



# The wise men's CHRISTMAS



**1 Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem,**

**2 saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”**

**3 When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him;**

**4 and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.**



**5** They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

**6** “And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.”

**7** Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared.

**8** And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.”



**Matthew 2:1-12**

**9 After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was.**

**10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.**

**11 And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.**



**12 And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.**

Magi – Wise Men (Magicians) Star-Lookers (Astrologers)

*Experts in Stars, Dreams, Signs*

*– Important & Well-Known Men (Not Kings)*

3 Gifts Not 3 Wise Men...

They came from the East – Persia, Babylon, Arabia

- Southern Kingdom Exile –

Daniel Shadrach, Meshach & Abednego

- Saw a Star in the WEST

They are from the East



# Numbers 22 – Balaam – Magician Balak – Moab King

- Balak summons Balaam to curse the people of God who were wandering in the Wilderness...
- Three times God appears to his DONKEY
- Donkey talks to him & God opens his eyes

Numbers 24 - *'The oracle of Balaam the son of Beor, the oracle of the man whose eye is opened, the oracle of him who hears the words of God, and knows the knowledge of the Most High, who sees the vision of the Almighty, falling down with his eyes uncovered: I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near: a star shall come out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel.'*



“Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.”

*“Lift up your eyes all around and see; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from afar, and your daughters shall be carried on the hip. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and exult, because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall bring good news, the praises of the LORD.” - Isaiah 60:1-6*

# Herod Hears – He is Terrified

- Has Killed Wives, Sons, and many others to maintain power
- He is Paranoid!
- Never Intended to “give up” power...
  - Makes a decree for ALL baby boys to be killed under 2 years old in Bethlehem.



# Religious Leaders Hear – They’re Indifferent

- They know the prophecies
- They know where to find Him
  - They know who the Messiah is
  - THEY DO NOT DO ANYTHING...



# Wise Men Seek – To Honor & Worship

- Bring Gifts – Gold, Frankincense, Myrrh
- **Gold**, emphasizing Jesus' royalty (King)
- **Frankincense**, emphasizing Jesus' deity (Priest)
- **Myrrh**, emphasizing Jesus' humanity (Prophet)
  - Used for burial and anesthetic (mixed with wine)
  - Mark 15:23 – On the Cross - Jesus is offered wine mixed with Myrrh
  - John 19 – Jesus Body is wrapped with Myrrh
  - **The Wise Men came also to WORSHIP HIM!**



Herod Hears – He is Terrified

Religious Leaders Hear – They're Indifferent

Wise Men Seek – To Honor & Worship

How will you respond?

