

Wise Men Still Seek Him

Matthew 2:1-12

Intro: In Matthew 2:1-12 we are introduced to the **Magi**, a group of influential dignitaries and priest of Median descent who came from Parthia at the birth of Jesus in order to worship the newborn King of the Jews. The **Magi** claim to have come to Jerusalem in response to a star that they had witnessed from their lands in the East (2:2; see Numbers 24:17).

I. Traditions Concerning the *Magi* or Wise Men

II. The Wise Men's Origin

Four meanings for the Greek term **Magi**:

1. **The primary meaning** defines the Magi as *members of the Median priestly caste, or more specifically, followers of Zoroasterianism, the official religion of ancient Persia.*
2. **More generally**, the *Magi* were thought of as possessors and users of supernatural knowledge and ability. *These were the highly educated, the philosophers of the day.*
3. Another class of *magi* was known as **magicians**, those who practiced the dark arts of magic and sorcery. Example: *Pharaoh's wise men and sorcerers, magicians* (Exod. 7:11).
4. The term *Magi* is also **used figuratively** to describe a **deceiver** or **seducer**, *one who uses magic or sorcery to deceive people.* Example: *Simon Magus* in Acts 8:19-24.



III. The Wise Men's Worship of the King of Creation Matthew 2:1-12

- A. The arrival of the Wise Men (vv. 1-2)
 1. Their origin and journey (v. 1)
 2. Their question: "Where is He who has been born **King of the Jews?**" (v. 2)
- B. The troubled reaction of Herod the king (vv. 3-8) **Micah 5:2; Daniel 9:24-27**
- C. The great joy of the Magi expressed in their worship of the Christ-child (vv. 9-11)
 1. Their guidance by the star (v. 9)
 2. Their great joy in seeing the Christ-child, Messiah (v. 10)
 3. Their giving of worship and treasures to Christ (v. 11)
- D. The warning of God to the Wise Men (v. 12)
 1. Beware of Herod; and
 2. Depart for your own country by a different route