



“WHAT SHOULD WE GET CHRIST FOR CHRISTMAS?”

MATTHEW 2:1-12 BIBLE STUDY

DANNY SCOTTON, JR.





MATTHEW 2:1
JESUS' BIRTHDAY



- Then, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold: Magi from the East arrived in Jerusalem (Mt 2:1, AT)





MATTHEW 2:1
MAGI(CIANS)



- 1 In the second year of his reign, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; his mind was troubled and he could not sleep. 2 So the king summoned the magicians, **enchanters [LXX: *magos*]** sorcerers and astrologers to tell him what he had dreamed.
(Dn 2:1-2, NIV)





MATTHEW 2:1
MAGI(CIANS)



- 10 The **astrologers** answered the king, “There is no one on earth who can do what the king asks! No king, however great and mighty, has ever asked such a thing of any **magician** or **enchanter** [**LXX: *magos***] or **astrologer**. 11 What the king asks is too difficult. No one can reveal it to the king except the **gods**, and **they do not live among humans.**” (Dn 2:10-11, NIV)



MATTHEW 2:1
MAGI(CIANS)



- 12 This made the king so angry and furious that he ordered the execution of **all the wise men of Babylon**. 13 So the decree was issued to put the **wise men** to death, and men were sent to look for Daniel and his friends to put them to death.

(Dn 2:12-13, NIV)





MATTHEW 2:1
MAGI(CIANS)



- “Do not allow a **sorceress** to live. (Ex 22:18, NIV)
- “ ‘A man or woman who is a **medium** or **spiritist** among you must be **put to death**. You are to **stone** them; their blood will be on their own heads.’ ”
(Lev 20:27, NIV)





MATTHEW 2:1 MAGI(CIANS)



- 9 When you enter the land the LORD [YHWH] your God is giving you, do not learn to imitate the **detestable ways** of the nations there. 10 Let no one be found among you who sacrifices their son or daughter in the fire, who **practices divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft, 11 or casts spells, or who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead.** 12 Anyone who does these things is **detestable** to the LORD [YHWH]; because of these same **detestable** practices the LORD [YHWH] your God will drive out those nations before you. 13 You must be blameless before the LORD [YHWH] your God. (Dt 18:9-13, NIV)





MATTHEW 2:1
MAGI(CIANS)



- You, LORD [YHWH], have abandoned your people, the descendants of Jacob. They are full of superstitions **from the East**; they **practice divination** like the Philistines and embrace **pagan customs**. (Is 2:6, NIV)





MATTHEW 2:2
THE SAVIOR'S STAR



- saying, "Where is the One who was born King of the Jews? For we saw His star at its rising [or in the East] and we have come to worship Him." (Mt 2:2, AT)





MATTHEW 2:2
THE SAVIOR'S STAR



- Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the **Father of the heavenly lights**, who does not change like shifting shadows. (Jas 1:17, NIV)





MATTHEW 2:2
THE SAVIOR'S STAR



- “I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near. **A star will come out of Jacob**; a scepter will rise out of Israel.
(Num 24:17a, NIV)





MATTHEW 2:2
THE SAVIOR'S STAR



- “I, **Jesus**, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the **Root** and the **Offspring of David**, and the **bright Morning Star.**”
(Rev 22:16, NIV)





MATTHEW 2:3
ALL SHOOK UP



- But when King Herod heard, he was unsettled – and **all** Jerusalem with him. (Mt 2:3, AT)





MATTHEW 2:3
JOURNEY FOR JESUS



- He had begun his journey from **Babylon** on the **first** day of the **first** month, and he arrived in **Jerusalem** on the **first** day of the **fifth** month, for the **gracious** hand of his God was on him. (Ez 7:9, NIV)





MATTHEW 2:4
JESUS JEOPARDY



- And having assembled all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah (Χριστός | *Christos* | Christ) was to be born.
(Mt 2:4, AT)





MATTHEW 2:5-6
PROPHECY FULFILLED



- 5 Then they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judah. For so it has been written by the prophet: 6 And you, Bethlehem, [in the] land of Judah | are by no means least among the rulers of Judah | For out of you will come a ruler | Who will shepherd My people, Israel (Mt 2:5-6, AT)





MATTHEW 2:5-6
PROPHECY FULFILLED



- “But you, **Bethlehem Ephrathah**, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose **origins are from of old**, from ancient times.” (Mic 5:2, NIV)





MATTHEW 2:5-6
PROPHECY FULFILLED



- Does not Scripture say that the **Messiah** will come from **David's descendants** and from **Bethlehem**, the town where **David** lived?" (Jn 7:42, NIV)





MATTHEW 2:5-6
SHEPHERD-KING



- In the past, while Saul was king over us, you were the one who led Israel on their military campaigns. And the LORD [YHWH] said to you, ‘You will **shepherd** my people Israel, and you will become their ruler.
(2 Sam 5:2, NIV)





MATTHEW 2:5-6
PROPHESED SHEPHERD-KING



- 23 I will place over them one **shepherd**, my servant **David**, and he will tend them; he will tend them and be their **shepherd**. 24 I the LORD [YHWH] will be their God, and my servant David will be prince among them. I the LORD [YHWH] have spoken. (Eze 34:23-24, NIV)





MATTHEW 2:5-6 PROPHESED SHEPHERD-KING



- 3 Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when **she who is in labor bears a son**, and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites. 4 He will stand and **shepherd his flock** in the strength of the LORD [YHWH], in the majesty of the name of the LORD [YHWH] his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth. 5 And he will be our **peace** when the Assyrians invade our land and march through our fortresses. We will raise against them seven shepherds, even eight commanders, (Mic 5:3-5, NIV)





MATTHEW 2:7-8
UNDERCOVER MEETING,
UNDERCOVER MOTIVE



- 7 Then Herod, having secretly called the Magi, ascertained from them the precise time of the shining star. 8 And sending them into Bethlehem, he said, "Go, investigate precisely about the Child. Then, when you find [Him], report back to me, so that I too may come and worship Him. (Mt 2:7-8, AT)





MATTHEW 2:9
HEAVENLY GUIDANCE



- Then they, having heard the King, went and behold: the star which they had seen at its rising [or in the East]! It went before them until it came to a standstill over [the place] where the Child was. (Mt 2:9, AT)





MATTHEW 2:9
HEAVENLY GUIDANCE



- The mystery of the seven **stars** that you saw in my right hand and of the seven golden lampstands is this: The seven **stars** are the **angels** of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches. (Rev 1:20, NIV)





MATTHEW 2:9
HEAVENLY GUIDANCE



- Then the **angel** of God, who had been **traveling in front of Israel's army**, withdrew and went behind them. The pillar of cloud also moved from in front and stood behind them, (Ex 14:19, NIV; cf. Ex 23:20)





MATTHEW 2:9
HEAVENLY GUIDANCE



- By day the LORD [YHWH] went ahead of **them** in a pillar of cloud to **guide** them on their way and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so that they could travel by day or night.
(Ex 13:21, NIV)





MATTHEW 2:10
JOY TO THE WORLD



- When they saw the star, they were overjoyed with exceedingly great joy. (Mt 2:10, AT)





MATTHEW 2:10
JOY TO THE WORLD



- 39 Zadok the priest took the horn of oil from the sacred tent and anointed Solomon. Then they sounded the trumpet and all the people shouted, “Long live **King Solomon!**” 40 And all the people went up after him, playing pipes and **rejoicing greatly**, so that the ground shook with the sound. (1 Ki 1:39-40, NIV)





MATTHEW 2:10
JOY TO THE WORLD



- “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his **joy** [*χαρά* | *chara*] went and sold all he had and bought that field. (Mt 13:44, NIV)





MATTHEW 2:10
JOY TO THE WORLD



- “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s **happiness!** [χαρά | *chara*]’ (Mt 25:21, NIV)





MATTHEW 2:11
CHRISTMAS GIFTS



- And when they came into the house, they saw the Child with His mother Mary and, falling down [to their knees], they worshipped Him. And having opened their treasure chests, they presented Him with gifts – gold, frankincense, and myrrh. (Mt 2:11, AT)





MATTHEW 2:11
CHRISTMAS GIFTS



- Who is this coming up from the wilderness like a column of smoke, perfumed with **myrrh** and **incense** made from all the **spices** of the merchant?
(Songs 3:6, NIV)





MATTHEW 2:11 CHRISTMAS GIFTS



- 34 Then the LORD [YHWH] said to Moses, “Take **fragrant spices**—gum resin, onycha and galbanum—and **pure frankincense**, all in equal amounts, 35 and make a **fragrant blend of incense**, the work of a **perfumer**. It is to be salted and pure and **sacred**. 36 Grind some of it to powder and place it in front of the **ark of the covenant law** in the tent of meeting, where I will meet with you. It shall be most **holy** to you. 37 Do **not** make any incense with this formula **for yourselves**; consider it **holy to the LORD**. 38 Whoever makes incense like it to enjoy its fragrance must be cut off from their people.” (Ex 30:34-38, NIV)



MATTHEW 2:11
CHRISTMAS GIFTS



- Then they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it.
(Mk 15:23, NIV)





MATTHEW 2:11
CHRISTMAS GIFTS



- 39 He [Joseph of Arimathea] was accompanied by **Nicodemus**, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at **night**. Nicodemus brought a mixture of **myrrh** and **aloes**, about seventy-five pounds. 40 Taking Jesus' **body**, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen. This was in accordance with **Jewish burial customs**. (Jn 19:39-40, NIV)





MATTHEW 2:11
GIFTS FIT FOR A KING



- Herds of camels will cover your land, young camels of Midian and Ephah. And all from **Sheba** will come, **bearing gold and incense** and proclaiming the praise of the LORD [YHWH]. (Is 60:6, NIV)





MATTHEW 2:11
GIFTS FIT FOR A KING

- Surely the islands look to me; in the lead are the ships of **Tarshish**, bringing your children from afar, with their silver and **gold**, to the honor of the **LORD [YHWH]** your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has endowed you with splendor. (Is 60:9, NIV)





MATTHEW 2:11
GIFTS FIT FOR A KING



- And she gave the king **120 talents of gold**, large quantities of **spices**, and precious stones. Never again were so many **spices** brought in as those the queen of **Sheba** gave to **King Solomon**. (1 Ki 10:10, NIV)





MATTHEW 2:11
GIFTS FIT FOR A KING



- 10 May the **kings of Tarshish** and of **distant shores** bring **tribute** to him. May the **kings of Sheba** and **Seba** present him **gifts**. 11 May **all kings bow down to him** and **all nations** serve him. (Ps 72:10-11, NIV; also see Ps 45:7-9)





MATTHEW 2:11
GIFTS FIT FOR A KING



- 7 You love righteousness and hate wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy. 8 All your robes are fragrant with **myrrh** and aloes and cassia; from **palaces** adorned with ivory the music of the strings makes you glad. 9 Daughters of **kings** are among your honored women; at your right hand is the **royal bride in gold** of Ophir. (Ps 45:7-9, NIV)



MATTHEW 2:12
DIVINE DIRECTIONS



- And having received a divine warning in a dream not to return to Herod, they withdrew to their land by different way. (Mt 2:12, AT)

