The visit of the Magi vs the Deceptive Elite

#  Matthew 2:1-23; Micah 5:2; Jeremiah 31:15

**The arrival of the Magi in Jerusalem:** Matthew 2:1-3

 “After” A while after the events recorded in Luke. Because 40 days for the purification of the mother after the birth of a child are required.

 “Where is he who is ***born*** king of the Jews?” (1) We have seen His star in the east and (2) have come to worship Him. Jesus was “born” a king not born to become a King.

 Herod was a gifted administrator, and skillful builder whom even his enemies admired some of his accomplishments, but he was also power hungry and inflicted heavy taxes upon the people and resented that the Jews considered him a usurper. (Josephus)

**The successful search for the Child:** Matthew 2:4-11

 Herod calls in the experts on the subject who answer immediately by quoting Micah 5:2. The people closest in ethnicity, religious piety and proximity are the most apathetic on the subject of the Messiah. Herod trusts the Magi so he sees no need to send an official to accompany them. Herod wants to determine the exact time of the child’s birth.

**Dreams of warning:** Matthew 2:12-23

 The Magi though deceived by Herod were guided in a dream. Joseph is warned about the danger to his wife’s child in a dream as well. Herod’s rage adds yet another atrocity to his record. The ruling class is opposed to Christianity. Psalm 2 emphasizes the futility of opposing God.