**Gospels – Introduction of the King**

# Introduction to the Four Gospels.

# The Introduction of the King.

## Arrival of the King.

### As Creator, John 1:1-18.

### As King, son of Joseph, son of David, Matt 1:1-17.

### As Perfect Humanity, son of Mary, son of Adam, Luke 3:23-38.

## His Birth.

### Announcement of two miraculous births, Luke 1:1-80.

### Announced to Joseph, Matt 1:18-25.

#### Perhaps this discovery was made after Mary returned from her three-month visit to Elizabeth in Jerusalem. What would Joseph possibly think?

#### How does the angel address Joseph in v20?

#### How is the name “Jesus” defined in v21?

#### Matthew identifies this with Isa 7:14 (quoted in v23).

##### For background see Isa 7:1 - 9:7.

##### Ahaz is faced with military defeat, which often means the replacement of the ruler.

##### Ahaz refuses a sign from the Lord. Compare with Pharisees.

##### Therefore, how did this prophecy speak to Ahaz, Isa 8:5-18.

##### Ultimately, how would this prophecy play out in Matthew’s mind, Isa 9:1-7.

#### How many words does Joseph speak in this paragraph?

### Announced to shepherds, Luke 2:1-20.

#### Background about Herod the Great, vv1-3.

##### He was very unstable in the years prior to his death 7-4 BC.

##### He changed his will three times and executed two sons.

##### He became out of favor with Caesar Augustus in 7 BC.

##### He changes his will and names Antipas heir in 5 BC.

##### He names his son Antipater as sole heir in 7 BC.

##### Five days before Herod’s death he executes Antipater and names his third son, Archelaus (Mt 2:22), as co-heir, who was a nut.

##### With Herod in bad health and acting crazy, Caesar would takes a census of the land before a turnover happened, Luke 2:1-3.

#### Think about Mary travelling on a donkey at 8-9 months pregnant, vv4-7.

##### Often a woman would carry her own burial clothing on a trip like this because the chances of dying in childbirth were very high.

##### These were the “swaddling clothes” of v7, i.e., death clothes.

##### A “manger” is an animal’s feed trough.

#### The shepherds, vv8-20.

##### Shepherds were considered unclean, even though they were likely taking care of sheep for Passover lambs.

##### They were the only ones invited to see the newborn Jesus.

##### Notice the qualifications for “peace” in v14, which is often left off of Christmas cards. How does a person “qualify” for peace?

## His Infancy and Childhood.

### His Circumcision, Luke 2:21. The regulations followed by Mary and Joseph are in Lev 12:1-8.

### His Consecration as Firstborn, Luke 2:22-38.

#### V23, to what does dedicating the firstborn remind Jews in Ex 13:11-16?

#### V24, why do they only offer a pair of birds? Keep in mind that the Magi have not visited yet.

#### Vv 25-35, meeting with Simeon.

##### The Lord put these people in place for the young couple.

##### Why would Mary’s heart be “pierced as with a sword”?

##### Would you want to know the future trials of your newborn?

#### Vv36-38, meeting with Anna.

##### What does this meeting say about the purpose of widows?

##### What has Anna been doing and what does Anna do?

### His Infancy

#### In Bethlehem, Matt 2:1-12.

##### Notice this does not take place on Jesus’ birthday, v1.

##### The Magi apparently had connections with the large Jewish population which remained in Babylon/Persia after the captivity of those like Daniel and Esther and remained after a few returned to Judea to rebuild the temple.

##### Why would the Magi go to Jerusalem?

##### How did they know where He would be born, v6? Micah 5:2.

##### What type of comparison is Matthew making between the Gentile magi and the Jewish priests?

##### Notice Mary and Joseph were in a “house” not an inn, v11.

##### The gifts:

###### Gold – Kingly recognition.

###### Frankincense – pleasing increase (God is pleased with Christ).

###### Myrrh – a burial oil, used for embalming (Jesus’ purpose).

#### In Egypt, Matt 2:13-18.

##### Being poor how would this family have the funds for an extended trip to Egypt?

##### Notice again, Joseph does not speak, but only acts, v14.

##### This quotation (v15) is from Hosea 11:1 and not the book of Exodus, because it addresses a “Second Exodus.”

##### Herod is increasingly unstable. He has killed one wife and two of his own children, why not a few more children to protect his throne?

#### In Nazareth, Matt 2:19-23.

##### Probably from Hebrew, netzer, meaning branch, Jer 23:5-6, Isa 11:1-5.

##### Also, the popular commentary, “can anything good come out of Nazareth,” from Nathanael, John 1:46.

### His Boyhood, Luke 2:39-52.

#### At 12, He becomes a “son of the law,” and responsible for his own spiritual life. Therefore, He engages in the festival discussions at the Temple.

#### The mix-up: women travelled together, and men travelled together.

#### He submitted to his parents’ authority, v51.