

Who were the “Wise Men” – a.k.a. the “Magi”?

God meets us where we are

Matthew 2:1 Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying,

2 “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star ~~in the east~~ **in its rising** and have come to worship Him.”

3 When Herod the king heard *this*, he was ~~troubled~~ **out of his mind**, and all Jerusalem with him.

Daniel 1:3 Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, the chief of his officials, to bring in some of the sons of Israel, including some of the royal family and of the nobles,

4 youths in whom was no defect, who were good-looking {*i.e.*, presented themselves well}, showing intelligence in every branch of wisdom, endowed with understanding and discerning knowledge, and who had ability for serving in the king's court; and he ordered him to teach them the ~~literature~~ **writings** and language of the Chaldeans.

20 As for every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king consulted them, he found them ten times better than all the ~~magicians~~ **magi** and conjurers who were in all his realm.

Daniel 2:48 Then the king promoted Daniel and gave him many great gifts, and he made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon and chief prefect over all the ~~wise men~~ **magi** of Babylon.

Numbers 24:17 "I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near; a star shall come forth from Jacob, a scepter shall rise from Israel

Acts 17:26 and He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation,

27 ~~that they would seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us.~~

to **search for** God, if **possibly indeed** they **would feel around** for Him and find Him, **and indeed**, He is not far from **every one** of us.

Matthew 2:4 Gathering together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.

5 They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for this is what has been written by the prophet:

6 'AND YOU, BETHLEHEM, LAND OF JUDAH,
ARE BY NO MEANS LEAST AMONG THE LEADERS OF JUDAH;
FOR OUT OF YOU SHALL COME FORTH A RULER
WHO WILL SHEPHERD MY PEOPLE ISRAEL.'"

7 Then Herod secretly called the magi and determined from them the exact time the star appeared.

8 And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the Child; and when you have found *Him*, report to me, so that I too may come and worship Him."

9 After hearing the king, they went their way; and the star, which they had seen ~~in the east~~ **in its rising**, went on before them until it came and stood over *the place* where the Child was.

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

11 After coming into the house they saw the Child with Mary His mother; and they fell to the ground and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they presented to Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.