1. **THE MAN. (1:18-19)** The inspired account now focuses on Joseph. His plight documents the deplorable condition of Judea. Joseph was of the lineage of King David, but he was a laboring village carpenter in the despised town of Nazareth (John 1:46).
2. **Joseph’s Dilemma (1:18)** At that time, betrothal was considered marriage even without consummation. During this engagement Joseph learned of Mary’s pregnancy. She conceived by the power of the Holy Ghost, but how could Joseph know that. He must have been crushed.
3. **Joseph’s Decision (1:19)** Joseph’s character is revealed because he was a “just” man. His compassion was also revealed because he was “not willing to make her a publick example.” Joseph determined to divorce her quietly.
4. **THE MESSENGER. (1:20-23)**
5. **All is Well. (1:20)** While he pondered his decision, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him and confirmed Mary’s explanation. The angel greeted Joseph as a “son of David” reminding him of his heritage and the promises made to King David (2 Sam. 7:11-16). Now Joseph could marry his beloved with the approval of God regardless of the opinions of men.
6. **All is Wonderful. (1:21-23)** Mary was to bear the son of God. The angel instructed Joseph to name the child, Jesus, which means the salvation of Jehovah. Moreover, the angel supported the revelation with an Old Testament prophecy (Isaiah 7:14). It was truly wonderful news. The long-awaited Messiah was about to come.

**Isaiah 7:14,** “Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”

1. **THE MARRIAGE. (1:24-25)** Joseph’s character is also revealed in that he obeyed immediately - he “took unto him his wife” and he “called his name Jesus.” The entire event presents the character of the man who would act as foster father to our Lord Jesus Christ. Additionally, note how clearly the Bible presents the Holy Spirit conception and birth of our Lord.
2. **THE MAGI. (2:1-12)**  *Magi denotes wise men or philosophers from the East.*
3. **What They Sought (2:1-12)**
4. **Their Quest (2:1)** The Lord Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea (Micah 5:2) and some time after his birth wise men came to Jerusalem from the East. Their number is not given, but there was likely a dozen or more and they traveled by caravan over difficult terrain. Their journey was not easy covering a distance of approximately two thousand miles and taking as much as a year.
5. **Their Question (2:2)** “Where is he that is born King of the Jews?” The wise men uttered the first question recorded in the New Testament. They saw his star in the East and they logically came to Jerusalem. However, they did not find a descendent of King David on the throne in Jerusalem. Instead, they encountered an Edomite called Herod. He is referred to historically as “Herod the Great." Their visit stirred up trouble primarily because Herod felt that his power was threatened. Herod had referred to himself as “the king of the Jews.”
6. **Their Quandary (2:3-8)** Herod was a wicked man with no confidence in the Scriptures, but in his trouble, he called for the scribes. They informed him that according to Micah 5:2, the Christ would be born in Bethlehem. The scribes were right, but they did not have enough interest in the matter to travel a few miles and confirm the matter. Herod then sent the wise men to Bethlehem desiring a report and indicating that he also would worship the child. Obviously, his intentions were evil. As the wise men departed for Bethlehem (because of Micah 5:2) the star reappeared. This confirmation inspired them to great joy.

**Micah 5:2,** “But thou, Beth-lehem Ephratah, *though* thou be little among the thousands of Judah, *yet* out of thee shall he come forth unto me *that is* to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth *have been* from of old, from everlasting.”

1. **What They Brought (2:9-12)** Led by the star, the wise men arrived at the house in Bethlehem. They did not come to the stable at Chimham’s inn (Jeremiah 41:17). Furthermore, about two years’ time had passed since the miraculous birth. Compare 2:7 and 2:16. The wise men rightly worshipped the Christ and presented three gifts – gold, frankincense and myrrh. Because three gifts are listed, tradition says that there were three wise men. However, the Scriptures do not mention the number of wise men. As previously stated there were very likely many more than three wise men. There are many other traditions associated with these men (15:6). Nonetheless, the gifts are significant: gold is associated with royalty; frankincense is a token of divinity; and myrrh is associated with death. The gifts were certainly timely for Joseph and Mary concerning the journey they would soon take. Because the sincere wise men received revelation from God, they did not report to Herod, they left discreetly.
2. **THE MASSACRE. (2:13-18)**
3. **The Warning from Heaven (2:13-15)** Being warned of God in a dream, Joseph took his family and fled to Egypt by night and stayed there until the death of Herod. This is a partial fulfillment of Hosea 11:1.
4. **The Wickedness of Herod (2:16-18)** Herod was furious when he learned of the departure of the wise men and he put in place a second plan. Instead of murdering one child in Bethlehem, he would murder all of the children of ages two years old and under. Herod thought that he “was mocked of the wise men,” but a far greater power had confounded his intentions (Psalm 2:4). The resulting lamentation of Bethlehem was prophesied in Jeremiah 31:15.

**Psalm 2:4** “He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision.”