

Housegroup Study Notes – 4th January 2017

Matthew 2:1-12

Day 4

Ascribe to the Lord the glory due to his name; worship the Lord in the splendour of his holiness. Psalm 29:2

Brian & Pam Browne

Andrew & Heidi **Burrows** *Jacob, Joseph, Thomas, Anna*

Jaime Carroll

Una Carswell

Gareth & Angela **Cavanagh** *Hermione, Verity*

Colin & Nicola **Caveney** *Xanthe, Francesca*

Bryan & Katrina **Chare**

David & Marianne **Chedghey** *Joanna, Naomi, Abigail*

Jean Chedghey

All away at college & university, UCCF (working with Christians Unions)

Tumblers, 2-3 years

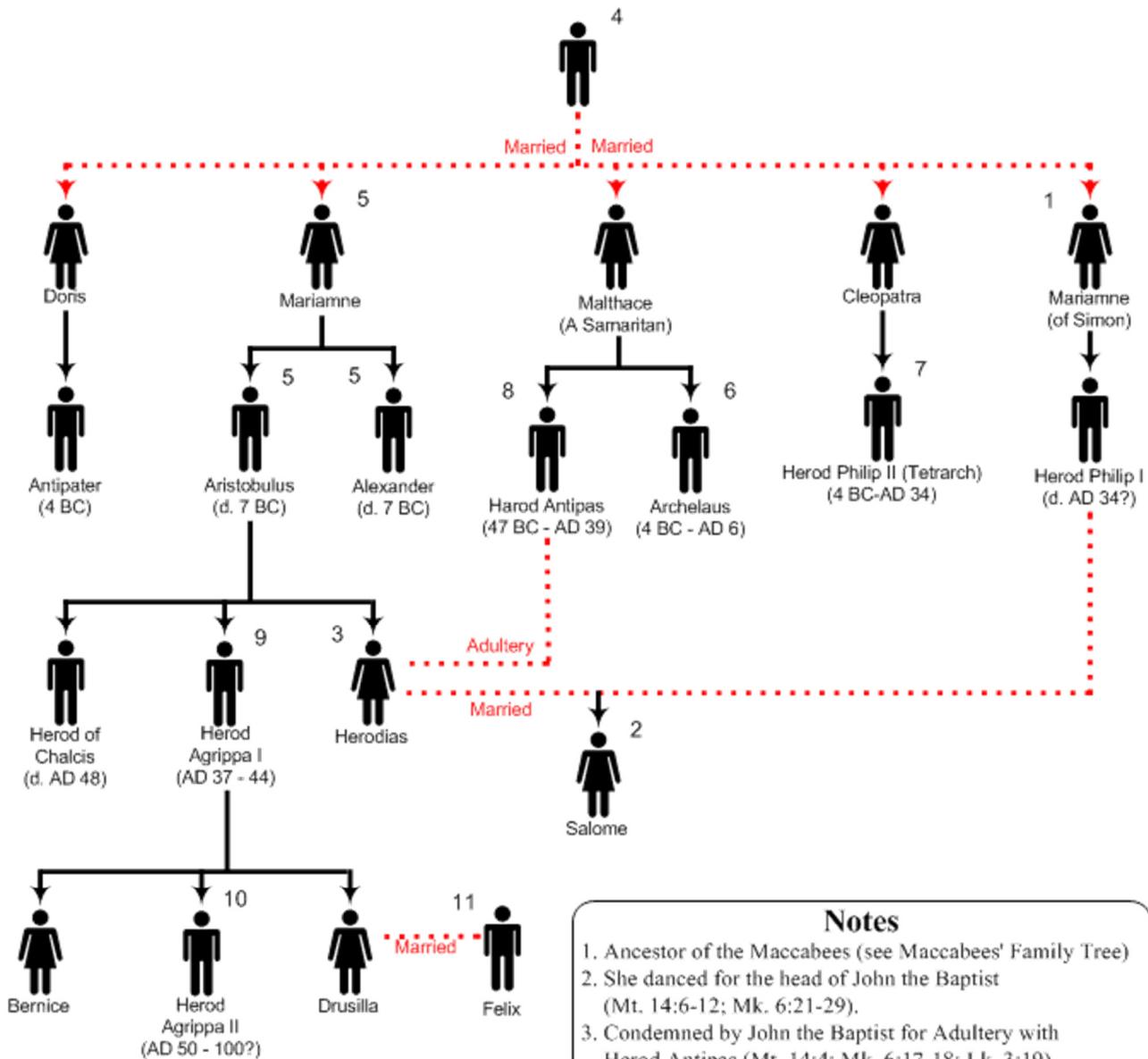
Men's Reading Group - John Ellison

Nick, Cherry, Sam & Ben Weir, Holy Trinity Frogmore

Programme of Studies

Jan 4	Matthew 2:1-12	The visit of the Magi
Jan 18	Matthew 2:13-23	Escape to Egypt; Return to Nazareth
Feb 1	Matthew 3:1-17	John the Baptist prepares the way; The Baptism of Jesus
Feb 15	Matthew 4:1-25	Jesus is tested in the wilderness; Jesus begins to preach
Mar 1	Matthew 5:1-16	The Sermon on the Mount: Beatitudes; Salt and light
Mar 15	Matthew 5: 17-26	The fulfilment of the law; Murder
Mar 29	Matthew 5:27-32, 19:3-11	Adultery; Divorce
Apr 5	Matthew 5:33-37	Oaths

Family Tree of Herod



Notes

1. Ancestor of the Maccabees (see Maccabees' Family Tree)
2. She danced for the head of John the Baptist (Mt. 14:6-12; Mk. 6:21-29).
3. Condemned by John the Baptist for Adultery with Herod Antipas (Mt. 14:4; Mk. 6:17-18; Lk. 3:19)
4. Killed the infants of Bethlehem (Mt. 2:13-16)
5. Killed by Herod the great
6. Ruled after Herod the great as king (Mt. 2:22)
7. Tetrarch over Gaulanitis, Trachonitis, Batanea, & Paneas (Lk. 3:1)
8. Tetrarch over Galilee & Perea (killed John the Baptist & tried Jesus along with Pilate)
9. Made King over Judea, Samaria, Galilee & Perea (Opposed early Christians Acts 12:1-23)
10. Made King over Judea, Samaria, Galilee & Perea (Heard Paul's defense Acts 25:13-26:32)
11. Heard Paul's defense (Acts 23:23).

Herod was an Edomite, or Idumean as the Greeks called them in Jesus' day. His family were supporters of Rome and also political manipulators. Through their connections to the Caesars in Rome and other leading Roman figures, they managed to secure appointments first to governorships in Palestine (what the Romans called Israel) and then later a kingship.

Origin of Edomites: Descendants of Esau (Jacob's brother).

He had immense power and wealth:

Second Temple in Jerusalem



Herodium



Masada



Caesarea Maritima



As we can see from the family tree, he was not a NICE man. He murdered his wife and several sons.

There are many references to different Herods in the NT.

There are historical references from Josephus.

Read the passage.

<p>1.</p>	<p>What 3 things are wrong with the carol ‘We three kings of orient are....’? [v1]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Three - Kings - Orient <p>Where do people get three and Kings from?</p> <p>Read Psalm 72v10: May the kings of Tarshish and of distant shores bring tribute to him. May the kings of Sheba and Seba present him with gifts.</p> <p>What about the names? Caspar, Melchior, Balthazar?</p> <p>There are some oblique references in an Apocrypha Acts of Thomas. The names appear to have been associated in the 8th century. Caspar is now a Catholic Saint.</p> <p>What are the important characteristic of these men? They were learned scholars and not Jews.</p>
<p>2.</p>	<p>How might the wise men have been aware of the prophesy?</p> <p>Read Numbers 24v17: ‘I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near. A star will come out of Jacob; a sceptre will rise out of Israel. He will crush the foreheads of Moab, the skulls of all the people of Sheth.</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p>Did the wise men turn up at the same time as the shepherds? [v1]</p> <p>Almost certainly not. Look at verse 18. When Herod realised that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were <u>two years old and under</u>, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi.</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Why was Herod troubled at their news? [v3]</p> <p>He was not paranoid. The people really were out to get him! He was corrupt and unpopular. [Look at all the fortresses he built and all of the people he murdered] He was terrified of a leader around who the people would rally. Spiritually, like all people he had a conscience and must have been aware of his sins.</p> <p>Why “all Jerusalem”?</p> <p>All Jerusalem represented the status quo and must have been aware of the Messianic prophecies from the Old Testament. “All” is hyperbole.</p>

5.	<p>Who are the Chief Priests and Scribes? Why did Herod consult them? [v4]</p> <p>The Chief Priests were responsible for the operation of the Temple. The Scribes were the official interpreters of the scriptures.</p> <p>He must have been alerted by the use of the term “King of the Jews”. He was raised as Jew, so had some knowledge of scripture, but was probably too busy being King to be familiar with all the predictions of the OT prophets, so needed expert advice.</p>
6.	<p>Verses 2 and 6 refer to “King of the Jews” and a ruler. How does this relate to our use of the words Messiah and Christ?</p> <p>Messiah (Hebrew): A person who is expected to save people from a very bad situation. Christ (Greek): Anointed one. Is the Greek translation of the Hebrew word Messiah. The King of the Jews was by tradition anointed by God.</p>
7.	<p>What do we make of the Star? [v9] Is there any credible scientific explanation?</p> <p>Partial. It could have been a “natural” phenomenon, which attracted the attention of the Magi. (The planet Jupiter, a comet, a supernova). But there is no credible explanation for a star that “came to rest”. That strongly suggests that the star was a supernatural event.</p>
8.	<p>Joy: A feeling of great pleasure and happiness.</p> <p>Why do you think the Magi were overjoyed? V10</p> <p>They had arrived at the right place at the right time. Their quest was successful.</p> <p>“Joy” is a feature of the Gospel. Look for some other examples in the gospels, and elsewhere in the bible.</p> <p>Acts 8: 4-8</p> <p>4 Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went. 5 Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Messiah there. 6 When the crowds heard Philip and saw the signs he performed, they all paid close attention to what he said. 7 For with shrieks, impure spirits came out of many, and many who were paralysed or lame were healed. 8 So there was great joy in that city.</p> <p>John 15:9-11</p> <p>9 ‘As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. 10 If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. 11 I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.</p> <p>Luke 24:50-52</p> <p>50 When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. 51 While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. 52 Then they worshipped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. 53 And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.</p>

	<p>James 1:2-3 2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.</p>
9.	<p>Worship: An act of religious devotion usually directed towards a deity.</p> <p>What motivated the wise men to worship Jesus?</p> <p>Probably they did not fully appreciate the divine nature of Jesus is, at that stage. They were led by the amount of truth they did know and with that attitude they doubtless discovered more.</p> <p>What does their worship foreshadow?</p> <p>Gentiles coming to Jesus. The shepherds were Jews; the magi were not.</p>
10.	<p>The Church of England claims to be an 'apostolic' church – guided and constrained by the teaching and example of the first apostles Jesus commissioned as leaders of his church.</p> <p>How does this apply to this study?</p> <p>Refer back to question 1.</p>
<p>During this term, St. Mary's is going to look at the application of guiding principle to the dispute surrounding acceptance of practicing homosexuals, looking at a report called "Guarding the Deposit – Apostolic Truth for an Apostolic Church, which analyses a number of radical ways forward for the Anglican Church.</p>	

Matthew 2:1-12

	NIV	ESV	Amplified Bible	New Living Translation	The Message
	THE MAGI VISIT THE MESSIAH	THE VISIT OF THE WISE MEN	THE VISIT OF THE MAGI	VISITORS FROM THE EAST	SCHOLARS FROM THE EAST
1	After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem	Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem,	Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king (Herod the Great), magi (wise men) from the east came to Jerusalem, asking	Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the reign of King Herod. About that time some wise men from eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem, asking,	After Jesus was born in Bethlehem village, Judah territory—this was during Herod’s kingship—a band of scholars arrived in Jerusalem from the East. They asked around, “Where can we find and pay homage to the newborn King of the Jews? We observed a star in the eastern sky that signaled his birth. We’re on pilgrimage to worship him.”
2	and asked, ‘Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.’	saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."	“Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the east and have come to worship Him.”	“Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose, and we have come to worship him.”	
3	When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him.	When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him;	When Herod the king heard this, he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him.	King Herod was deeply disturbed when he heard this, as was everyone in Jerusalem.	When word of their inquiry got to Herod, he was terrified—and not Herod alone, but most of Jerusalem as well. Herod lost no time. He gathered all the high priests and religion scholars in the city together and asked, “Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?”
4	When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born.	and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.	So he called together all the chief priests and scribes of the people and [anxiously] asked them where the Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed) was to be born.	He called a meeting of the leading priests and teachers of religious law and asked, “Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?”	
5	‘In Bethlehem in Judea,’ they replied, ‘for this is what the prophet has written:	They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:	They replied to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for this is what has been written by the prophet [Micah]:	“In Bethlehem in Judea,” they said, “for this is what the prophet wrote:	They told him, “Bethlehem, Judah territory. The prophet Micah wrote it plainly:
6	“‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.’”	“‘And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.’”	And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are not in any way least among the leaders of Judah; For from you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.’”	‘And you, O Bethlehem in the land of Judah, are not least among the ruling cities of Judah, for a ruler will come from you who will be the shepherd for my people Israel.’”	
7	Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared.	Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared.	Then Herod secretly sent for the magi and learned from them the [exact] time the star [had first] appeared.	Then Herod called for a private meeting with the wise men, and he learned from them the time when the star first appeared.	Herod then arranged a secret meeting with the scholars from the East. Pretending to be as devout as they were, he got them to tell him exactly when the birth-announcement star appeared. Then he told them the prophecy about Bethlehem, and said, “Go find this child. Leave no stone unturned. As soon as you find him, send word and I’ll join you at once in your worship.”
8	He sent them to Bethlehem and said, ‘Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.’	And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him."	Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search carefully for the Child; and when you have found Him, report to me, so that I too may come and worship Him.”	Then he told them, “Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child. And when you find him, come back and tell me so that I can go and worship him, too!”	
9	After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was.	After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was.	After hearing the king, they went their way; and behold, the star, which they had seen in the east, went on before them [continually leading the way] until it came and stood over the place where the young Child was.	After this interview the wise men went their way. And the star they had seen in the east guided them to Bethlehem. It went ahead of them and stopped over the place where the child was.	Instructed by the king, they set off. Then the star appeared again, the same star they had seen in the eastern skies. It led them on until it hovered over the place of the child. They could hardly contain themselves: They were in the right place! They had arrived at the right time!
10	When they saw the star, they were overjoyed.	When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.	When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.	When they saw the star, they were filled with joy!	
11	On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped	And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him.	And after entering the house, they saw the Child with Mary His mother; and they fell down and worshiped Him. Then, after	They entered the house and saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped	They entered the house and saw the child in the arms of Mary, his mother. Overcome, they kneeled and worshiped

	him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.	Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.	opening their treasure chests, they presented to Him gifts [fit for a king, gifts] of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.	him. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.	him. Then they opened their luggage and presented gifts: gold, frankincense, myrrh.
12	And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.	And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.	And having been warned [by God] in a dream not to go back to Herod, the magi left for their own country by another way.	When it was time to leave, they returned to their own country by another route, for God had warned them in a dream not to return to Herod.	In a dream, they were warned not to report back to Herod. So they worked out another route, left the territory without being seen, and returned to their own country.