

***Sermon Title:* "THE CRADLE AND THE CROSS"**

***Date:* January 1, 2023 - Matthew 2:1-12**

**Central Idea:** All who find Him will worship Him. Have you found Him, and do you worship Him?

**Introduction:** Reactions to Jesus Christ have timelessly remained the same in every age of man's response to the Good News. The faces we see around the cradle are also the faces we see around the cross. Nowhere may the sameness of man's reaction to the Christ be more dramatically seen than in contrasting His first week and His last week—His cradle and His cross.

**I. Human Reaction to the Christ**

1. Herod and Jerusalem troubled v. 3; 1 Cor. 1:25
2. Twofold reaction—acceptance or rejection 1 Cor. 1:27

**II. Cosmic Disruption Because of Christ**

1. At His conception
2. At His crucifixion
3. At His birth—a new light
4. At His crucifixion—darkness
5. First to come to the cradle—Gentile Magi
6. First to respond at the cross—Gentile centurion

**III. Divine Intervention for the Christ**

1. In the crucifixion
2. In the cradle

**Conclusion:** The first impressive fact in this passage is that the Creator and Sovereign of all things became a helpless baby. Thereby He has forever sanctified both motherhood and babyhood. His infancy, as all infancy, was characterized by weakness, innocence and ignorance. Little did He know what influences were circling around Him—the love of His mother, the wonder of the Magi, the hatred of Herod, and the worship of the angels (Hebrews 1:6). Observe also that the Savior of the world drew to Himself from His birth the attention of both Jews and Gentiles. Significantly it was the Gentiles who received him. At a certain spot and in a certain hour, God entered into human history by adding our humanity to His deity.

Infinite mystery; eternal mercy!