



Series: Divine Presence
Passage: Mathew 1:1-2:18
Title: The Divine Battle
Speaker: Pastor David Menard – 12/16/2018

Discussion Starter – In what way do you see the divine battle going on in our world today?

The Coming Messiah (Matthew 1:1 -25)

- Why do you think Matthew begins his gospel with the genealogy starting from Abraham?
- Read Genesis 12:1-3. Discuss the how these verses tie into the birth of Jesus. What was Abraham most noted for? What can we learn from his life?
- Read Matthew 1:18-19. What is the significance of the virgin birth and why is it a pillar of our Christian faith? Where was this foretold in the Old Testament?
- Where do you see the spiritual battle beginning here with Joseph? What can we learn from how Joseph responds to this new trial in his life? Explain what we see him doing here and why is this so important?
- Read Matthew 1:20-25. What three things did the angel tell Joseph to do and why? What is mentioned that Joseph did not do, which was not an instruction given to him from the angel. What other significant things are mentioned in Matthew verse 1:25?

The World is a Spiritual Battlefield (Matthew 2:1-18)

- Who are these three wise men, where did they come from, and what was their purpose of coming to Israel?
- What do we know about Herod's personality that made him a prime target to be used by the evil spiritual forces that exist in the world? How does Herod respond to the visit of the wise men when he finds out what the purpose of their visit was?
- Who did Herod call into his presence, what did he want to know, and why did he want to know this information?
- What spiritual battle can we see taking place in the visit between Herod and the wise men. What are the tactics being used here by Herod?
- How do the wise men find Jesus? What is the significance of what they do and the gifts that are offered once they see Him?
- How does Herod react once he finds out that the wise men have left and did not bring back the baby Jesus to him? How do we react when we feel we have been betrayed?
- Read 6:11-12 and Revelation 12:1-6. Describe in your own words how these verses relate to the spiritual battle going on between Herod and the baby Jesus. What was it about Herod that made him an instrument for Satan? What was different about those people like the wise men that God uses in this spiritual battle? In what circumstances can we be more like Herod than the wise men?