

## The Magi Matthew 12:1-12 – Part 2

Please Open Your Bibles to Matthew 2:1-12

The Magi:

Where are they from?

What do they do?

What do they bring?

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.”

This week we will be picking up in verse 3 and answering the question “What do they do?”.

Matthew 2:3

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

This is Herod the great. Here is his family tree and some history:

<https://www.gotquestions.org/Herod-the-Great.html>

Herod I came to be known as Herod the Great and was also called King of the Jews. He ruled from 37 or 36 BC to 4 BC. He is mentioned in the New Testament in Matthew 2. Magi from the East came to Jerusalem looking for the one who had been born King of the Jews. Of course, this would arrest Herod's attention, as this was his title.

Herod the Great was the son of a high-ranking official in the Hasmonean dynasty, which was ruling Palestine as an independent kingdom. He was an Idumean or Edomite (a descendant of Esau), but there had been intermarriage between Jews and Edomites, and Herod publicly identified himself as a Jew, although he was not faithful to observe Jewish Law. In 41 BC Herod the Great was named governor of Galilee. However, the Jewish Hasmonean dynasty was in conflict with Rome, and Herod supported Rome in the conflict. He was given the title King of the Jews by the Roman Senate and then charged with the responsibility of conquering Judea so that he could rule as a client king. After about three years of fighting, Herod was victorious in 37 or 36 BC.

As king of Judea, Herod the Great's primary directive was to carry out the wishes of Rome. As always, Rome wanted to maintain peace and foster good will among the local inhabitants who had been conquered. (If that didn't work, Rome would eventually respond with overwhelming force.) Herod tried to foster good will by reducing taxes, enacting policies that helped bring about economic prosperity, and building public works including the incredible artificial port city of Caesarea, the fortress of Masada, and fortifications around Jerusalem. Herod also built a magnificent palace for himself atop a man-made mountain. The palace was called the Herodium.

In order to gain favor with the Jews, Herod the Great greatly enlarged and updated the temple in Jerusalem to a size and magnificence it had never enjoyed before, not even under Solomon. This renovated structure became known as Herod's temple. He also married Mariamne, a Hasmonean princess, and appointed her brother as high priest.

[https://drivethruhistory.com/herodian-empire-after-herod-the-great/?srsltid=AfmBOor\\_OuM9kcnEEPx6ufVTeFXoEodvasfYcoZy5NDDvN2UAlaUedLE](https://drivethruhistory.com/herodian-empire-after-herod-the-great/?srsltid=AfmBOor_OuM9kcnEEPx6ufVTeFXoEodvasfYcoZy5NDDvN2UAlaUedLE)

Following the death of Herod the Great in 4 BC, the Herodian Empire was divided among his heirs. Herod had changed his will many times due to his paranoia and the murder of some of his sons. During his fatal illness in 4 BC, he had another change of heart about his successor and revised his will one last time to appoint his eldest surviving son, Herod Archelaus, as king of Judaea. His younger surviving son, Herod Antipas, would rule Galilee under a lesser title.

Now that we know who and which Herod this is we also know why all Jerusalem was troubled. But now we read...

Matthew 2:4-6

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.’ ”

Very interesting that all these players were expecting God’s word to be fulfilled literally. They are quoting Micah 5:2

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.”

I think one of the most shocking revelations from this story is the religious leaders did nothing about it. How many people know the truth about God’s word but never act on it? This was the point I made last week as to why Matthew focused on these guys. But Herod knows and he acts on it!

Matthew 2:7-8

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.”

Liar! Here is Herod being used by Satan to thwart the plan of God. He will use this time frame to determine what age of kids to kill to get rid of the threat to his kingship. Satan is a liar that will use any form of deception to try to get you from doing God’s will. We are warned of...

Galatians 2:4

And this occurred because of false brethren secretly brought in (who came in by stealth to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage)

2 Peter 2:1-2

But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed.

2 Corinthians 11:13-15

For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.

So, what do we do pastor?

1 John 4:1,4-6

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have

gone out into the world... You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. They are of the world. Therefore they speak as of the world, and the world hears them. We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

Jesus said you will know them by their fruits. Be on the lookout as there is always a Herod out there! Now, what do the Magi do?

Matthew 2:9-11a

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.

Now I want to deal with the rest of our time today with this “star” as every year we have some kind of movie or book or special on TV explaining this star as being some sort of astronomical occurrence. We \* remember the Movie “The Star of Bethlehem” and I just saw an interview with the author A.C.

Katz and her book that came out last year “From Babylon to Bethlehem and Back Again”. She gives dates and fanciful astronomical data to say she has found it. I have heard many theories and they all are different. (Explain pragmatic explanations) With that said which one is right? They can’t all be true. But let us use the Bible and Bible only to guide us. First let us find out what the Bible says about the stars.

### Genesis 1:14-17

Then God said, “Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years; and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth”; and it was so. Then God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. He made the stars also. God set them in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth

This was on the fourth day of creation. The stars were to be for lights in the sky and for signs and seasons. Many have taken great lengths to make the statement “Signs” to mean more than what it is. This is what started the whole 4 Blood Moon craze. But we need to remember that before the modern era how did a person navigate? How would you know what time of year it was? This is what is being said in Genesis and not some



secret hidden meaning of the gospel in the zodiac. Maybe you never heard about that. It's called the Mazzaroth. \* \* This is an idea that the original Zodiac is actually the gospel in the stars that was corrupted by Babylon. The problem we have with that is we cannot find that anywhere in scriptures accept if we cram it into this word "signs" A matter of fact we find the exact opposite!

Deuteronomy 4:19

And take heed, lest you lift your eyes to heaven, and when you see the sun, the moon, and the stars, all the host of heaven, you feel driven to worship them and serve them, which the Lord your God has given to all the peoples under the whole heaven as a heritage.

Deuteronomy 17:2-3

"If there is found among you, within any of your gates which the Lord your God gives you, a man or a woman who has been wicked in the sight of the Lord your God, in transgressing His covenant, who has gone and served other gods and worshiped them, either the sun or moon or any of the host of heaven, which I have not commanded"

Amos 5:25-27

“Did you offer Me sacrifices and offerings in the wilderness forty years, O house of Israel? You also carried Sikkuth your king and Chiun, your idols, the star of your gods, which you made for yourselves. Therefore I will send you into captivity beyond Damascus,” Says the Lord, whose name is the God of hosts.

### 2 Kings 17:16-17

So they left all the commandments of the Lord their God, made for themselves a molded image and two calves, made a wooden image and worshiped all the host of heaven, and served Baal. And they caused their sons and daughters to pass through the fire, practiced witchcraft and soothsaying, and sold themselves to do evil in the sight of the Lord, to provoke Him to anger.

### 2 Kings 23:5

Then he removed the idolatrous priests whom the kings of Judah had ordained to burn incense on the high places in the cities of Judah and in the places all around Jerusalem, and those who burned incense to Baal, to the sun, to the moon, to the constellations, and to all the host of heaven.

In all of this I find very hard to believe that God has anything to do the signs in the stars. Search the scriptures, you will never

find anywhere stars being used to interpret dreams, vision or prophecy. Fulfilled prophecy is found in His word not the stars! Some say that this is what was prophesied by Balaam...

Numbers 24:17

I see Him, but not now; I behold Him, but not near; A Star shall come out of Jacob; A Scepter shall rise out of Israel, And batter the brow of Moab, And destroy all the sons of tumult.

But Matthew never missed a point to say “It is Written” so I can’t accept that either. So what could it be? I believe it is a divine supernatural event, and I also believe the Bible records the original one that they saw in the east. We know that stars are also referred to as Angels...

Job 38:7

When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?

The term sons of God is the Angels both good and fallen. If this is what the Magi originally saw where can we find it in the Bible? Turn to Luke chapter 2

The Angels seen in the East

Luke 2:1-19

The term \* “shone around them” is only used twice in the scriptures and the other place is in Acts 26:13

Acts 26:13

at midday, O king, along the road I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining around me and those who journeyed with me.

So, ask me why I think that this is it? Because at the moment of His birth the very glory of God had manifested itself in a human being. The Bible tells us...

John 1:14

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

The very shekinah glory of God. The very reflection of that glory seen in the angels is now in the person of Christ. But did you know that we do not need to look to the stars to look for God's glory? Where is this glory seen? In you and me who have put our faith and trust in Him!

2 Corinthians 3:17-18

Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

How does one receive this?

Romans 10:6-8

But the righteousness of faith speaks in this way, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ down from above) or, “ ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). 8 But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith which we preach):

Romans 10:9-10

...that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Romans 10:13

For “whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”