

Ensure fellowship with God through 1 John 1:9

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Matthew 2:1-10

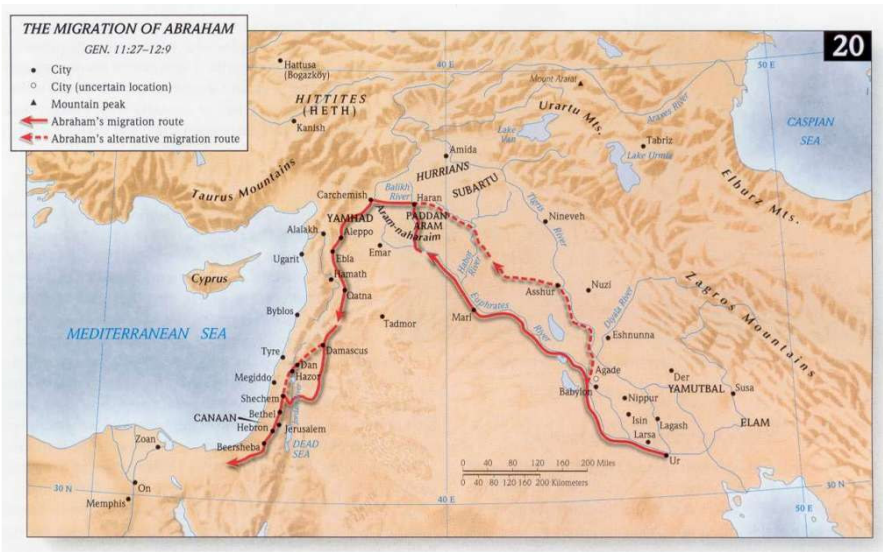
(1) Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, **magi...**

“**Magi**” - μάγος

MAGOS (plural) – “*Wiseman or priest schooled in science and astronomy*”

- Their expertise is astrology.
- Their services in the ancient world were to interpret dreams and provide counsel.

...from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying,



So where did they come from in the East?

- Medo-Persia or Babylonia

Babylon – often associated with **Nebuchadnezzar**.

- Who was summoned to interpret Nebuchadnezzar’s dream?
- The “Wise men of Babylon”.
- At this point Nebuchadnezzar was going to put them all to death along with Daniel and his friends.
- End result was that Daniel and his friends got together and prayed – the Lord revealed the interpretation of the dream to Daniel who approached Nebuchadnezzar and found favor in his eyes by revealing the dream and was rewarded for it.

Daniel –

- By interpreting Nebuchadnezzar’s dream was promoted:
 - Made ruler over the Babylonian province.
 - Was made chief prefect over all the wise men in Babylon.

Because of Daniel’s success and promotion there was much jealousy from those he was promoted ahead of.

Daniel served under three rulers:

- Nebuchadnezzar
 - His son Belshazzar } Both Chaldeans
 - Darius – A Mede
- After Babylon fell, Daniel served in the Medo-Persian Empire under Darius.

Daniel 9:1-2

(1) In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, of Median descent, who was made king over the kingdom of the Chaldeans--

(2) in the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, observed in the **books** (SEPARIM – “*legal documents, scrolls or Scriptures*”) the number of the years which was revealed as the word of the LORD to Jeremiah the prophet for the completion of the desolations of Jerusalem, namely, seventy years.

Daniel served three kings as a wise man. When he was initially brought into Babylon he was trained in their ways as a Babylonian youth. But Daniel did retain his relationship with the Lord. He learned Chaldean and all of their ways – at the end of the time Nebuchadnezzar appointed for his education Daniel and the other captives were tested. Daniel, Meshach and Abed-nego stood out above all the rest.

Daniel 1:20

(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 and conjurers who were in all his realm.

Daniel was trained in the way of the magi. He had books and those books were part of the Hebrew Bible – including but not limited to Jeremiah, Isaiah and books authored by Moses. I & II Samuel – books that clearly declare the coming of David’s descendent who would rule from David’s throne.

MAGI – It is quite likely that Daniel’s influence was so great that the magi who arrived in Jerusalem had actually believed what Daniel had passed on to their forefathers hundreds of years earlier. What he passed on to them was the Hebrew Scriptures – copied into Chaldean by Daniel and his friends.

(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**,

“**Saying**” - λέγω

LEGO – “to say or to tell”

READING from: “*The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah*”- Alfred Edersheim (1904)

The **magi** arrived in a large caravan. They carried great treasurers with them. They also had a military guard with them and all the royal trappings that a priestly cast of wise men would have. Their arrival was something that would catch the attention of Jerusalem.

(2) "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For (because) we saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him."

These Gentiles are actually recognizing the authority of Christ to rule over them.

(3) When Herod the king heard this, he was **troubled**...

"Troubled" - ταραάσσω

TARASSO – "To be stirred up or agitated"

...and all Jerusalem with him.

Previous to this "stirring or agitation" the Roman Senate bestowed a title on Herod – "King of Judea" – he was publicly declared King of the Jews by Antony.

Then the magi show up with all their royal trappings and a large caravan asking where the King of the Jews is located. They had seen His star in the east and they have come to worship Him.

So, when they begin asking this question in the bustling streets of Jerusalem it gets Herod's attention!
Things get stirred up.

(2) ...we saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him."

"We saw" EIDON – "To see or perceive"

"His star" ASTER – "Star"

"The star of Him emanates His light; the radiance of His glory"

EIDON + ASTER = SHEKINAH GLORY

Interpretive (2) "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews because we saw the radiance of His glory from the east and have come to worship Him?"

(4) Gathering together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he (Herod) 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 (paraphrasing Micah 5:2):

(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.

- Herod is attempting to determine the exact time this star manifested itself to the magi – this SHEKINAH GLORY.
- We know from Matt 2:16 that this SHEKINAH GLORY had appeared to them two years before they arrived in Jerusalem.
- Herod, based on this information, set the upper limit at age two for all male children in Bethlehem to be murdered.

- Herod’s attempt to wipe out anyone who would threaten his reign as King of the Jews.

(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."

- Note Herod’s crafty behavior – attempting to trick the magi into revealing where the Christ child may be found.

(9) After hearing the king, they went their way; and **the star**, which they had seen in the east,

- The reappearance of the star served to confirm what was revealed to the Magi in Medo-Persia.
- The glory of God is actually leading the caravan of Magi from Jerusalem to Bethlehem.
- They had already started toward Bethlehem because that is what the prophesy indicated.
- BUT – how could they find the specific house that Jesus is living in with His mother and Joseph?
 - Only by God directing them to where the house was.

...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.

- They rejoiced because seeing the star was a confirmation of what had been revealed to them before they had even left Medo-Persia.

Sequence

- The Magi arrive in Jerusalem – and begin asking questions.
- Jerusalem is stirred up along with Herod.
- Herod summons the Magi after conferring with the priests and scribes where it was prophesied that Messiah would be born.
- After determining the time of the star’s appearance, Herod sends the Magi to Bethlehem.
- The Magi begin traveling south toward Bethlehem – on their arrival that same glory re- appears to them.
- This was no star in the sky – this was the SHEKIHAN GLORY and it was leading the Magi to the exact house that Joseph had purchased and where the Christ child was located.

(11) After coming into the **house** (not a barn or stable) they saw the Child (well after the customary rituals that were performed – 40 days after birth in the manger) 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.

- These treasurers from the East are presented to a King as a form of worship.
- The Magi are the first Gentile worshippers of Jesus.

“He came unto His own (Jews) and His own received Him not” **John 1:11**

All Scriptures quoted are from New American Standard unless otherwise noted.