

The Story of the Magi

Paraphrased from Matthew 2:1-11

After Jesus was born, magi came from a country far to the east. They were highly respected men, scientists and astrologers. They arrived in Jerusalem after a very long journey and asked, "Where is the One who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the east and have come to worship Him."

Herod heard about these important visitors and their question. Herod himself was known as the "King of the Jews", and he was infamous for being power-hungry and ruthless. He had killed several members of his own family because he feared they were plotting to take his power.

He had heard the prophecies about a coming Messiah who was to deliver the Jews and rule as their king. So when he heard that such a King had been born, he was very upset! And when the King was upset, all Jerusalem got upset with him!

He called together all the religious leaders of the Jews and asked them where this Messiah was to be born. They said that according to the prophet Micah, Messiah was to be born in Bethlehem, a small town near Jerusalem.

Herod knew he needed to handle all this very carefully. So he called the magi and found out from them exactly when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search till you find the Child. Then report back to me so that I too may come and worship him."

So the magi went on their way. The same star they had followed from the east went ahead of them and stood over the very place where the Child was. They were ecstatic!

When they came into the house, they found the Child with His mother, Mary. Falling to the ground, they worshiped before Him. There they opened their treasures and presented him with lavish, expensive gifts:

- They gave Him gold, a gift fit for a king.
- They gave Him frankincense, which was used in the worship of God. It was gift especially appropriate for a priest.
- They gave Him myrrh, a luxury item that was particularly used to honor the dead. Jesus would later be wrapped in myrrh at his own burial.

In a dream, God warned the magi not to report back to Herod, so they returned back home another way.

These magi were the first people to come to Jesus from another nation and another religion. They came at great trouble and expense in order to worship and honor Him. Their coming pointed to the fact that Jesus would not just be the King of the Jews, but

the King of all Kings and the Lord of all Lords, the Bright Morning Star and the Light of the World.

Hymn: [The March of the Three Wise Men](#)

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