



DR. JOE K. TAYLOR, SENIOR PASTOR, SOUTH RENO BAPTIST CHURCH, RENO, NEVADA • DECEMBER, 2019
 All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted. • Pastor Joe's email is Joe@southreno.com.
 This passage can be found in the Pew Bible, in the New Testament on page 1.

“Few biblical stories are as well known, yet so clouded by myth and tradition, as that of the magi...”

-Dr. John MacArthur's Commentary on Matthew

A. WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT THE MAGI?

- Pronunciation: It's either 'māji (Eng.), 'mâji (Texan), mágōi (Greek) or 'māgas (Persian). (We get our word “magic” from this root word.)
- The Magi were so powerful in the time of Christ that nobody could ascend to the throne in that part of the world unless appointed by the Magi.
- Josephus referred to this “Persians...as the king-makers of the East.”
- Ester (OT) states that they appointed all judges in the land of Israel.
- Their “influence” was offensive to the Romans.
- They were monotheistic (believed in only one God), non-Jewish but believed in and studied OT prophecy.
- They had vast knowledge of astronomy, astrology, natural history, architecture, agriculture, religions and medicine—true scholars.
- They saw no conflict between science and the religion. (Though accredited to Albert Einstein, The Magi first said, “As more light comes, we shall see that [science] without religion is lame and religion without [science] is blind.” (A rare historical quote attributed to the Magi.)
- Tradition tells us that there were three wise men—named Casper, Balthazar, and Melchior. (Familiar Christmas traditions do not always have scriptural support.)
- There is no historical evidence about their number, their names, the mode of transportation or specific countries they would be from.
- They were most likely accompanied by a thousand men on horse/camelback.

B. WHAT WERE THE RESPONSES TO CHRIST' BIRTH

CREATION pointed to Christ and responded by putting a miraculous star in the heavens to tell the world a King had been born (Num. 24:17).

HEROD opposed Christ and responded with hate, fear and deception. He wanted no new King to threaten his reign or his way of life.

RELIGIONS LEADERS ignored Christ; they gave the *right information* but offered the *wrong response*. These priests knew the Scriptures and pointed others to the Savior, but they would not go to worship Him themselves! They quoted Micah 5:2 but did not obey it. They were six miles from the very Son of God, yet they did not go to see Him!

THE MAGI sought and found Christ; then, they worshiped Him and offered Him gifts. The star led them to the Scriptures, and the Scriptures led them to the Savior. (See Ps. 19.) God speaks to us in ways we can understand.

C. WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THE MAGI?

Wise Men Still Seek Christ!

1. Four Reasons to Seek Christ?

- A. Because Life is hard (Psalm 31:1-2, 9).
- B. Because strength is limited (Psalm 31:10).
- C. Because enemies surround us (Psalm 31:11-13).
- D. Because we need a Savior.

*B*ut the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people;¹¹ for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior; who is Christ the Lord. - Luke 2:10-11, NASB

2. Four Gifts to Give Christ?

- A. Gold—the gift for a King
- B. Frankincense—the gift for a Priest.
- C. Myrrh—the gift for a Sacrifice.
- D. Worship—The first gift for a Savior.

“A drop of worship is an unsuitable acknowledgement for an ocean of mercy.”
 – Rev. W. Secker