

# MATTHEW 2

## THE MAGI WORSHIP JESUS (2:1-12)

St. John Chrysostom on the wise men seeking Christ:

“A star appeared in the heavens, calling the wise men from on high. They made a long pilgrimage to worship the One Who lay in swaddling clothes in a manger. The prophets of old had proclaimed His coming. These and all the other events were more than human.”

## THE ESCAPE TO EGYPT (2:13-15)

St. Peter Chrysologus on why Jesus was taken to Egypt:

“Christ fled so that He might establish the truth of the law, faith in prophecy and the testimony of the Psalter...Christ fled so that at the right time He might serve as a steward of the sacraments. Christ fled so that by granting absolution He might take away the source of abuses to come and that He might give proof of faith to those who would believe. And finally, Christ fled so that He might bestow on us faith even when we have to flee, because in the face of persecution it is better to flee than to deny the faith.”

## THE SLAUGHTER OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS (2:16-18)

St. Chromatius on the Holy Innocents being the first martyrs for Christ:

“These innocents who died then on Christ’s behalf became the first martyrs of Christ...For in this persecution even tiny infants and nursing babies were killed on Christ’s behalf and attained to the consummate praise of martyrs. Meanwhile the wicked king Herod was destroyed, he who had usurped the realm to defend himself against the King of the heavens. Thus it is that those blessed babes have deserved lastly beyond others. They were the first who were worthy to die on Christ’s behalf.

## THE RETURN TO NAZARETH (2:19-23)

St. Chromatius on why Christ is called a Nazarene:

“Because the author and ruler of every act of sanctity and piety is Christ the Lord, Who said through the prophet, ‘Let them be holy since I am holy, says the Lord (Leviticus 11:44), it was not undeservedly that He was called ‘the Nazarene.’ It was He Who, following truly what was preordained in the law, offered as a pled to God the Father the sacrifice of His own body...The Lord would show Himself as the Nazarene at the time when He became a creature of flesh.”

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Quote Sources: Manlio Simonetti, editor. *Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture: Matthew 1a and 1b* (IVP)  
Blessed Theophylact. *The Explanation by Blessed Theophylact of the Holy Gospel According to St. Matthew* (Chrysostom Press)

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