

Bible Study 12-10-2024
Rev. Debbie Sexton

KJV Matthew 2:1-10
"Trip of a Life Time"

Every time we come to worship Jesus, we are taking such a trip. God will light the way for those who seek to bring Him glory.

1 Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east of Jerusalem.

Matthew clarifies the location of Jesus' birth to stress the connection between Jesus and His ancestor David who had been promised that his descendants would reign forever (2 Sam 7).

Herod: A descendant of Esau and the first Roman king of Judea. Herod the Great was paranoid, ruthless, cruel and would eliminate anyone who interfered or challenged his authority, including family. He was vested in maintaining the status quo: Note: **John 11:48**

The wise men: a/k/a magi (may-jye or madge-eye) and translated "magicians" (**Daniel 1:20; 2:2,10**). They are experts in astrology, medicine, history, politics and serve as counselors in royal courts. A wealthy delegation of sincere Gentiles who traveled across a hostile and extended desert to find and welcome the birth of a new Jewish King. Many assume there were only 3 wise men because of the number of gifts presented.

2 Saying, Where is He that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen His star in the east, and are come to worship him.

Numbers 24:17 Balaam gave the prophecy concerning the nation Israel:

"I shall see him, but not now: I shall behold Him, but not nigh: There shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel, and shall smite the corners of Moab, and destroy all the children of Sheth. " *To locate the born King of the Jews, one might start with Jerusalem, the center of Jewish faith and culture. When His star appeared they joined forces and set out on a quest. God gave them a special sign, a miraculous star that announced the birth of the King.*

(Songs: Let Jesus Lead You, and I Have Decided to Follow Jesus)

3 When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

The magi were seeking the King, Herod opposed the King, and the Jewish priests ignored the King: they knew the scriptures pointed others to the Savior, yet they would not worship Him themselves. They were five miles away from the Son of God but chose not to follow Him.

NIV 1 John 4:14-15

And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent His Son to be the Savior of the world. If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God.

4 And when he had gathered all the chief priests, and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born.

(Malachi 2:7)

5 And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet, (**Micah 5:2**)

6 And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.

7 Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, inquired of them diligently what time the star appeared.

Realizing the possible political implications of the wise men's disturbing report, paranoid Herod begins his own search for the Messiah. Herod inquires about the time of the star to calculate the age of the new King of the Jews.

8 And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found Him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship Him also.
Herod is pretending to be desirous of worshipping the Messiah. In reality he was already planning to kill Him.

9 When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw 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 exceeding great joy. *The star was their guiding light. Perhaps their experience with Herod, his officials, and the Jewish religious leaders had unsettled them. Doubtless they are confused to discover that no King of the Jews has been born in the palace. Perhaps they have begun to doubt whether they have correctly interpreted the signs, wondering if their long journey is at a dead end. Then suddenly, the reappearance of the star renews their hopes.*

11 And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary His mother, and fell down, and worshipped Him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto Him gifts, gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.
Gold: Spoke of His deity, Frankincense: speaks of His humanity, Myrrh: speaks of His future sufferings.

12 And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way. *God has not only helped the wise men on their way; leading them to the object of their quest, He also makes provisions for their safe return home.*