



Topeka Bible Church
“Christmas in Matthew: Baby King”
Community Group Study Questions
Matthew 1 & 2 and selected passages

1. As a tax collector (*Matthew 9:9; 10:3*) how do you think the Jews of his day regarded him (*Luke 5:30; 7:34*)? Why might Matthew have jumped at the chance to write about Jesus as King of the Jews who was rejected by his own people (*Matthew 27:20-23*)?

2. If Matthew wrote his gospel in order to portray Jesus as the King and Messiah of Israel, why is it significant that Matthew referred to Jesus as the “son of David” (*Matthew 1:1; 2 Samuel 7:12-16; Isaiah 9:6-7*)? Who was David (*2 Samuel 2:4*)?

3. What is the significance of Mary becoming pregnant by the Holy Spirit (*Matthew 1:18, 20; Luke 1:35*)? Why couldn't Jesus have been conceived the “traditional” way (i.e. through the seed of a human father)?

4. Notice the names mentioned in *Matthew 1:21-23*: “Jesus” and “Immanuel.” What is the connection between these two names (“Jesus,” from “Joshua” meaning “the Lord saves” and “Immanuel” means “God with us;” *Isaiah 7:14; John 1:14*) and Jesus’ role as King (cf. *Acts 5:31*)?



5. Notice that Matthew refers to Herod as “Herod the king” (*Matthew 2:1, 3*). Why would he be concerned about “the King of the Jews” being born (*Matthew 2:2*)? How would this newborn King rule differently than Herod (*Jeremiah 23:5-6*)?

6. What is significant about these powerful foreign magi coming to worship the newborn King Jesus (*Matthew 2:1, 9-11; Philippians 2:9-11; Revelation 17:14*)? Why did the Jewish leaders not travel the short distance to Bethlehem when they knew the Messiah would be born there (*Matthew 2:4-6; Micah 5:2; John 7:42*)?

7. Where does this newborn King of the Jews end up at the end of Matthew’s gospel (*Matthew 27:35-37; 28:17*)? Do you connect the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus with His incarnation (or birth)? Do you embrace this King of the Jews as the Lord and Savior of your life (*2 Peter 1:10-12*)?

Memory Verse:

“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.”

(Matthew 2:2, NASB)