



**WHAT GOOD IS WISDOM  
.....IF IT DOESN'T  
BENEFIT THE WISE**

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**There is nothing common or usual about the  
birth and early childhood of Jesus**

**(virgin birth /announcement by angels /born  
in a manger/etc)**

**These unexpected circumstances also  
apply to the story of the wise men**

**There are numerous situations that defy explanation , or are not fully explained**

## **Matthew 2:1 King James Version**

**1 Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem**

**Three quick facts right from the start of the story that we know:**

**→ Jesus born in Bethelalem**

**→ Jesus born during the reign of King Herod**

**→ He was sought by wise men from the east**

**THESE WISE MEN THEMSELVES WERE A  
MYSTERY IN THE GRAND SCHEME OF THINGS**

**BUT WHY WOULD WE SAY THAT ?  
HOW DO WE KNOW THAT ?**

## **Matthew 2:2 King James Version**

**2** Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.



## **WHAT ARE SOME THINGS THAT WE DO KNOW ABOUT THE WISE MEN (Magi)?**

- they came from the east (maybe Persia or Babylon)**
- they were emissaries from a foreign land seeking truth**
- they were influential men of learning and authority**

- they were skilled in philosophy/science /medicine
- they are described in a priestly manner

# **WHAT ARE SOME THINGS THAT WE DON'T KNOW ABOUT THE WISE MEN (Magi)?**

- Where exactly did they come from?**
- When did they arrive?**
- How did they know a star in the sky signaled the birth of Christ?**

→ How many wise men were there?

**REMEMBER,  
THE BIBLE NEVER SAYS IT WAS ONLY 3 WISE**

**IT JUST SAYS WISE MEN (PLURAL)!!!**

**For all these unanswered questions, we know what the wise men's true purpose was because the Bible tells us.....**

**TO WORSHIP GOD!!!**

**WHEN YOU ARE SEEKING  
GOD OUT TO WORSHIP HIM,  
HE WILL PERFORM UNUSUAL  
MIRACLES IN YOUR LIFE!!!!**

## **1 Timothy 1:17 King James Version**

**17** Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

## **John 1:49 King James Version**

**49** Nathanael answered and saith unto him, Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel.



## **John 18:37 King James Version**

**37** Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.

**“Where is he ....”**

- Any foreigner would expect a future king to be the son of the current king**
- This is why Herod was so upset, he thought this was to be the start of a rebellion against his throne**

- **How ironic this question comes from foreigners**
- **How ironic his own people didn't know the answer**

**“for we have seen his star....”**

- They saw a star in a foreign land, which brought them to jerusalem**
- The same star is going to guide them to the physical place where Jesus was born**

## **Matthew 2:3-6 King James Version**

**3** When Herod the king had heard these things, 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 demanded of them where Christ should be born.

**5** And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet,

**6** And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.

**Herod gathers his priests/scribes to advise him on this situation**

**→ These religious leaders are “temporary wise men” in the context of this story who despise others**

# WHO DOES KING HEROD REPRESENT IN THIS STORY?

- **Governments of the world who reject Christ because he is seen as a threat to their power and authority**



## **WHO DO THE TEMPORARY WISE MEN REPRESENT IN THIS STORY?**

- Religionists of the world that don't accept Christ as the Messiah for a number of reasons**
- They are comfortable in the material world**
- They've ignored the Word of God**
- Christ didn't come the way THEY thought he would**

## **Matthew 13:15 King James Version**

**15** For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.

## **Acts 13:27 King James Version**

**27** For they that dwell at Jerusalem, and their rulers, because they knew him not, nor yet the voices of the prophets which are read every sabbath day, they have fulfilled them in condemning him.

## **Micah 5:2 King James Version**

**2 But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting**

**YOU CAN KNOW A LOT OF BIBLE,  
AND STILL BE LOST!!!!**

- In Jesus' time, these were the people who constantly tried to accuse him and were a thorn in his side**
- In modern times, these are the people who say Jesus was only a prophet/teacher and not the Messiah**

## **Matthew 2:7-8 King James Version**

**7** Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared.

**8** And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.

**THE CHRISTMAS STORY CAN'T BE TOLD  
WITHOUT HEROD!**

**NEVER UNDERESTIMATE THE ROLE THIS  
KING PLAYED, AND HOW EVIL HE TRULY WAS**

**Herod's father was a man named Antipater, who had great influence and wealth in that time**

**Rome invaded Palestine around 63 B.C., which Antipater supported**

**This was the start of the family alliance with Rome**



**WHAT WAS THE BENEFIT  
OF THAT ALLEGIANCE ?**

**Around 47 B.C., Julius Caesar himself declared  
Antipater ruler of Judea and granted him  
Roman citizenship**

**This citizenship extended to his son  
Herod and his children**

**Around 37 B.C., Herod became ruler of  
Judea (he was about 36 years old)**

**HOW EVIL WAS KING HEROD ?**

**He murdered one of his wives Mariamne**

**He murdered two of his own  
sons from Mariamne**

**He murdered her brother**

**He murdered her grandfather**

**He murdered her mother**

**Had the entire Sanhedrin killed at one point**

**Had all the children under 2 killed,  
not just in Bethlehem, but “in all coasts thereof”  
(Matthew 2:16)**

**THIS IS WHO GOD USES TO HELP THE WISE  
MEN FIND JESUS !!!!!**

## **Matthew 2:9-10 King James Version**

**9** When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw 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 exceeding great joy.

**Once again, a “star” in the sky guides these wise men to exactly where God wants them to go**



**The way it's worded, it doesn't seem like the  
wise men were expecting to see this happen  
again**

**Staying faithful and committed,  
there are on the move again**

**HE WASN'T A HOLY MAN AT ALL.....  
HE WAS AN ENTERTAINER**

## **Isaiah 64:5 King James Version**

**5 Thou meetest him that rejoiceth and worketh righteousness, those that remember thee in thy ways: behold, thou art wroth; for we have sinned: in those is continuance, and we shall be saved.**

## **Jeremiah 29:16 King James Version**

**16 Know that thus saith the Lord of the king that sitteth upon the throne of David, and of all the people that dwelleth in this city, and of your brethren that are not gone forth with you into captivity;**

## **Isaiah 55:6 King James Version**

**6 Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:**

## **Matthew 2:11 King James Version**

**11** And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense and myrrh.

**NOTE THE WORDS THE BIBLE SAYS HERE:**

**THE WISE MEN WENT INTO THE HOUSE,  
(NOT A MANGER!!!!)**

**AND SAW A YOUNG CHILD  
(NOT A BABY!!!!)**



**THIS IS WHY BIBLE SCHOLARS BELIEVE THE WISE MEN  
ACTUALLY SAW JESUS ABOUT A YEAR AFTER  
HE WAS BORN,**

**NOT AS A BABY IN A MANGER!!**

**Nevertheless, the wise mens unexpected  
surprise in a story full of them:**

**a humble child in humble surroundings**

**Their gifts reflect having Jesus praised  
and worshipped in the house**

**IT IS WISE TO HAVE  
JESUS IN YOUR HOUSE!!!**

**IT IS WISE TO WORSHIP  
JESUS IN YOUR HOUSE!!!**

**IT IS WISE TO RECOGNIZE JESUS AS  
THE LORD OF YOUR HOUSE!!**

## Gifts of gold

→ symbol of royalty/deity

→ ark of covenant made of  
gold/streets  
of heaven made of gold

## Gifts of frankincense

- used for incense in the temple
- speaks of God's High Priestly work  
in  
our lives



## Gifts of myrrh

- commonly used for embalming
- our crucified Lord

## **Psalm 95:6 King James Version**

**6 O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the Lord our maker.**

## **1 Chronicles 16:29 King James Version**

**29 Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name: bring an offering, and come before him: worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.**

## **Psalm 96:9 King James Version**

**9 O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness:  
fear before him, all the earth.**

**WHAT GOOD IS WISDOM,  
IF IT DOESN'T BENEFIT THE WISE??**

**KNOWING THE CHRISTMAS STORY  
ALONE WILL NOT SAVE YOUR SOUL**

**WHAT GOOD IS BEING A KING LIKE  
HEROD, IF YOU REJECT GOD AND SEE  
HIM AS A THREAT TO YOUR THRONE?**

**WHAT GOOD IS BEING A “TEMPORARY  
WISE MAN”, IF YOU REJECT GOD  
BECAUSE HE DIDN'T APPEAR AS YOU  
EXPECTED??**



**LET US ALL BE LIKE THE TRUE WISE  
MEN, WHO CAME A GREAT DISTANCE  
TO SEEK AND WORSHIP JEHOVAH!!!**

**WISE MEN SEEK AND WORSHIP  
THE LORD IN THEIR HOME!!!!!!**

**ARE YOU READY TO MAKE CHRIST THE  
LORD OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD??**

**THE TIME IS NOW!!!!!!!**



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