

Word of God v Oral Tradition

The story of the visit of the Magi has been told Christmas after Christmas. Cards, Books and Music tell the story, but is it told correctly?

Before re-reading the story you have undoubtedly heard many times, see if you can answer the following questions:

1. What does the Bible call the men who sought the one born "King of the Jews"? _____
2. Where did they come from? _____
3. How many of them were on the journey? _____
4. How did they find Jesus? _____

5. Where did they find Jesus? _____
6. Name everyone the Bible says that was there:

7. How many angels were there? _____
8. How many animals were there? _____
9. What was Jesus laying on when they found him?

10. How old was Jesus? _____
- 11*. Why did the Magi go to Jerusalem? _____

- 12.* Why did they go to Jerusalem first? _____

1. Magi 2. The East 3. Unknown 4. Herod told them to go to Bethlehem. They saw the star over the house Jesus was in. 5. In his house. The Bible says Jesus, Mary and the Magi. 7. None are mentioned 8. None 9. The Bible does not say. 10. He was a child (not an infant) of not more than 2 years old. 11. They expected the king would be born in the capital city. 12. Because the star did not journey with them. It appeared in the East to announce the birth. Then it appeared over the house to mark where the child Jesus was living. * Indicates information gleaned from the story. Had the star led them the entire way, they would have went directly to Bethlehem, and would not have needed to ask where the child Jesus was.

The Visit of the Magi

Matthew 2:1-12

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We have seen his star in the east and have come to worship him."

When King Herod heard this he was disturbed and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

'But 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 be the
shepherd of my people Israel.'"

Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

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Wise Men Still Seek Him

The Escape to Egypt

Matthew 2:13-18

When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up" he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him."

So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: "Out of Egypt I called my son."

When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled;

"A voice is heard in Ramah,
weeping and great mourning,
Rachel weeping for her children
and refusing to be comforted,
because they are no more."

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Marshal your troops, O city of troops, for a siege is laid against us. They will strike Israel's ruler on the cheek with a rod.

*"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clan of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over all Israel, whose origins are from old, from ancient times."
Micah 5:1-2*

