

Home Group Helps

Matthew 2:1-12

Magi From the East

I. The Magi (v. 1) – “Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem . . .”

II. Magi’s Inquiry - in Jerusalem (v. 1-8) “. . . saying, ² “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him.” ³ When Herod the king heard *this*, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴ Gathering together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for this is what has been written by the prophet: ⁶ ‘AND YOU, BETHLEHEM, LAND OF JUDAH, ARE BY NO MEANS LEAST AMONG THE LEADERS OF JUDAH; FOR OUT OF YOU SHALL COME FORTH A RULER WHO WILL SHEPHERD MY PEOPLE ISRAEL.’” ⁷ Then Herod secretly called the magi and determined from them the exact time the star appeared. ⁸ And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the Child; and when you have found *Him*, report to me, so that I too may come and worship Him.”

III. Magi’s Guide (v. 2, 9) “For we saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him. . . .and the star, which they had seen in the east, went on before them until it came and stood over *the place* where the Child was.”

IV. Magi’s Response (v. 10-12) - “When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹ After coming into the house they saw the Child with Mary His mother; and they fell to the ground and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they presented to Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned *by God* in a dream not to return to Herod, the magi left for their own country by another way.”

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1. Launching Question(s):

- What are some ideas that you had about the Magi in the past that you have since learned may be false?

2. Observation Question(s):

- What is the significance of the town of Bethlehem in Israel’s history?

3. Interpretation Question(s):

- Read Genesis 12:3 & Isaiah 60:1-3.
- How does the coming of the Magi to worship Christ reflect the truth of these two passages?
- Vs. 10-12 provide an example of five characteristics of proper worship. What are they?

4. Reflection Question(s):

- This episode demonstrates the three common responses to Christ:
 1. Belief and Worship – Magi
 2. Indifference – Scribes and Priests
 3. Hostility – Herod
- How do you see these three responses manifested in our day?

5. Application Question(s):

- How might you “rejoiced exceedingly with great joy” (v.10) during this season of Advent?