man, and He is God! And that's why we need Him, so that He can set us free from our body of sin and redeem us for heaven. Our eternal and everlasting life with God. We are all broken, sinful people, but one day – because of the One Perfect and Sinless Life Jesus lived – we who trust in Him shall be healed, perfect people who will worship and exalt our King Jesus *forever*. "Where is He?" Jesus was/Jesus is a Person.

And then, second, Jesus was a child. The magi ask, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews?" Notice the emphasize in my voice on the word *born*. The magi sought the King and found the child. Do not miss the depth of meaning for Jesus to be born a child. This fulfils the prophecy of Isaiah chapter 9 and verse 6, **"For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us..."** And Jesus being born a child is reflective of how we are to receive and enter the Kingdom of God. Let me read to you the words of Christ over in Mark's Gospel, chapter 10 and verses 13-16. This is Mark 10, verses 13-16.

"And they were bringing children to [Jesus] so that He might touch them; but the disciples rebuked them. ¹⁴ But when Jesus saw this, He was indignant and said to them, 'Permit the children to come to Me; do not hinder them; for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. ¹⁵ Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it *at all*.' ¹⁶ And He took them in His arms and *began* blessing them, laying His hands on them."

We have to become like children – humble and inquisitive, full of simplicity and trustfulness – if we (as adults) are to belong to Christ the King's Kingdom. We grown-ups have to become again like little children. Our pride has to be crushed and, having been brought low again, we are then enabled by the Spirit of God to enter into Christ's arms and to be blessed by Him. Jesus was a child. He was born a baby boy. And He leads the way for all the children of God, to our adoption as sons and daughters of our Father in heaven. Friends, this Christmas, be like the little children and run to Jesus. And, with your own children, introduce them to Christ the Lord. Make Christmas about *Christ*, before everything and everyone else.

First, Jesus Christ is a Person. Second, Jesus Christ was a child. And now third, Jesus Christ is The King! Griffith Thomas writes, quote, "This is what the world needs – true, spiritual, absolute monarchy. An individual soul needs ruling, for kingship means obedience to law and order, with consequent benefit...The world will never be right until Christ is its King (*Outline Studies in Matthew*, 27)." End quote.

And Jesus is the world's Sovereign Monarch. Jesus Christ the King. This was prophesied by the angel Gabriel to Mary over in Luke's Gospel chapter 1, verses 32-33. Let me read that to you. Luke chapter 1, verses 32-33, **"He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; ³³ and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end."** All the language there is descriptive of the King. He will be great. He will have the throne. He will come in the human lineage of *King* David. He will reign and His kingdom will have no end.

Furthermore, I remind you that much later in Matthew's Gospel, when Christ was crucified on the cross this is what we read. Matthew chapter 27 and verse 37, **"And above [Jesus'] head they put up the charge against Him which read, 'THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS.'"** (Matthew 27:37.) He is King!

We have these Scriptures before, but I want to get them back on your mind at Christmas. 1 Timothy chapter 6 and verses 15 and 16. Listen to these awesome words in 1 Timothy 6, verses 15 and 16, **"He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, ¹⁶ who alone possesses immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see. To Him be honor and eternal dominion! Amen."**

And then in Revelation chapter 19 and verse 16, concerning Jesus Christ we have this description, **"And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, 'KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.'"** And back in Revelation chapter 17 and verse 14 we read this regarding Jesus as the Lamb of God, **"These will wage war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, because He is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those who are with Him are the called and chosen and faithful."** (Revelation 19, verse 16 and Revelation 17, verse 14.)

Obviously I am giving my agreement to WH Griffith Thomas. I cherish his insights and I have been challenged by them. I believe Jesus is a Person. I believe Jesus was a child. And I believe Jesus is the King. He is my King. He is your King, whether or not you acknowledge Him as such. He is the world's true, spiritual, and absolute sovereign monarch. He rules. And this deeply troubled and sin sick world will never, ever be at peace until Christ is given reverential worship as King. But you and I cannot change other people's hearts and minds. We are each responsible for our own response to Jesus. And what is your response? Will you be like the magi who sought out the King and came and worshiped Him? Or will you be like Herod who rejected Christ and sought to destroy Him? Do you love Him or do you hate Him or are you indifferent to Him?

With all my heart, I sincerely pray, I really do, that *you* will pledge allegiance to Jesus Christ the King! As this carol does, I say to you:

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

For he alone is worthy, For he alone is worthy, For he alone is worthy, Christ the Lord.

Let's praise his name together, Let's praise his name together, Let's praise his name together, Christ the Lord.

We'll give him all the glory, We'll give him all the glory, We'll give him all the glory, Christ the [King].

And then as the words of this other carol go, I invite you to worship Him:

Angels from the realms of glory
Wing your flight over all the earth
Ye, who sang creations story
Now proclaim Messiah's birth
Come and worship, come and worship
Worship Christ the new born King

Shepherds in the fields abiding
Watching over your flocks by night
God with man is now residing
Yonder shines the Infant light
Come and worship, come and worship
Worship Christ the new born King

Sages leave your contemplations
Brighter visions beam afar
Seek the great Desire of nations
Ye have seen His natal star
Come and worship,
Worship Christ the new born King

Worship Christ our King, and then join us again on Monday because God Is! Merry Christmas!

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