

Royalty on the Run - Matthew 2

1. Jesus was the _____ messiah.

- vv 5-6 quote from Micah 5:2, 4
- v 15 quotes from Hosea 11:1
- vv 17-18 quote from Jeremiah 31:15
- v 23 quotes from unknown source¹

2. Jesus was a _____ messiah.

- v 2 - he is called a “king”
- v 6 - the prophecy the religious leaders cited calls him “a ruler”
- v 11 - the gifts that are offered were royal gifts²

¹ “He shall be a Nazarene.” is a prophecy found nowhere in the Old Testament or in other remaining writings from that time. There are attempts to reconcile Matthew’s use of this. One draws on the Hebrew word for “shoot” (Isaiah 53:2) which is *nasir* and suggests word play. Others suggest it was a more general reference to Nazareth being a backwood town mocked by the elite and is generally referencing prophetic ideas that the messiah would be abused and neglected. A third suggestion is that Matthew was referencing oral tradition that was common in his day. Still others believe in Matthew’s desire to “prove” Jesus’ status as messiah he simply made a mistake. Wikipedia provides a good summary of how this passage is considered: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Matthew_2:23

² *These valuable items were standard gifts to honor a king or deity in the ancient world: gold as a precious metal, frankincense as perfume or incense, and myrrh as anointing oil. In fact, these same three items were apparently among the gifts, recorded in ancient inscriptions, that King Seleucus II Callinicus offered to the god Apollo at the temple in Miletus in 243 B.C.E. The Book of Isaiah, when describing Jerusalem’s glorious restoration, tells of nations and kings who will come and “bring gold and frankincense and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord” (Isaiah 60:6).* (biblicalarcheology.org link: <https://goo.gl/Pzp9km>)

3. Jesus was a _____ messiah.

- Joseph & Mary forced from their home by a census (Luke 2)
- Jesus and his family fled to Egypt to avoid death (vv 13-17)
- Upon return to Israel abandon what had become their new family home in Bethlehem and go back to Nazareth. (vv 21-23)

Jesus is the fulfillment of God’s promises, but he fulfills them in unexpected ways. (Mt. 5:17)

- This shapes all of our OT reading.
- This shapes who we look to in times of need.
- This shapes the hope we have in difficult times

Jesus is the king, but he is unlike the kings of this world. (John 18:36)

- This shapes our view of and involvement in politics and power struggles.
- This shapes how we attempt to influence and impact our world.
- This shapes our expectations of the place of the church in the world.

Jesus is a refugee in this world . . . it is his home, but unlike his true and ultimate home.

- This shapes our view of things and presence and ownership.
- This shapes what we strive to invest in and gain.
- This shapes our expectations of what God’s blessings might look like.