

Matthew 2:1–12: The Response

Hatred (Herod)

“It’s quite dangerous for a baby king to be born into a world full of kings already.” (Jeremy Pierre)

“And a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. She was pregnant and was crying out in birth pains and the agony of giving birth. And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads seven diadems. His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven and cast them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she bore her child he might devour it. She gave birth to a male child, one who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron, but her child was caught up to God and to his throne, and the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, in which she is to be nourished for 1,260 days.” (Revelation 12:1–6)

Indifference (Jerusalem)

“But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days.” (Micah 5:2)

Percentage of Americans Self-Identifying as Christians (Pew Research Center)

- 2007: 78%
- 2019: 65%
- 2021: 63%

Percentage of Americans Self-Identifying as Non-Religious (Pew Research Center)

- 2007: 16%
- 2019: 26%
- 2021: 29% (4% atheist; 5% agnostic; 20% nothing in particular)

“Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.” (1 Timothy 1:15)

Worship (Wise Men)

“But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him.” (John 4:23)

The King of the Jews

“Now Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, ‘Are you the King of the Jews?’ Jesus said, ‘You have said so.’” (Matthew 27:11)

“And twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on his head and put a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying, ‘Hail, King of the Jews!’” (Matthew 27:29)

“And over his head they put the charge against him, which read, ‘This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.’” (Matthew 27:37)

Notes

Discuss

- Can you point to specific examples of how each of the three responses to Jesus have shown up in your life?
- Christians will still be tempted to indifference, and even hatred, toward Jesus, so what are some ways that someone can know that they are primarily responding to Jesus with worship, even if they're still tempted to respond wrongly?
- Based on your knowledge of the gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John), what are some other stories that show how people react to Jesus at various points of his life?

Read

Luke 2:8–20; Revelation 12:1–17

Pray

- That the Holy Spirit will help you respond to the coming into the world of Jesus Christ with worship.
- That God will use our church in our community to help people respond to Jesus with worship instead of with hatred or indifference.
- That Jesus will be worshipped as the one true King among all peoples/nations.

Announcements

- Lottie Moon Christmas Offering (Goal: \$5,000)
- Christmas Eve Service: December 24 at 5:00pm
- Life Groups (Coye and Emily Still, Randy and Crystal Syring, and Steve and Miriam Christy) Starting in January, 2022 (info@fsbcknobs.com for More Information)
- All-Church Sunday School: January 2 at 9:30am
- Membership Class: January 9, 16, 23, and 30
- Officer Nominations: Due by January 31, 2022