

## The Gospel of Matthew

**N**ow the manner of the birth of Jesus the Anointed was this: His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph but, before they had been joined, she was discovered to be pregnant from a Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being an upright man and not wishing to make a spectacle of her, resolved to divorce her in private.

**B**ut look: As he was pondering these matters the Lord's angel appeared to him in a **dream**, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to receive your wife Mary; for what has been begotten within her is from a Spirit, the Holy one. And she will bear a son, and you shall declare his name to be Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins. All of this has occurred in order that there might be **fulfilled** what the Lord spoke through the prophet, saying, '*See: The virgin shall conceive in her womb and shall bear a son, and they shall declare his name to be Emmanuel*'"—which, being interpreted, means "God with us."

And Joseph, having arisen from sleep, did as the Lord's angel had bidden him, and received his wife. But he had no intimacy with her until she bore a son. And he declared his name to be Jesus.

**N**ow, Jesus having been born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days when Herod was king, look: Magians<sup>1</sup> arrived in Jerusalem from Eastern parts<sup>2</sup>, saying, "Where is the newborn King of the Judaeans? For we saw his star at its rising, and came to make obeisance to him."

And, hearing this, King Herod was perturbed, and so was all of Jerusalem along with him; and, having assembled all of the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Anointed is to be born. And they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judaea, for so it has been written by the prophet: '*And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the leaders of Judah. For from you will come forth a leader who will shepherd my people Israel.*'"

Then Herod, secretly summoning the Magians, ascertained from them the exact time of the star's appearance and, sending them to Bethlehem, said, "Go and inquire very precisely after the child; and when you find him send word to me, so that I too may come and make my obeisance to him." And, obeying the king, they departed.

**A**nd look: The star, which they saw at its rising, preceded them until it came to the place where the child was and stood still above it. And, seeing the star, they were exultantly joyful. And, entering the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary

and, falling down, made obeisance<sup>3</sup> to him; and, opening their treasure caskets, they proffered him gifts: gold and frankincense and myrrh. Having been warned in a **dream** not to return to Herod, however, they departed for their own country by another path.

*And when they had departed, look:* The Lord's Angel appears in a **dream** to Joseph, saying, "Awaken, and take the child and his mother and flee into Egypt, and remain there till such time as I might speak to you; for Herod intends to seek out the child in order to destroy him."

And, waking, he took the child and his mother in the night and departed into Egypt, and was there until Herod's death, in order that there might be **fulfilled** what the Lord spoke through the prophet, saying, "*I have called my son out of Egypt.*"

*Then Herod, seeing that he had been made a fool by the Magians, was furious and, dispatching men, he destroyed all the male children in Bethlehem and all its environs, two years old and younger, in accord with the time he had so exactly ascertained from the Magi. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah when he said, "A voice was heard in Rama, a weeping and a great lamentation: Rachel weeping for her children; and she would not be comforted, because they are no more."*

*But when Herod had died, look:* The Lord's angel appears in a **dream** to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Awaken, and take the child and his mother, and go into the land of Israel; for those who sought the child's soul<sup>4</sup> have died." And, waking, he took the child and his mother and entered into the land of Israel. Hearing, however, that Archelaus now reigns over Judaea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there; and, being warned in a **dream**, he departed into the territories of Galilee, and on arriving took up his dwelling in a city called Nazareth; thus was **fulfilled** what was spoken by the prophet: that "He shall be called a Nazorean."

#### FOOTNOTES:

1. **magoi:** either "Magians" (men of the Zoroastrian priestly caste of the Persians and Medes, largely associated in the Hellenistic mind with oneiromancy and astrology) or "sorcerers" (in later usage, but obviously not here); it is a word that never merely means "wise" or "learned" men.
2. **en tēi anatolēi:** perhaps "in the East," but the construction would be unusual.
3. **proskynēsai:** "make obeisance," "prostrate oneself," "bow down before," "fall down in adoration"; the classic Eastern gesture of abasement before a superior, originally a kiss of reverence.
4. **psyche:** "soul," "life," "principle of life."