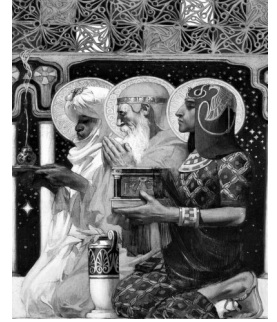




THE DOWNRIVER DISCIPLES PROJECT

explores what the Bible says about the

MAGI VISIT THE MESSIAH



The lone [biblical](#) (1) account of the Magi (wise men) visiting [Jesus](#) (2) after [His birth](#) (3) is recorded in the [Gospel](#) (4) of [Matthew](#) (5) ([Matthew 2:1-12](#)). Although long standing tradition suggests the Magi visited the newborn King in a manger, the Bible does not mention a definitive time line between the birth of Jesus and the visit of the Magi. However, [Matthew 2:16](#) is written in a manner that may offer a gap of a few years between the two events.

Matthew's account tells us that Jesus was born in Bethlehem, a small village nestled within the Roman province of Judea. As this region was ruled by [King Herod](#) (6), the Magi came to him to inquire about the [Messiah](#) (7). They asked King Herod, "Where is the One who has been born King of the Jews? We saw His star when it rose and have come to worship Him."

This inquiry disturbed King Herod, as he viewed it as a threat to his kingship. He called in all the chief priests and teachers of [The Law](#) (8), asking them where the Messiah was to be born. They replied, "In Bethlehem in Judea, for this is what the [Prophet](#) (9) has written:

"But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a Ruler who will shepherd my people Israel." ([Micah 5:2, 4](#))

King Herod put on a good front while securing from the Magi the exact time the star had appeared in the sky. He then dispatched them to Bethlehem (about 6 miles to the south), telling them, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find Him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship Him." In reality, Herod had no such intentions.

The Magi went on their way, traveling until they came to where the Star shone over the place where Jesus was. Overcome with joy, the Magi entered the house and saw His mother, [Mary](#) (10). They then bowed down and worshiped Jesus. Afterward, they presented the Messiah with their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Although tradition numbers the visiting wise men at three, Matthew's narrative does not specify how many Magi came to worship the baby King.

Matthew's account does not indicate how long the Magi stayed in Bethlehem while worshiping the baby King. The narrative discloses they returned to their country by another route after being warned in a [dream](#) (11) to avoid reporting back to Herod as he previously commanded. This leads us to the account of Joseph's dream and the Holy Family's [Flight into Egypt](#) (12) ([Matthew 2:13-15](#)).

Please reference the footnotes on page two. Modifications are encouraged and welcome at goodnews@downriverdisciples.com.

www.downriverdisciples.com/magi-visit-the-messiah

FOOTNOTES

- (1) <https://www.downriverdisciples.com/the-good-news>
- (2) <https://www.downriverdisciples.com/jesus-christ>
- (3) <https://www.downriverdisciples.com/the-birth-of-jesus>
- (4) <https://www.downriverdisciples.com/the-four-gospels>
- (5) <https://www.downriverdisciples.com/matthew>
- (6) <https://www.downriverdisciples.com/herod>
- (7) <https://www.downriverdisciples.com/jesus-the-messiah>
- (8) <https://www.downriverdisciples.com/the-law>
- (9) <https://www.downriverdisciples.com/micah-1>
- (10) <https://www.downriverdisciples.com/mary-mother-of-jesus>
- (11) <https://www.downriverdisciples.com/dreams-of-the-bible>
- (12) <https://www.downriverdisciples.com/flight-into-egypt>