

**The Magi**  
**Matthew 2:1-18**  
**December 24, 2017**

Before we get to the Magi and their visit, we cannot overlook Herod mentioned in verse 1:

- History tells us that he had many wives.
- Had at least nine palaces.
- Had many wives, killed his favorite for fear she may be unfaithful.
- Had many sons, killed two of them, afraid they would knock him off and upset about killing their mom.  
(How were they killed according to Josephus – Roman-Jewish scholar)
- He was rich, had pools, aqueduct, food brought in from the outside, hot baths, etc.
- So when he gave the order to kill all male children under the age of two (Matthew 2) it was not surprising per se.
- On his deathbed he gave orders for people from every area of town be gathered and be executed so that when he died there would be grief. His son, after his death, rescinded the order.<sup>1</sup>

Now we get a picture of who Herod was, what he was up to and exactly why he wanted to find “this king of the Jews,” as he felt threatened.

**Magi<sup>2</sup>?**

Not **kings**.

Gentiles, not Jews.

Not necessarily **three**, (gifts) possible a caravan (from the East, possible modern day Iran).

Ancient hereditary priesthood of the Medes.

Credited with profound and extraordinary religious knowledge.

Became known as king-makers.

**What did the Magi know<sup>3</sup>?**

**A lasting monarchy 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**

*‘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.’* **Matthew 2:6**

---

<sup>1</sup> Andy Cook

<sup>2</sup> Andy Cook and Chuck Missler

<sup>3</sup> J Vernon McGee, Thru the Bible

### **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***

- Seemed only to be able to be seen by the **Magi**
- Celestial bodies normally move from east to west due to the earth’s rotation, but the star of Bethlehem led the Magi from Jerusalem south to Bethlehem.
- Led them directly to where Mary and Joseph were staying and stopped **overhead**.  
Shekinah glory – “dwelling of God” (Exodus 13:21)

### **Knowledge of the timing.**

Daniel 9

### **Gifts they brought:**

Gold = **deity**.

Frankincense = **priesthood** (mixed into the showbread by the priests).

Myrrh = when crushed, an ointment for burial.<sup>4</sup>

### **The Magi were men who:**

- 1) Read and believed God’s **Word**, do we?
- 2) Sought Jesus, do we?
- 3) Recognized the **worth** of Christ, do we?
- 4) Humbled themselves to **worship** Jesus, do we?
- 5) Obeyed God rather than man, do we?<sup>5</sup>

### **Prayer Focus:**

- I would place my faith in Jesus.
- I would truly worship Jesus as a Believer, particularly in the five areas we looked at.
- I would focus on Jesus.

---

<sup>4</sup> Chuck Missler

<sup>5</sup> [www.gotquestions.org/amp/three-wise-men.html](http://www.gotquestions.org/amp/three-wise-men.html)