

OH COME LET US ADORE HIM

December 10, 2017

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." ³ When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴ 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." ⁹ 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. **Matthew 2:1-12 (NKJV)**

WHO WERE THE MAGI?

- Not kings
- Not necessarily (3) probably a caravan
- An ancient hereditary priesthood of the Medes
- Credited with profound and extraordinary religious knowledge
- Became known as king-makers

"It was at this time that the Magi, in their dual priestly and governmental office, composed the upper house of the Council of the Megistanes ("magistrates") whose duties included the absolute choice and election of the king of the realm. It was therefore a group of Persian-Parthian "**king makers**" who entered Jerusalem in the latter days of the reign of Herod." Chuck Missler <http://www.khouse.org/articles/2003/497/#notes>

WHAT DID THEY KNOW?

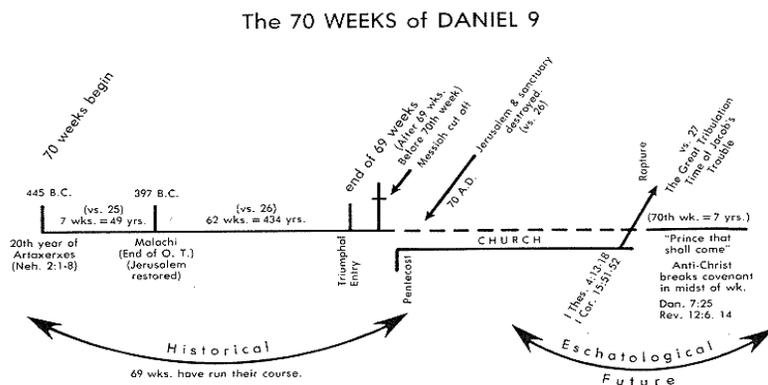
- They knew about a lasting monarchy that would come out of the line of Judah.

The scepter shall not depart from Judah, Nor a lawgiver from between his feet, Until Shiloh comes; and to Him shall be the obedience of the people. **Genesis 49:10 (NKJV)**

- They knew there would be a star.

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. **Numbers 24:17 (NKJV)**

- They would have had knowledge of the timing



The 69 Weeks 9:25 7-7's + 62-7's = 483 years

Period #1—49 years (Dan. 9:25). During this period, the Jews will rebuild the city of Jerusalem in troubled times. The decree of Daniel 9:25 is probably that of Artaxerxes in 445 BC authorizing Nehemiah to go to Jerusalem to rebuild the walls and restore the gates (Nehemiah 2:5-8).

Period #2—483 years (Dan. 9:25). Gabriel affirmed that 483 years are involved from the giving of the decree to the coming of "*the Anointed One, the ruler*" ($7 \times 7 = 49$; $7 \times 62 = 434$; total = 483).

From March 14, 445 BC to April 6, 32 BC = 483 years

THE TARGET--THE TRIUMPHAL ENTRY

Remember these Magi were religious experts. They knew these things and followed these things. It would be like the people who are I-Phone enthusiasts. They know when the next I-Phone is coming out and are ready to be in place to get it. The Magi paid attention to these kind of things especially when it involved prophecy regarding kings.

HOW DID THEY KNOW IT?

- Balaam was a prophet of the eastern religions who worshipped the gods of the land. It could be that he was one of the eastern Magi.
- Daniel is referred to in Daniel 4:9 as the "chief of the magicians."
- The Magi took a detour because the star apparently disappeared for a time. This took them to Jerusalem.
- Evidence for this link between Daniel's wise men and Balaam is underlined by reference to what the wise men did not know, as well as what they did. They knew about Balaam's messianic prophecy, and possibly Daniel, but not that of Micah:

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. (Micah 5:2)

This is what the priests and scribes told King Herod in response to the Magi's question, "*Where is he that is born king of the Jews?*"

THIS WAS AN INTERNATIONAL MISSION

In extremely simplistic terms Balaam, Daniel and the Magi from the east had a connection and the Magi which came to Jerusalem and then Bethlehem understood the meaning of the star and the significance of it appearing.

The Magi connected the dots—non Jews!!!!

John 14:6 (NKJV)

⁶ *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."*

John 6:44 (NKJV)

⁴⁴ *"No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day."*

THEY:

- WERE OPEN
- WERE INTERESTED
- WERE EXPECTANT
- WERE CONNECTED THE DOTS
- FOLLOWED THE FACTS
- WORSHIPPED

They knew enough to come and worship Him.

They anticipated - loved His appearing.

They followed the information they had.

They came and worshipped Him.