

Four Views Of Christ

Mt.2 records Jesus' birth... and different views of Him

1. Beth▯lehem

- Rachel; Ruth; David...
- Herod the king
- Wise men ('magic, magician')

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2. Where... We have seen...star

- Comet? Supernova? Meteor?
- Cannot explain star that moves N-S, stands over house (9).
 - God instructed magi (12)
 - LXX [Greek]; Daniel [Aramaic]
- Worship Him... Stresses His deity

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3. Troubled (rival).

- Herod: half Edomite; Roman appointee; very unstable.
- All Jerusalem...

‘When Herod the Great trembled,
the whole city shook’

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4. Psalm 2:2

- Chief priests [includes present high priest, past priests, heads of 24 courses]
- Scribes: scholars / students of Law
- Wise men: 'King of Jews' (2)
- Herod: 'Christ' (4)

Magi certainly did not come to
worship king Herod.

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5-6. Scholars knew Micah 5:2

Bethlehem: about 6 miles SW of Jeru.



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7-8. Herod (liar) worshipped only himself

9-10. Prophecy sent them to Bethlehem . . .

Star led them to house...to find Jesus
(GPS)

House, not stable (11).
Enough time passed
for magi to travel
from East to Bethlehem.

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11. Jesus mentioned first

- **Gold:** Gn.2:11-12.
- **Frankincense:** fragrant gum / resin.
- **Myrrh:** shrubs in S. Arabia / Africa.
Jn.19:39

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12. Magi had not detected Herod's scheme

- God: dream (avoid Herod, 8).
- Return home different way [1 K.13].

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13-14. Another dream (12): angel warns Joseph

- Egypt: ideal place for refugees –

1. **Close:** border, 75 miles from Bethlehem

2. **Out of Herod's jurisdiction; haven for Israelites in political trouble (1 K.11:40)**

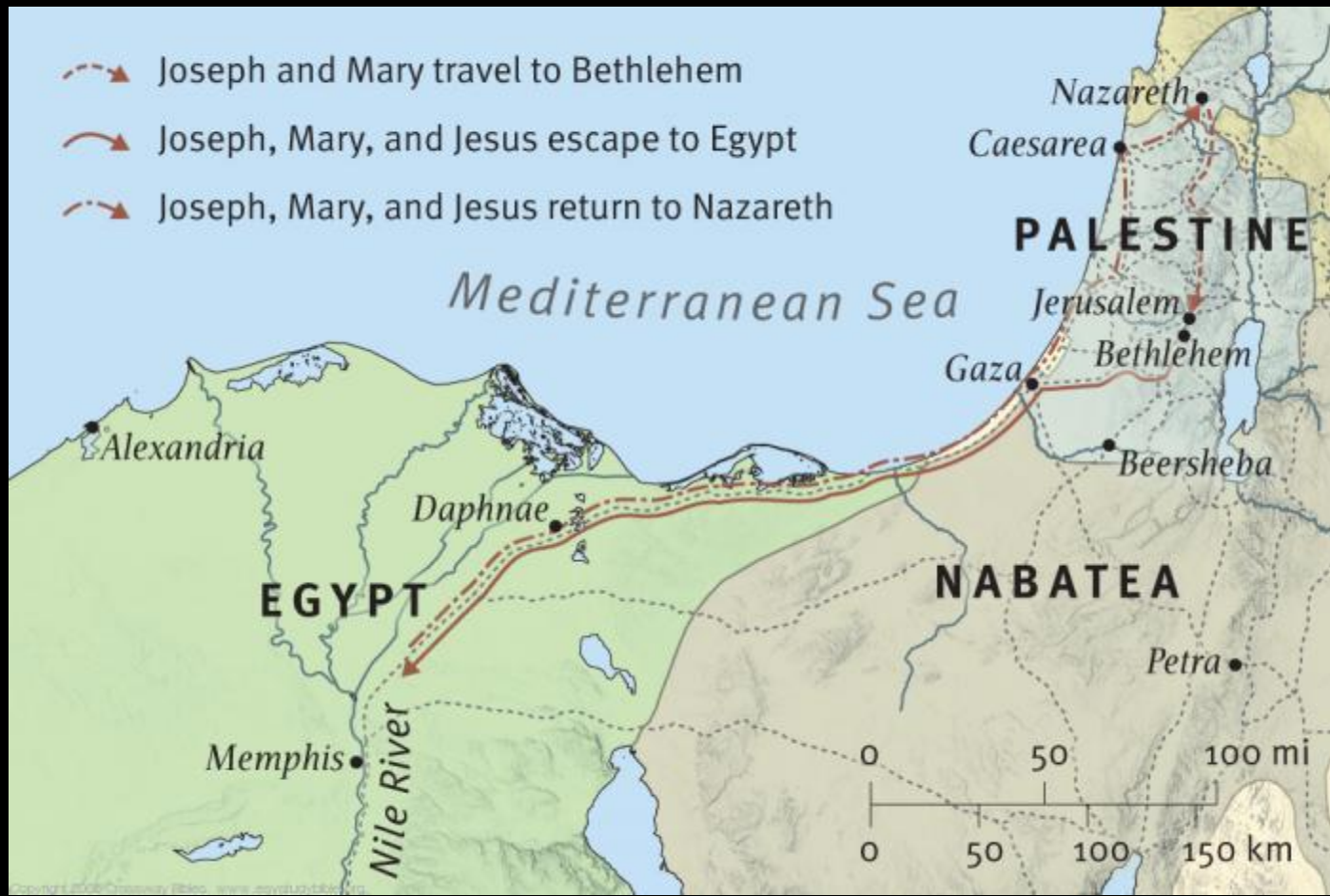
3. **Many Jews there**

**Gifts of Magi
could support them**

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13-14. Another dream (12): angel warns Joseph

- Egypt: ideal place for refugees –



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15. Fulfillment of Hosea 11:1.

1. Some fulfillments are typical.

- ◆ As God brought Israel out of Egypt, so He brings Messiah out of Egypt to fulfill hopes of Israel.

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15. Fulfillment of Hosea 11:1.

1. Some fulfillments are typical.
2. May be personal Messianic prediction.

- ◆ Ch.10: God will punish Israel
- ◆ Follows with promise of Messiah...
an Israelite
- ◆ Enter world an Israelite; child; loved
by God; out of Egypt; Son of God

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16. *Exceedingly angry...*

- Herod's murder plans: too little, too late.

17-18. Lamentation of mothers of Bethlehem.

- Fulfills Jer.31:15.
 - Ramah: city of Benjamin (Jer.40:1).
- Jer.31 personifies mother of Judah as Rachel (idealized mother of Israel) inconsolable over children...
 - Two tragedies...

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1. Captivity of Israel.
2. Now, their murder.

I. Herod, The King

Herod...

1. Built temple, but tried to kill One whose Father dwelt there.

Herod wanted to know Scripture...to help him do evil.

People can do great things
and still be great sinners.

Herod...

2. Jealousy, suspicion, murder filled his heart.

Executed entire Sanhedrin

40 BC: **Parthians** invade Palestine.

Killed Herod's brother, Phasaël.

Herod fled to Rome. 'King of Jews'

Recaptured Jerusalem

Herod...

2. Jealousy, suspicion, murder filled his heart.

Parthia was 'in the East': kingdom of Magi?

Pro-Parthian Armenia was agitating
revolution against Rome (two years later).

Now, magi come looking for king of Jews.

Herod...

3. Fears personal loss more than defying God.

Wise men depended on star to find Jesus instead of asking questions and arousing public attention that would have given Herod His location.

Parthia was 'in the East':
kingdom of Magi?

Star appeared at night.

Herod...

4. Herod: 70 year old, poor health, jealous of little child

Slaughters innocent children to assure slaughter of king-child.

I. Herod, The King

II. All Jerusalem

All Jerusalem

1. Wise men, after entering Jerusalem, must have asked everyone they saw where new king resided.
 - Common people knew nothing.

All Jerusalem

1. Wise men, after entering Jerusalem, must have asked everyone they saw where new king resided.
2. People were afraid: trouble with Herod (known for temper tantrums, murders...)
 - How will he react to rival king?
 - They are so afraid / preoccupied with Herod that they ignore Christ.

Miraculous events (Elizabeth, John...birth of Jesus, Lk.2) should have prepared them.

All Jerusalem

1. Wise men, after entering Jerusalem, must have asked everyone they saw where new king resided.
2. People were afraid: trouble with Herod (known for temper tantrums, murders...).
3. People were short-sighted.
 - How could a baby benefit them?
 - This star was over their heads...

All Jerusalem

1. Wise men, after entering Jerusalem, must have asked everyone they saw where new king resided.
2. People were afraid: trouble with Herod (known for temper tantrums, murders...).
3. People were short-sighted.
4. People dare not seek Him, much less worship Him: too costly; too dangerous...

'Ignorance is bliss'

I. Herod, The King

II. All Jerusalem

**III. Chief Priests
And Scribes**

Chief Priests and Scribes

1. Bible scholars; knew OT prophecies of Messiah by heart.

But their knowledge made no difference in their lives.

Afraid to show interest in Herod's presence?

Chief Priests and Scribes

1. Knew OT prophecies of Messiah by heart.
2. Indifferent to Jesus.
 - Herod is not only one who wanted no king.
 - Mt.23:37, Jerusalem
 - Mt.28:7, contrast Galilee
 - Jn.9:39, blind religious leaders

Those who knew the most,
cared the least.

I. Herod, The King

II. All Jerusalem

III. Chief Priests/Scribes

IV. Wise Men

Wise Men

1. No obstacle kept them from finding (and going to) Jesus.

○ From East, 1. Persia: 1000+ miles

○ No interstate

○ No cars

○ No fast food

○ Dangers (2 Co.11)

Some too busy for
Jesus. Lk.14:5

Wise Men

1. No obstacle kept them from finding and going to Jesus.
2. Came to Jesus with great joy, 10.
 - Did not 'have' to go. Ac.8:30.
 - Magi unaffected by . . .

Indifference of Jews near Bethlehem. 11-12.

Ignorance of Jews. His own people don't know.

Hatred of Herod, rival king (3).

House where He lived (11): no palace...

Hardship of family (poverty)...

Wise Men

1. No obstacle kept them from finding and going to Jesus.
2. Came to Jesus with great joy, 10.
3. **Opened their treasures, 11-12.**
 - They came to give.
 - Leave saying, “I got nothing out of it?”
 - This is worship, not a matinee.

Wise men knew better at His birth.
How much more should we know
after His death?

Four types of people

1. Antagonistic (Herod). Hatred; murder.
2. Anxious (common people). Count cost...
3. Apathetic (priests / scribes).
4. Adoring (magi).

Did God use magi to provide finances for Joseph and family to survive on foreign soil?

After magi return to east, are they the first preachers of the Christ?