

Matthew 2:1-12

v1 – Magi	(proper noun)	traditionally ‘Wise Men’
v1 – Jerusalem	(proper noun)	the capital of Israel; see map
v2 – Jews	(proper noun)	people from the nation of Israel
v2 – worship	(verb)	show great respect for someone; give honour and praise to someone
v3 – chief priests	(noun)	the leaders of the priests, who served God in the temple
v3 – teachers of the law	(noun)	men who taught religious instruction to the Jewish people.
v4 – the Christ	(title)	God’s promised king
v5 – Bethlehem	(proper noun)	a town; see map
v5 – Judea	(proper noun)	a region; see map
v5 – prophet	(noun)	someone who receives and communicates messages from God to his people
v6 – shepherd	(noun)	someone whose job is to care for sheep
v11 – treasures	(noun)	a collection of valuable objects
v11 – incense	(noun)	a substance that is burned for its sweet smell
v11 – myrrh	(noun)	a sticky substance that is made by certain trees and creates a sweet smell
v12 – warned	(verb)	told someone about a possible danger

Matthew 2:1-12 (New International Reader’s Version)

¹ Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea. This happened while Herod was king of Judea. After Jesus’ birth, Wise Men from the east came to Jerusalem. ² They asked, “Where is the child who has been born to be king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose. Now we have come to worship him.”

³ When King Herod heard about it, he was very upset. Everyone in Jerusalem was troubled too. ⁴ So Herod called together all the chief priests of the people. He also called the teachers of the law. He asked them where the Messiah was going to be born. ⁵ “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied. “This is what the prophet has written. He said,

⁶ “But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are certainly not the least important among the towns of Judah. A ruler will come out of you. He will rule my people Israel like a shepherd.”

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the Wise Men. He found out from them exactly when the star had appeared. ⁸ He sent them to Bethlehem. He said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report it to me. Then I can go and worship him too.”

⁹ After the Wise Men had listened to the king, they went on their way. The star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them. It finally stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were filled with joy. ¹¹ The Wise Men went to the house. There they saw the child with his mother Mary. They bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures. They gave him gold, frankincense and myrrh. ¹² But God warned them in a dream not to go back to Herod. So they returned to their country on a different road.

PALESTINE IN THE TIME OF JESUS

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