

King of the Jews

Matthew 2:1-12

(Black Bibles p. 807; Children's Bibles p. 1154)

I love this book: *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* by Barbara Robinson

“The King of Jews”—does this title sound political? *It is.*

[1] The King of the Jews: The political setting

- Herod the Great: the King of the Jews, right?
- Caesar Augustus, who appointed Herod. The *real* King of the Jews, right?
- *Take heart, politics has always been messy for God's people!*
 - Within Jesus' own twelve disciples: Simon the Zealot ('let's get rid of the Romans') vs. Matthew the tax collector ('hey, I make a living from the Romans')
- Then there's Jesus: The *new* King of the Jews (Matthew 2:2)

[2] The King of the Jews: the prophecies

- Micah 5:2 is quoted in our passage (Matthew 2:6): Bethlehem is the place!

- There are other prophecies about the future Jewish king, including Jeremiah 23:5-6, Jeremiah 30:9, and Zechariah 9:9

[3] The King of the Jews... and Gentiles

- The (Gentile!) Magi from the east foreshadow this

[4] The King of the Jews—wait, is he really a *king*?

- Certainly this is clear in His 2nd Coming!
 - As well as in His resurrection and ascension (i.e. installed as God the Father's 'right hand man')
- Westminster Shorter Catechism, Question 26
 - Q: How does Christ execute the office of a king?
 - A: Christ executes the office of a king, in subduing us to himself, in ruling and defending us, and in restraining and conquering all his and our enemies.

Earthly politics seem to keep pulling us down... into the fray.

- Why? And how does Christmas fix this?