BOAZ MAG Monthly



The Wise Men

There is an ancient Chinese proverb that says, “The flapping of the wings of a butterfly can be felt on the other side of the world.” This is called “The Butterfly Effect”, and what it means is that something which seems small and insignificant can lead to something much bigger.

You might be wondering what “The Butterfly Effect” has to do with “The Wise Men” who came to visit the young child Jesus in Bethlehem.

To understand who they are we have to go back over 600 years before Jesus was born to a young teen named Daniel. When Daniel was perhaps 12 or 13 years old, he was kidnapped by an invading force and taken prisoner to the land of Babylon. You have heard of Daniel in the Lion’s Den—he was an old man when that happened, but as a child, he was taken hostage and brought to a foreign land, he was then trained to be of the King’s magicians.

The term “magician” is not like it is today—they didn’t do magic tricks but looked for signs to interpret what their gods had to say. Daniel didn’t have to read tea leaves or look at what a bird ate to understand what his God had to say. He just prayed and God told him.



The word “magician” comes from the word “Magi”. The “Wise Men” were magi or magicians from the land of Persia—which is Iran today. Tradition says that Daniel himself founded this school of the Magi (or wise men) to watch the stars for the Messiah.

We are told in the book of Numbers about another magi who lived about a thousand years before Daniel, who wanted to curse the Children of Israel but could only pronounce blessings. His name was Balaam. He foretold about a “star” that “shall come out of Jacob, and a scepter (a king) shall rise out of Israel” (Numbers 24:17). The Magi were the first astronomers we know of. This prophecy was given in the days before the judges and kings of Israel even existed. Daniel would have known of the prophecy and would have been watching and waiting for the fulfillment and instructed those whom he taught to do the same.

That is a long time to be looking at the stars at night for a sign that the promised King was born. Most of us get tired of looking for something in a few days, but they looked from the time of Daniel about 600 years.

What were they looking for? We see in today’s art that there is a special shining star in the sky, but if that were the case, everyone would have seen and wondered about it. King Herod wouldn’t have had to ask the scribes and the priests about it. Remember they were astrono-



mers. They knew all the constellations. Even Job in the days of Abraham knew the constellations of Orion, the Pleiades the bear, and what we call the signs of the zodiac. Today we might find the Big Dipper and Orion if we look really hard and someone tells us. But there were other constellations that had meaning as well.

In those days they didn't know planets from stars, but they called the planet Jupiter the King star, and beginning from the birth of Jesus this planet lined up with the constellation "Regulus". There was a triple conjunction of these constellations on the day Jesus was born.

The Wise Men lived in Persia, they headed out to see the fulfillment of the prophecy they had been waiting their entire lives to understand. It took them many months to get to Israel. Cars, planes, trains, and electricity didn't exist at this time so they walked on foot or rode a camel till they came to Jerusalem. It must have been a cloudy night where they could no longer see the star, so they decided to ask around the city.

King Herod was not religious, he was only concerned with himself and so he had to ask the scribes and priests what all this meant. As we can see the scribes and priests were not all that interested in the things of God, because they didn't want to go see their Messiah either.

Think about that for a moment. These wise men, who were not Jewish, had been watching for centuries, and at the first sign they started their 1400 miles /2283 km journey to see the Messiah, but the Scribes and Priest of the One True God—wouldn't even go 5 miles downhill from Jerusalem to Bethlehem to see him.

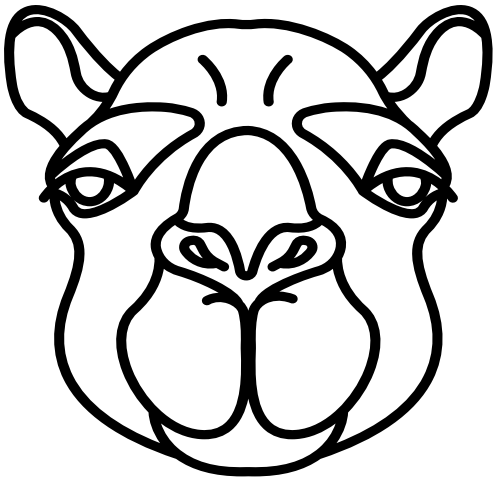
At this time Jesus was no longer in the manger where the Shepherds came to visit him, but in a house.

Let's look at the scriptures and read the account.

Matthew 2:1-2 Weymouth Now after the birth of Jesus, which took place at Bethlehem in Judaea in the reign of King Herod, excitement was produced in Jerusalem by the arrival of certain Magi from the east, 2 inquiring, "Where is the newly born king of the Jews? For we have seen his Star in the east, and have come here to do him homage."

Matthew 2:3-12 ERV When King Herod heard about this, it upset him as well as everyone else in Jerusalem. 4 Herod called a meeting of all the leading Jewish priests and teachers of the law. He asked them where the Messiah would be born. 5 They answered, "In the town of Bethlehem in Judea, just as the prophet wrote: 6 'Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, you are important

among the rulers of Judah. Yes, a ruler will come from you, and that ruler will lead Israel, my people.'" 7 Then Herod had a private meeting with the wise men from the east. He learned from them the exact time they first saw the star. 8 Then he sent them to Bethlehem. He said, "Go and look carefully for the child. When you find him, come tell me. Then I can go worship him too." 9 After the wise men heard the king, they left. They saw the same star they had seen in the east, and they followed it. The star went before them until it stopped above the place where the child was. 10 They were very happy and excited to see the star. 11 The wise men came to the house where the child was with his mother Mary. They bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened the boxes of gifts they had brought for him. They gave him treasures of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. 12 But God warned the wise men in a dream not to go back to Herod. So they went home to their own country a different way.



These visitors didn't come empty-handed, they brought treasures for a king. In the Christmas stories we always see "Three Wise Men" because of the three gifts they brought, but the Bible doesn't say how many came, it must have been more than three to cause such excitement when they showed up in Jerusalem.

You can imagine the excitement in Persia of the fulfillment of the prophecy that they waited 600 years to be fulfilled and only three came—there was likely a lot more that wanted to see this King.

These gifts that the Wise Men brought allowed Jesus and his family to escape that night to Egypt and live there till King Herod died and it was safe to return.

God foresaw their need centuries in advance and provided for it by foreigners because the children of God were not in a heart condition to receive their Messiah and King. This same God watches over all those who love Him and may have someone quite unexpected bring us a blessing.



Feel Free to Ask Miss Molly Questions!

If you have suggestions for future newsletters, we would love to hear from you.

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Ask Miss Molly



What color is God's hair?

Ricklyn, Age 6, Ghana

Ricklyn, it is good to have a question from a 6-year-old in Ghana

According to the Holy Scriptures Daniel 7:9 CEV "The Eternal God took His place His Clothing, and His Hair were white as Snow". The Scriptures are silent on how God looks, the hair on His head was like Pure Wool. Pure Wool is white on some sheep.

Thank you for your question, and keep asking many questions about the Bible. May God Bless you, as you continue to grow Ricklyn.

Miss Molly



Why did people want to build such high tower? *(Referring to the tower of Babel)*

Nathanael, Age 7, France

This event takes place after the Flood which God caused when all people spoke one language (Genesis 10:32, 11:1). The People were trying to prove how great they were and make a name for themselves.

The People didn't want to be scattered abroad over the face of the Earth (Genesis 11:4). The People were not obeying GOD'S HOLY WORD to multiply, and spread out over the Earth (Genesis 1:28).

We are God's children and must be obedient unto His Holy Word, which Shows Love to God!

Nathanael, continue to ask questions about GOD'S HOLY WORD THE BIBLE. May God Bless your day.

Miss Molly

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Wise Men Word Search

Babylon	Daniel	King	Prophecy	Wise
Balaam	Egypt	Magi	Prophet	Zodiac
Bethlehem	Israel	Magician	Regulus	
Bible	Jesus	Persia	Star	