

# *Because of Christmas*



*Sunday, December 25th, 2022*

# Matthew 2:1-12

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem,  
<sup>2</sup> saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”  
<sup>3</sup> When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him;

# Matthew 2:1-12

<sup>4</sup> and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. <sup>5</sup> They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: <sup>6</sup> ““And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.””

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<sup>7</sup> Then Herod summoned the Magi secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.”

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<sup>9</sup> After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.

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<sup>11</sup> And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. <sup>12</sup> And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

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# The Magi

- Zoroastrian priests
- Specialized in astrology
- Gentiles from the east (Likely Persia)
- More than one (unknown number or gender)



Because of Christmas, anyone can  
come to God

Because of Christmas, those in  
opposition to God are troubled

Because of Christmas, the “lesser”  
can be prominent