

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS of the CHRISTMAS KIND
By Pastor John Peters

READING of Matthew 2:1-12 (HCSB) - Verses on Screen

1. Encounter: The Wisemen & The Star (Bright Light)

" . . . for we saw His star in the East . . . " Matt 2:2 (HCSB)

2. Encounter: The Wisemen & The People of Jerusalem

" . . . wise men from the east arrived unexpectedly in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? . . ." Matt 2:1-2 (HCSB)

3. Encounter: King Herod & The Jewish Leaders

"When King Herod heard this, he was deeply disturbed, & all Jerusalem with him. So he assembled all the chief priests & scribes of the people & asked them where the Messiah would be born. 'In Bethlehem of Judea,'" Matt 2:3-5a (HCSB)

4. Encounter: King Herod & The Prophetic Words of Micah

"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the leaders of Judah: because out of you will come a leader who will shepherd My people Israel." Matt 2:6 & Micah 5:2

5. Encounter: The Wisemen & The Earthly King (Herod)

"Herod secretly summoned the wisemen & asked them the exact time the star appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem & said, "Go & search carefully for the child. When you find Him, report back to me so that I too can go & worship Him." Matt 2:7-8 (HCSB)

6. Encounter: The Wisemen & The Star (Reprisal)

<p>"There it was—the star they had seen in the east! It led them until it came & stopped above the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed beyond measure. Matt 2:9-10</p>	
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7. Encounter: The Wisemen & The Heavenly King (JESUS)

"Entering the house, they saw the child with Mary His mother, & falling to their knees, they

worshiped Him. Then they opened their treasures & presented Him with gifts: gold, frankincense, & myrrh.” Matt 2:11 (HCSB)

OUR TURN - ENCOUNTERING JESUS TODAY!

1. COME INTO THE HOUSE

Be Present - Be Consistent - Be Connected - Be Involved
Matthew 2:11

2. SEE JESUS

The Manger - The Miracles - The Cross - The Empty Tomb - The Promise of Being “God With Us”
Matthew 2:11

3. FALL ON OUR KNEES & BOW DOWN

Right Perspective - Right Humility - Right Understanding of Who Jesus is and Who we are
Matthew 2:11

4. WORSHIP HIM PRAISE / MEDITATION / CELEBRATION

Sing - Listen - Obey - Invite - Imitate Christ
Matthew 2:11

5. OPEN YOUR TREASURE - YOUR GIFT - YOUR HEART

Time - Talents - Tithes/Offerings - Total Self
Matthew 2:11

6. PRESENT IT TO HIM - OFFERING OURSELVES

Actively Sacrificing All We Are/All We Have on His Birthday Matthew 2:11