

Do Wise Men Still Seek Him? Matthew 2

Stand Read Pray

Today we are going to look at these “wise men” or “Kings of the East” as your translations may say.

I hate to ruin your Nativity Scenes, but this story did not happen at the birth of Jesus. It is part of the story, but the wise men were nowhere near Jerusalem when Jesus was born. For a teachable moment you should put the wise men on the other side of the room facing the Nativity and when they ask why, it can open the door to a conversation about prophecy.

Matthew 2:1-2

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 have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.”

First thing is, we need to find out who these wise men are. The word is Magoi which is Magi. It is combination of Magas, which mean mighty, and someone who practices magic or sorcery. Used in Acts 13 as a Sorcerer. We get our word for “Magistrate” from it. The bible actually tells us who they are and connects us to Bible Prophecy. Jesus is the spirit of Prophecy and Matthew is showing us that He is the promised Messiah that is why he shares this with us. In order to learn more about them we need to go to Daniel

Daniel 2:27-36

Daniel answered in the presence of the king, and said, “The secret which the king has demanded, **the wise men**, the astrologers, the magicians, and the soothsayers cannot declare to the king. 28 But there is a God in heaven who reveals secrets, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the latter days. Your dream, and the visions of your head upon your bed, were these: 29 As for you, O king, thoughts came to your mind while on your bed, about what would come to pass after this; and He who reveals secrets has made known to you what will be. 30 But as for me, this secret has not been revealed to me because I have more wisdom than anyone living, but for our sakes who make

known the interpretation to the king, and that you may [j]know the thoughts of your heart.

31 “You, O king, were watching; and behold, a great image! This great image, whose splendor was excellent, stood before you; and its form was awesome. 32 This image’s head was of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and [k]thighs of bronze, 33 its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of [l]clay. 34 You watched while a stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces. 35 Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed together, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

36 “This is the dream. Now we will tell the interpretation of it before the king.

Daniel 2:48-49

Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell on his face, prostrate before Daniel, and commanded that they should present an offering and incense to him. 47 The king answered Daniel, and said, “Truly your God is the God of gods, the Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, since you could reveal this secret.” 48 Then the king promoted Daniel and gave him many great gifts; and he made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon, and chief administrator **over all the wise men of Babylon**. 49 Also Daniel petitioned the king, and he set Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego over the affairs of the province of Babylon; but Daniel sat in the gate of the king.

What about the Star? I hate to ruin your movie night with the Star of Bethlehem, but this was not an astrological event. This was a Supernatural one. The Greek calls it “His Star” and it is also using a definite article which makes it, “The His Star”. We know that Angels are called Stars in the Bible and Jesus is the Bright and Morning star.

Job 38:4-7

“Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth?

Tell Me, if you have understanding.

5 Who determined its measurements?

Surely you know!

Or who stretched the line upon it?

6 To what were its foundations fastened?

Or who laid its cornerstone,

7 When the **morning stars** sang together,

And all the sons of God shouted for joy?

Revelation 22:16

“I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and **Morning Star**.”

Revelation 12:3-5

3 And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. 4 His tail drew a **third of the stars of heaven** and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born. 5 She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up to God and His throne.

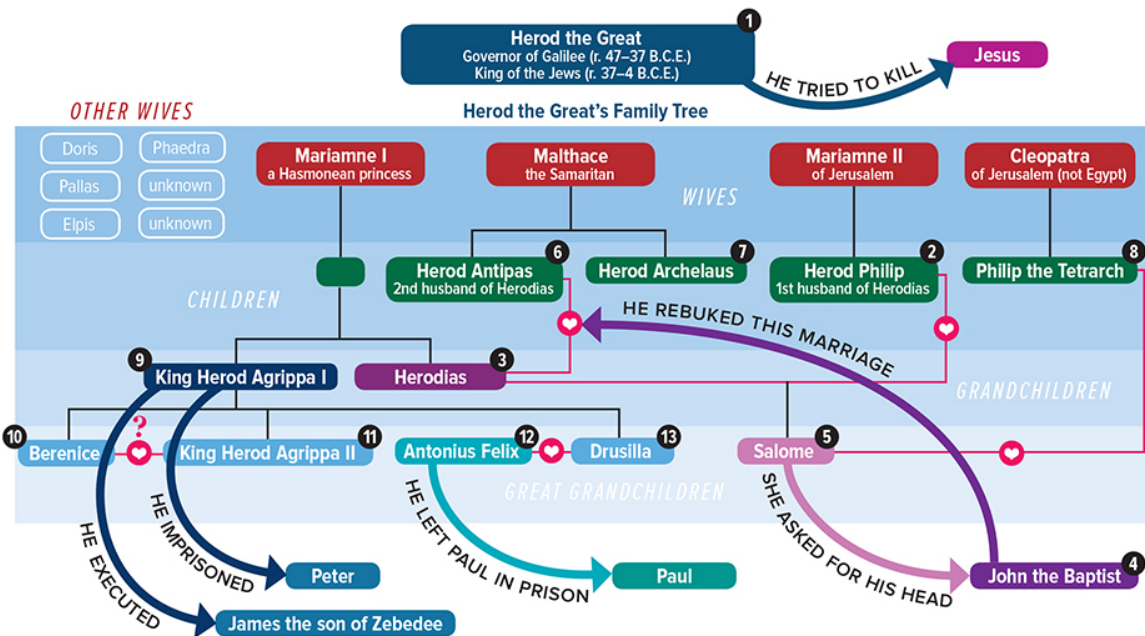
As we will see in a moment this “Star” appears to them again and leads them to a house.

But notice what happens when they go to Jerusalem...

Matthew 2:3

When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

Herod was troubled and when Herod is troubled everyone is troubled! Who is Herod the Great?



As you can see from this chart the different Herod's in the Bible. The one here is Herod the Great. He is responsible for many great buildings you can see in Israel. He built the wall that makes up the temple mount.

It was said it was safer to big Herod's Pig than his wife!

So, Herod thinks this is a threat to his realm and decides to move on this.

Matthew 2:4-8

And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.

5 So they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet:

***6 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
Are not the least among the rulers of Judah;
For out of you shall come a Ruler
Who will shepherd My people Israel.' "***

7 Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared. 8 And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go

and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found Him, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also.”

The most interesting thing here is that Herod is more interested in this than the Jews themselves. We see no evidence they even took notice. It could be that Herod hid this from them as we see him meeting secretly with them. I just find it odd they didn't pursue it.

Herod sees these Magi as a threat, so his intention is to use them and even lies about it. Herod didn't worship anyone but himself!

The prophecy that the Jews give to him is from Micah 5:2

“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
Though you are little among the thousands of Judah,
Yet out of you shall come forth to Me
The One to be Ruler in Israel,
**Whose goings forth are from of old,
From everlasting.”**

Notice the part that is missing? The part that claims His Deity!

Matthew 2:9-12

When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. 10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. 11 And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

12 Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way.

Notice the star miraculously appears and leads them. Not a constellation at all. We know this is much later as they are now in a house and not the stable. Now we assume by the number of gifts there were only three of them. But that would

not be the case. They would have been a big caravan and would have caused quite the stir in the neighborhood. If you have heard the given names that is of Byzantine origin and came about in the sixth century. We do not know their names at all. But very interesting to see how much they knew! They worshiped Him!

Gold for His Royalty
Frankincense for His Priesthood
Myrrh for His Sacrifice

Then we see they were warned in a dream to go another way. They would have to take the long way around, but it wouldn't matter they have seen their King!

Matthew 2:13-15

13 Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him."

14 When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, 15 and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, "Out of Egypt I called My Son."

We covered some of this last week, but we know this happened right afterward. Probably no sooner did the Magi leave that night he had the dream and woke up in the middle of the night and split. But to give you an idea of how evil Herod was...

Matthew 2:16-18

Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men. 17 Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying:

18 "A voice was heard in Ramah,

***Lamentation, weeping, and great mourning,
Rachel weeping for her children,
Refusing to be comforted,
Because they are no more.”***

Verse 16 is shocking to us. We ask ourselves how anyone could do this. We too soon forget the evil in our hearts and the ability to do the unthinkable to keep power. We might not have murdered children but how many have we sacrificed for our own selfish desires? We also are deceived if we don't think that our leaders in power today, if left unrestrained, would not be willing to go to this level. We know from just recent events that children are being sacrificed for an agenda. The intentions of the One World Government are bent on evil and will push its goals at the expense of many lives. This is also demonic. Another one of Satan's tries to get rid of Jesus.

Matthew is quoting Jeremiah 31:15. Again, the context of that chapter is one of the future for the nation of Israel, many of which will not be fulfilled until the Millennial Kingdom.

Let's finish the chapter

Matthew 2:19-23

19 Now when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, 20 saying, “Arise, take the young Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the young Child’s life are dead.” 21 Then he arose, took the young Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel.

22 But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea instead of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being warned by God in a dream, he turned aside into the region of Galilee. 23 And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, “He shall be called a Nazarene.”

History tells us when Herod died. It was in 4 BC give or take. Now we do have a problem with our calendar. Julian and Gregory did their best to find the right date, but we just don't have it down exactly. We do have some exact ones like the

one from Artaxerxes of when he gave the edict to build the wall. Brandon Holthaus says the 69 years are from the issue from Cyrus to His birth and Sir Robert Anderson says it is from the wall to His Triumphant Entry. What we do know is that it did happen exactly to the day but because the calendar is off, we can't be exact.

Why is the calendar off? The reason is the assumption that Jesus was 30 when He started His ministry, but the scripture says...

Luke 3:23

Now Jesus Himself began His ministry at about thirty years of age, being (as was supposed) the son of Joseph, the son of Heli

This is why there are so many different dates and times that people come up with. They were aware of it at the time we do know that, and they should have known!

Luke 19:41-44

41 Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it, 42 saying, "If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things that make for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. 43 For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side, 44 and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, **because you did not know the time of your visitation.**"

We learn that God fulfills His word literally! That His word has and will come to pass. The Magi were generations separated from Daniel and were waiting and watching. They trusted it so much they went out of their way to see its fulfillment.

But what about us? Are we trusting in His word to be fulfilled or have we become like the Jews to Herod. "We know what it says but it's not going to change the way we live". Are we going to just keep about our business and ignore the signs of His return?

Luke 17:20-37

Now when He was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He answered them and said, “The kingdom of God does not come with observation; 21 nor will they say, ‘See here!’ or ‘See there!’ For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you.”

22 Then He said to the disciples, “The days will come when you will desire to see one of the days of the Son of Man, and you will not see it. 23 And they will say to you, ‘Look here!’ or ‘Look there!’ Do not go after them or follow them. 24 For as the lightning that flashes out of one part under heaven shines to the other part under heaven, so also the Son of Man will be in His day. 25 But first He must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation. 26 And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man: 27 They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. 28 Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot: They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built; 29 but on the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. 30 Even so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed.

31 “In that day, he who is on the housetop, and his goods are in the house, let him not come down to take them away. And likewise the one who is in the field, let him not turn back. 32 Remember Lot’s wife. 33 Whoever seeks to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it. 34 I tell you, in that night there will be two men in one bed: the one will be taken and the other will be left. 35 Two women will be grinding together: the one will be taken and the other left. 36 Two men will be in the field: the one will be taken and the other left.”

37 And they answered and said to Him, “Where, Lord?”

So, He said to them, “Wherever the body is, there the eagles will be gathered together.”

If you are wise, you are seeking Him. You will make it your aim to see Him when He comes. You will be going out of your way to make Him the focus of your life. You can today. It’s not too late.

Stand Pray Song