

## (12) Visit of the Magi (Matt. 2:1-12)

1. Up to two years has gone by in between Matt. 1&2 (Matt. 2:7,16).
2. Magi (μάγοι magoi) from the east arrived in Jerusalem for the purpose of worshipping the King of the Jews (Matt. 2:1-12).
  - a. Their number is not stated, nor does Scripture call them kings. The μάγοι magoi were Babylonian & Persian astrologers who had tremendous influence in the eastern thrones (e.g. Dan. 2:2).
  - b. They came in response to “His star.” Likely an angel (commonly called stars). This star’s guidance led them to Jerusalem (not Bethlehem) for a public audience with Herod.
3. Herod—and all Jerusalem with him—was greatly troubled over the birth of a Jewish King (Matt. 2:3).
  - a. Aor.pass.ind. ταραύσσω tarassō <sup>#5015</sup><sub>17x</sub>: *to cause inward turmoil, stir up, unsettle. Pass. be troubled, frightened, terrified* (Matt. 2:3; 14:6; Mk. 6:50; Lk. 1:12; 24:38; Jn. 12:27; 14:1,27; 1<sup>st</sup> Pet. 3:14).
  - b. Herod’s agitation was matched by “all Jerusalem” (πᾶσα Ἱεροσόλυμα pasa Hierosoluma) indicating where the Sanhedrin’s priorities were truly placed (cf. Matt. 6:21).
  - c. Herod knows that this coming King is the expected Christ/Messiah (Matt. 2:4).
    - 1) King of the Jews (v.2). βασιλεὺς τῶν Ἰουδαίων basileus tōn Ioudaiōn.
    - 2) Messiah (v.4). ὁ Χριστὸς ho Christos.
  - d. The chief priests and scribes cooperated with Herod, and revealed to him the Bethlehem prophecy (Matt. 2:4-6).
  - e. Herod summoned the magi for a secret audience and the magi provide the two year time-frame (Matt. 2:7).
4. The Magi continued their journey to the Lord.
  - a. They did not need Herod’s directions, as they followed the “star” to the very house (οικία oikia) where the child (παιδίον paidion) was.
  - b. They worshiped Him, and presented Him with gifts.
    - 1) This does not fulfill Ps. 72:10,11 or other such OT passages.
    - 2) These gifts provided for travel and living expenses for Joseph’s family in Egypt.
  - c. They obeyed the dream warning to avoid Herod (v.12).