



The Wise Men

“Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, ^[a]wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, 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.”

When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. 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.

So, they said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet:

***‘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.’”***

Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared. 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.”

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. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. 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.

***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, 2**

They Came to Worship

1. Worship is the occupation of the heart, not with its needs, or even with its blessings, but with God Himself.
2. Worship asks for nothing but offers our best.

The Wise Men

1. Myths
 - a. Three wise men (because there were three gifts).
 - b. They were at the manger.
2. They were:
 - a. Astronomers.
 - b. Scientists.
 - c. Astrologers.
 - d. They traveled in caravans of 50 to 100.
 - e. They rarely left home.
 - f. They did not travel far.
3. They came to worship.
4. They were guided to worship.
5. It took two years for them to arrive in Bethlehem.
 - a. Jesus lived in a house (vs. 11).
 - b. Jesus was young boy of about two years.
 - c. Herod had baby boys killed "2 years and younger" (vs. 16).
6. Herod was not *born* king of the Jews.
7. The religious leaders could quote Micah but did not follow to worship.
8. Worshipers sometimes have to come from far away.
9. Worship is accompanied by joy.
 - a. Psalms 16:11 *"In Your presence is fullness of joy."*
 - b. Psalms 43:4 *"I will go to the altar of God to God my exceeding joy."*
10. They did not worship until they saw Jesus.
 - a. Luke 24:16 – The two on the road to Emmaus did not realize it was Him until He left.
 - b. Ephesians 1:18 *"The eyes of our heart being enlightened."*
11. Worship offers gifts.
 - a. Gold = deity.
 - b. Frankincense = perfume in fire – His purity in tribulation.
 - c. Myrrh = death.
 - d. Worship looks past the natural into the eternal.
12. Joseph used the money to live with his family for two years in Egypt.