A black and white image of a city skyline, including skyscrapers and a bridge, oriented upside down. The city is reflected in a light, misty or cloudy surface that occupies the middle of the frame. Below this reflection, the word "MATTHEW" is written in large, bold, black, sans-serif capital letters.

MATTHEW

The Upside umog Kingdom

Matthew 2

We can trust God's presence in our lives



Matthew 2:1-12

Jesus is worthy of praise

MATTHEW
The Upside down Kingdom



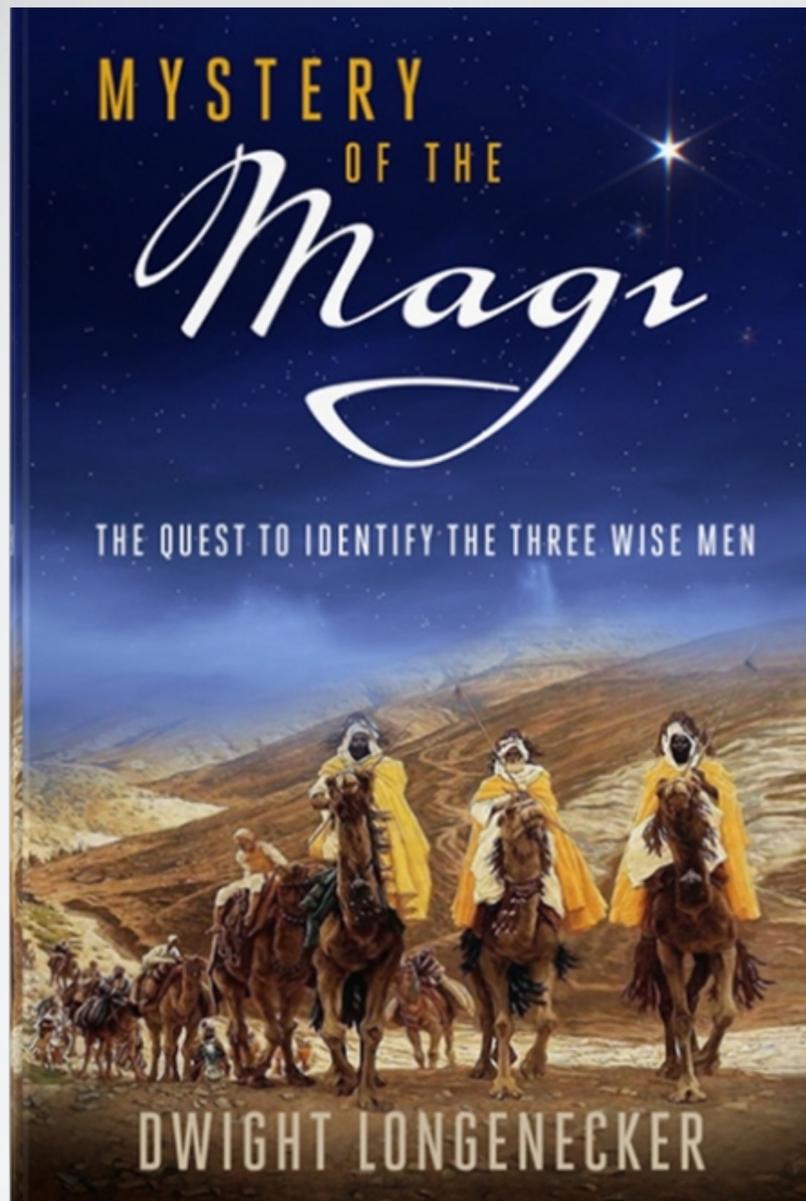
Jesus is worthy of praise.

- Herod was appointed King of Palestine by Rome.
- Although he was half Jewish and known as “king of the Jews.”
- As he aged, Herod’s paranoia of being overthrown drove him to have multiple sons and wives put to death.



Jesus is worthy of praise.

- Any contender to the throne is viewed as a threat to Herod.
- The Magi held that the new star in the sky marked the birth of a significant person in the land over which the star is shining.
- It is likely that these wise men had been exposed to Jewish prophecy concerning the Messiah (Numbers 24:17).



- They were Nabateans from the ancient Arabian kingdom of Sheba.
- Arabia was known for its vast wealth from gold mines of Africa.
- It also cultivated Boswellian and Commiphora trees, from which they derived frankincense and myrrh.



Jesus is worthy of praise.

- The Magi correctly assume that this child is the King of the Jews, and thus they travel to the capital, Jerusalem.
- The fact that Jesus is “born” King of the Jews implies that He has the proper bloodline to be the legitimate King of the Jews.
- By contrast, Herod is nothing more than a pretender.



Jesus is worthy of praise.

- Having to consult with the priests and the scribes proves Herod's limited knowledge of the Scriptures.
- The king is presented with the prophecy from Micah 5:2.
- Bethlehem was the birthplace of the Messiah.
- The Messiah would be a king with the people.



Jesus is worthy of praise.

- Herod sends the Magi on to Bethlehem, masking his true intent of murdering the child.
- The star that appeared to the Magi while they were in the East now reappears and begins to move, moving supernaturally, in fact.
- Instead of “traveling” east to west across the skyline, this star leads the Magi five miles south to Bethlehem.



Jesus is worthy of praise.

- The Magi enter the home of Mary and Joseph and offer Jesus both their worship and gifts.
- These offerings are expensive and intended to honor the child as king: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.
- These gifts would be put to practical use in the future as they most likely financed the family's flight to Egypt.



Jesus is worthy of praise.

- God once again employs a dream as a warning, bringing the duplicitous nature of Herod's intentions to the Magi.
- In an effort to avoid Jerusalem all together, the wise men return home a different way.
- The child born in obscurity is now recognized by pagan travelers as the rightful ruler of Israel, worthy of their praise and offerings.



Matthew 2:13-18

Jesus offers redemption

MATTHEW
The Upside down Kingdom



Jesus offers redemption.

- An angel appears to Joseph and warns him of the threat posed by Herod. Joseph is instructed to take “the child and his mother” and flee to Egypt.
- In light of this threat posed by Herod, Joseph takes his family in the night to Egypt, and they remain in Egypt with a thriving Jewish community there until the death of Herod.



Jesus offers redemption.

- Matthew points out that this journey fulfills another Old Testament prophecy.
- Hosea 11:1: “When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son.”
- These verses look back on the events of the Exodus/Passover through a Messianic lens.



Jesus offers redemption.

- Just as God called his adopted son, Israel, out of Egypt, He now calls the Son out as well.
- The people of Israel had been offered redemption through the events of the Exodus (specifically the Passover), God is once again offering salvation, this time through the perfect Lamb of God.



Jesus offers redemption.

- In verse 13 Matthew shows the paranoid character of Herod.
- He has all the boys in Bethlehem who are 2 years old and younger slaughtered to eliminate the threat of the “king of the Jews.”
- Given the size of Bethlehem and the parameters of the order, this could have amounted to around 20 deaths.



Jesus offers redemption.

- The prophecy is found in Jeremiah 31:15 as the prophet recounts the wails of mothers whose sons were carried off to Babylon.
- Reminiscent of Babylon's attempts generations before to wipe out God's chosen people, Herod is doing his best to put an end to the rightful king of the Jews.



Jesus offers redemption.

- If you keep reading in Jeremiah, God provides a response to the heartbreak of His people.
- He promises them that one day, their land will be restored to them (Jeremiah 31:16–17) and God will establish a new covenant with them.
- The Messiah is coming.



Jesus offers redemption.

- Jesus brings hope and light into the bleakest of situations.
- Like the blood of the Passover Lamb, the sacrifice of Christ proves a worthy offering to cover the sins of those who seek refuge in Him.
- In His Second Coming, all promises will be fulfilled as Jesus reigns not only in the hearts of His people, but also literally from His throne in Jerusalem.



Matthew 2:19-23

Jesus is familiar with hardship

MATTHEW
The Upside down Kingdom



Jesus is familiar with hardship.

- Herod dies, but there is still danger.
- Herod's kingdom was divided into four parts upon his death, and his oldest son, Archelaus, is granted Judea as his territory.
- This son is notorious for his cruelty, and so Joseph, being warned in a dream, makes his family's home in the city of Nazareth.



Jesus is familiar with hardship.

- There is no specific prophecy in the Scriptures that Jesus would be called a Nazarene.
- Matthew maybe was connecting Nazareth with the prophecy found in Isaiah 11:1 that deals with the branch of Jesse.
- The Hebrew word for branch is *nezer* that connected Jesus with the line of David.



Jesus is familiar with hardship.

- The term “Nazarene” was slang for someone who comes from an obscure, insignificant place.
- The town was home to the Roman garrison, and thus the Jewish residents were viewed with contempt as compromisers.
- Nathanael once used the word in a derogatory remark in John 1:46
“Can anything good come out of Nazareth?”



Jesus is familiar with hardship.

- Jesus was no stranger to hardship, prejudice and unearned hatred.
- He knowingly and willingly stepped into Bethlehem, into the world of a monster like King Herod.
- He became a refugee and chose a hometown that was viewed with suspect and disdain by many.

U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE
MICHAEL R. POMPEO



All Worship Services
Sunday, Sept. 20



Middle East Peace Treaty

OPINION | REVIEW & OUTLOOK

The Art of a Mideast Deal

Trump was willing to break with a failed conventional wisdom.

By [The Editorial Board](#)

Sept. 15, 2020 7:18 pm ET

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987 

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4 minutes



“How would official Washington respond if a Democratic President brokered a peace deal between Israel and two Arab states? The papers would be stacked with play-by-plays of how the historic breakthrough was achieved and adulatory profiles of the people in the room. The hosannas to the President’s strategic vision would flow from think tanks and academia, if not also from Oslo’s City Hall.”

Middle East Peace Treaty

How Trump Defied the Experts and Forged a Breakthrough in the Middle East

By RICH LOWRY | September 15, 2020 6:30 AM



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BRI

- Withdrew from the Iranian nuclear deal, which drew our allies in the region closer.
- Moved the embassy to Jerusalem.
- Killing of Iranian General Qasem Soleimani sent a message of resolve.
- Recognition of Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights.

Middle East Peace Treaty

- President Trump's Riyadh speech:
- "We were going to counter Iran, we were going to stand with Israel, and we were going to stand with our partners."
- Administration official: "we were in a hotel lobby talking to a bunch of Arab foreign ministers that I knew, and they just said, 'Oh, finally somebody who gets the region,'" he recalls. "Obama just kept looking at it through the wrong end of the telescope."

Protection of Life Abroad

- The Trump administration reaffirmed its commitment to pro-life values.
- The Protecting Life in Global Health Assistance policy.
- This was formerly known as the Mexico City policy.
- Countries can neither perform nor promote abortion as a method of family planning overseas.

Trump Admin Expands Protection of Life and Women's Health Abroad

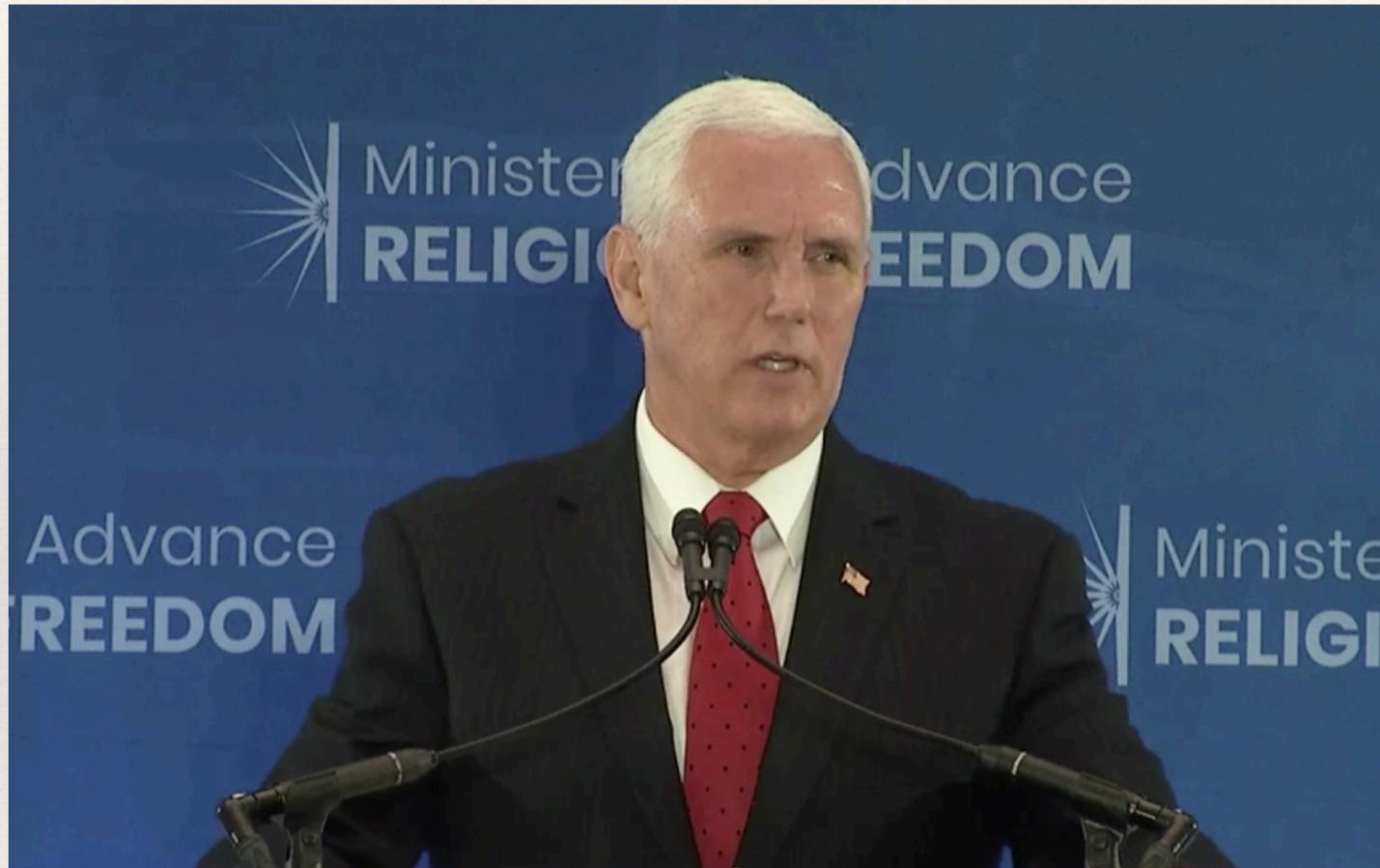
September 17, 2020



By Tony Perkins

On September 14, the Trump administration reaffirmed its commitment to pro-life values in a proposal which would extend the reach of the Protecting Life in Global Health Assistance (PLGHA) policy. The PLGHA policy, formerly known as the Mexico City policy, currently requires non-governmental organizations to

Advancing Religious Liberty



Prayer

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

1 Timothy 2:1-4