

## The Magic of the Magi Matthew 2:1-12

(We will return to our study of Acts next week but in the meantime, we will finish our look at the Christmas story with the coming of the Wise Men or Magi.)

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:

“But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.”



Photo: Have a blessed New Year knowing that Jesus is with us always at the beginning of each day and at the end of each day.

Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

## **Every Day with God**

What do you think the Magi did after they saw the baby Jesus? As we are told, they returned to their homes and all along the way they began spreading the word about the baby Savior who was born to save us from our sins.

We need to remember that the Magi were not Jews; they were gentiles who came from distant lands. Jesus came to save everyone regardless of what language they spoke or the color of their skin, not just his own Jewish people. Herod must have been very upset when the Magi did not return to tell him how to find the Christ child. Because they didn't return, he ordered all the baby boys two years and younger to be killed in Bethlehem and the surrounding vicinity. In the meantime, Joseph heard about his plot from an angel and fled to Egypt probably using the money given to him by the Magi to fund his way. Mary and Joseph stayed in Egypt for a few years and then an angel again told Joseph that Herod had died and it was safe for them to return.

When you examine the Christmas story up close we find that there was a reason for each event and that the events all fit nicely together, which makes the story even more remarkable and gives our lives purpose. Amen.

**Prayer:** We are forever thanking you for the Christmas story.