

# Welcome

A *meridian* can be defined as "the highest point reached by a heavenly body in its course."<sup>1</sup> Although we are not literally in heaven, we have been placed, as believers in "heavenly places in Christ Jesus" (Ephesians 2:6). As we set our aim of *Lifting Christ Higher*, focusing on Heaven, and seeking to continually draw nearer to Jesus, then we will begin to comprehend those "heavenly places" as more of a reality than just some words on a page.

Please accept our heartfelt thanks for choosing Meridian as the place for you to give honor and praise to our wonderful Savior on this Lord's Day. We trust that you will come to know and understand more fully the relationship you can have in Jesus Christ.

<sup>1</sup> Webster's New World Dictionary. ©1971.

# Meridian Online



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# Sermon notes

## Behold, Your King! Matthew 2:13-18

**Jesus is the King and deserves to be considered so in your own life.**

**1. His Kingship is authenticated by Heredity (1:1-25)  
Authority is often verified by a Test of proper connections.**

**2. His Kingship is authenticated by Homage (2:1-12)  
Authority is often verified by the Treatment received from subjects.**

**3. His Kingship is authenticated by \_\_\_\_\_ (2:13-18)  
Authority is often verified by the \_\_\_\_\_ it poses to others.**

**A. The Perception of a "King-size" Threat (3)**

Herod considered Jesus a threat to his physical throne, when Jesus was more of a threat to the \_\_\_\_\_ throne of his heart. **Jesus is a threat to us because He is a threat to our \_\_\_\_\_.**

**B. The Practice of a "King-size" \_\_\_\_\_ (2:3c, 16a)**

A fulfillment of prophecy - **Hosea 11:1**  
Herod's reaction authenticated the reality of the importance and Kingship of Jesus.

**C. The Promise of a "King-size" \_\_\_\_\_ (16b)**

While they are away, an atrocity of major proportion is committed by Herod. **Out of control \_\_\_\_\_ leads to out of control \_\_\_\_\_.**

**D. The Pain of "King-size" \_\_\_\_\_ (17-18)**

A fulfillment of **Jeremiah 31:15**

The \_\_\_\_\_ of the **Magi** stands in stark contrast with the \_\_\_\_\_ of **Herod**.

Is He your King, or is He a threat?



December 22, 2024



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~ December 22, 2024 ~

*We extend a warm WELCOME!  
If you are visiting today,  
Connect Cards are available for you  
to register as our special guest.*

**SUNDAY SCHOOL . . . . . 9:30am**

**MORNING WORSHIP . . . . . 10:40am**

Hymns – (Blue) 201, 216, 227

Scripture Reading: Matthew 2:13-18

**All Church Caroling . . . . . 5:15pm  
(meet in the MFC Classroom)**

**CHILDREN’S CHURCH**

Young people ages 4 - 4th grade are invited to be dismissed before the sermon for age-related teaching.

**THIS WEEK AT MERIDIAN**

**NO Mid-Week Activities**

**ALL CHURCH CAROLING**

We will meet at **5:15pm** to organize ourselves for caroling. If you have not yet signed up and plan to attend, please sign up on a Care/Share Card available from the Ushers so we know how many plan to participate and divide into groups.

**BULLETIN BOARD NOTES**

Please notice various Christmas cards, letters, and thank-you notes on the bulletin board.

**LOOKING AHEAD AT MERIDIAN**

- Dec 29 (Sun, PM) – Singspiration / Testimonies**
- Dec 29 (Sun, PM) - Communion**
- Dec 31 (Tue, 6:00PM) – Soup Supper and Fellowship (No Wed activities)**
- Jan 5 (Sun, 4:30PM) – Deacons mtg.**
- Jan 8 (Wed, 6:30PM) – Resume Bible Seekers**
- Jan 16 (Thur, 7PM) – Ladies Bible Study**
- Jan 17 (Fri, 5:30-10PM) – New Hope Outreach**
- Jan 18 (Sat, Noon) – Barnabas Class Fellowship Luncheon**
- Jan 21 (Fri, 5:30-10PM) – New Hope Outreach**
- Jan 25 (Sat, 9AM) – Meridian Mighty Men Fellowship**

**SOUP SUPPER**

On New Year's Eve, we will gather together for a Soup Supper. Families are encouraged to bring their favorite soup to share, along with other food items and desserts. We will follow the supper with a brief service and prayer time to ask God’s blessing for the new year. Those who would like to stay for games and fellowship after the service are invited to do so, even until midnight if they desire, to welcome in the New Year. **Bringing extra snacks and games for the fellowship time is encouraged.**

**SECRET PRAYER SISTERS**

It is enrollment time for our Secret Prayer Sisters ministry. If you are interested in participating in 2025 you may secure your name exchange form from **Peggy George**. Names will be drawn the first part of January for the year. Any other questions about the program may be directed to *Peggy*.

**OFFERING ENVELOPES**

Systematic giving to God’s work is a Biblical mandate and should be practiced by obedient Christians. **Offering Envelopes are available under the bulletin board next to the Church Office** to aid you in this practice. By using this method, you are provided with a reminder and our Financial Secretary will be able to maintain your giving record in a discreet manner. It will also provide you with documentation at the end of the year. If you are not currently using this system and would like to begin doing so, please find an unmarked box and begin using the envelopes. The Financial Secretary will note your envelope number and offering accordingly. Otherwise, please find the box with your name on it. We pray for God's blessing upon you for your generosity to His work.

**2025 CALENDARS**

BIEM has again provided some calendars featuring their ministries for your use. The calendars are located on the shelf below the bulletin board.

**CHRISTMAS TRACTS**

Christmas tracts are available on the ledge under the bulletin board for those who would like to share the Gospel with a seasonal message. Feel free to take what you can use.

**NURSERY SCHEDULE**

- Dec 22 – AM – Deidra / Kathy  
PM – (Caroling)**
- Dec 29 – AM – Daina / Peggy  
PM – Kathy / Deidra**