

## WHITES RUN BAPTIST CHURCH

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### Announcements

- The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for international missions: Please prayerfully consider how much you can help the International Mission Board spread the gospel around the world!
- Sunday evening classes and Sunday School are temporarily suspended.
- Coming Soon: Reading through the Bible in a year together!
  - Please sign up today if you want to host a group.
  - Please sign up today if you want to attend a group.
- For more efficient traffic flow, we can exit through the front of the sanctuary.

### The Magi and Me, Matthew 2:1-12

#### What History says about the Magi

- They were highly educated men from Media/Persia who were skilled in religion, astrology, and the sciences.
- They were politically influential, and considered by some to be “king-makers.”

#### What the Old Testament says about the Magi

- The Word appears ten times in the book of Daniel in the Septuagint (LXX) translation. Daniel: 1:20; 2:2; 2:10; 27; 4:7; 5:7, 11, 15;
- The Magi were led by Daniel during the time of the Babylonian and Persian Empires. Daniel 2:48, 4:9, 5:11.
- Daniel had the scriptures. Daniel 9:2.
- Daniel received the prophecy that sets a timeline for the arrival of the Messiah (Jesus). Daniel 9:24-27.

#### What the New Testament says about the Magi

- They came from the east. Matthew 2:1.
- Their presence and inquiry troubled the king and all Jerusalem with him. Matthew 2:3.
- They were summoned by the king. Matthew 2:7.
- The chief priests and the scribes legitimized their search. Matthew 2:5-6; Micah 5:2.
- Their gifts showed their great knowledge of the importance of the Messiah (the Christ). Matthew 2:11.
  - Gold: A gift fit for a king – the traditional homage paid. Revelation 19:16.
  - Frankincense: Used by priests. Hebrews 7:23-8:6.
  - Myrrh: A common burial Spice.
- God endorses their actions by warning them about Herod in a dream. Matthew 2:12.

Summary: A group of influential and highly educated Gentiles showed up from far away risking a diplomatic incident to worship Jesus Christ as a child.

See also – Num. 24:17; Is. 60:3; Ps 68:29, 72:10.

#### What do I say about the Magi?

1. Will I be wise and worship Jesus Christ? Ps. 111:10; John 1: 12, 3:16-18; Php. 2:10-11.
  - "And what is this valley called?" "We call it now simply Wisdom's Valley: but the oldest maps mark it as the Valley of Humiliation." C.S. Lewis, The Pilgrim's Regress, bk. 7, chap. 8, p. 125.
  - See 1 Cor. 1:18-25 for a discussion of wisdom and foolishness.
2. Will I continue to seek him? Psalm 9:10, 14:2, 27:8, 42:1-4; Dt. 4:29; Matt. 6:33; Rev. 22:17.

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