

## Matthew 2:1

*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.*

If you think about it, in the bible, the first Christmas was not celebrated until about two years after Jesus was born. Now when I talk about the Christmas celebration, I am talking about Jesus' birthday. Now before anyone gets into a tizzy, we all know that Jesus' birthday was not on December 25<sup>th</sup>, so don't even go there, because the date (Day and month) does not matter, because if it did, it would be in the bible.

So back to my first thought, the first Christmas was not celebrated until about two years after Jesus was born, and that recorded celebration was when the wise men came to visit Jesus. But even then if you think about it, it never says that the wise men came on Jesus' date of birth (birthday), just around two years after His birth, which we get from:

† **Matthew 2:16** *Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men.*

So, when the wise men came, there was no Christmas tree, no lights or blowup figures outside of Joseph and Mary's home. Even Saint Nicholas was not even born yet, so the mere thought of a Santa Claus never crossed anyone's mind. There was no mention of a Christmas dinner or even a birthday cake. Also gifts were given, not to each other, but to Jesus "*they presented gifts to Him*"

† **Matthew 2:11** *And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.*

But if you think about it, the day Jesus was born, there was not a celebration by the people on earth, only by the shepherds, yet all of heaven was rejoicing with the angels singing out praises to God for His wonderful gift to mankind.

† **Luke 2:13-14** *And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"*

Even two years later, even though there was the star over Jerusalem, only the wise men, chief priests and scribes knew what it meant, because if everyone did, wouldn't they all had flocked to Jerusalem looking for the Christ child? And you can't say that others did not know, because when you read the account, the chief priests and scribes (plural in both cases) knew that the

scriptures said, yet they did not go with the wise men seeking the Messiah, even though they may have taught others about the coming Messiah.

† **Matthew 2:2-6** saying, *"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." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. So they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet: 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.' "*

So, two separate recorded times that God made known to man about the birth of His Son Jesus, yet no one went searching for Jesus. The shepherds told others, but no mention of others going to see the baby Jesus. And even the chief priest and scribes knew, yet they blew it off and did not seek the Messiah either.

2,000 years later, we have become like Bethlehem totally missing the greatest celebration, the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ? We sing the songs, tell the story, go to church and listen to the message of Jesus' birth. Yet, like the chief priests and scribes, how many blow it off and think, *"Oh, what a cute, nice little story. How sweet."*

Don't do that. Don't let Christmas be another holiday like the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, or Valentines Day, or Labor Day, where you get a day off but could care less of what the celebration is all about. But rather, today proclaim that, ***"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."*** **John 3:16**

† **John 3:17-19** ***For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.***

† **1 John 5:13** ***These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.***