

1. Were the wise men Jews? (Study Guide) Yes \_\_\_\_  
No \_\_\_\_
2. Who killed John the Baptist? (Study Guide and Matthew 14:1,10) \_\_\_\_\_
3. What question did the wise men ask Herod? (Matthew 2:2) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Name the gifts that were brought to Jesus (Matthew 2:11). \_\_\_\_\_
5. Jesus was born to rule. True? \_\_\_\_ or false? \_\_\_\_ (Study Guide)
6. How were the chief priests and scribes able to know where the King of Israel was to be born? (Study Guide) \_\_\_\_\_
7. What are the 3 main subjects of this Sixth Study?  
(a) \_\_\_\_\_  
(b) \_\_\_\_\_  
(c) \_\_\_\_\_
8. Why did the wisemen go home in another direction? (Matthew 2:12) \_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_
9. What did you learn in this Study? \_\_\_\_\_  
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## SIXTH STUDY

### THE VISIT OF THE GENTILE WISE MEN

(Matthew 2:1-12) Matthew 2:1 — *Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem.*

Herod the Great was the son of Antipator an Idumean and Cypros, an Arabian woman. Antipator was made procurator (an agent, who handled someone else's affairs, legal or treasury) of Judea by Julius Caesar, 47 B.C. . Herod was made governor of Galilee when he was 25 years old, and was made king of Judea, 37 B.C. He rebuilt the Jewish temple . At his death in 4 B.C. his kingdom was divided. His son Herod Antipas, reigned over Galilee and Perea, 4 B.C. to 39 A.D. (Luke 3:1-2) . He killed John the Baptist (Matthew 14:1,10).

Also, in Matthew 2:1,2 there was another important event — *there came wisemen from the east to Jerusalem, saying, Where is He that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his Star in the east, and are come to worship Him.* We are not told how many there were, nor the particular country they came from, but tradition has it there were three wise men. They get this from the three gifts that were brought to Jesus: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. The country was usually considered to be Babylon and it's area. They studied the stars. Something phenomenal had occurred; a new star had appeared which from their studies, they considered to be the King of the Jews.

Tacitus and Suetonius testify that in the east at this time there was a general expectation of a king to be born in Judea who was to rule the whole world.

Daniel predicted His coming and being "cut off" (killed) to be 483 years after the return of the Jews from Babylon and the going forth to restore and build Jerusalem (Daniel 9:24-26). It could be that these devout men were believers in the Jewish religion of which Daniel was the outstanding prophet of their country. In Numbers 24:17, Balaam predicted the rising of the star out of Jacob; this might have been associated in their minds with Daniel's prediction and the appearance of this unusual star. Nevertheless, this star got their attention to the extent of following it, by leaving their homeland and traveling this long journey to the land of Palestine. Jesus was born to rule and will do so forever after His second advent (Luke 1:32-33; John 18:37; Isaiah 9:6-7; Revelation 11:15; 22:1-5). He rules in the hearts of His people now.

The chief priests and the scribes who served in Herod's court were able to tell the wise men where the king of Israel was to be born by quoting Micah 5:2, that Bethlehem was to be where the new king would be born, but they had no interest in any of the evidence in the birth of their Messiah.

The wise men did not get discouraged by their indifference, they went to Bethlehem and found Jesus and His family; not in the stable where He was born, but by this time Joseph had secured a house for his family until they were able to travel again (Matthew 2:11).

The wise men presented unto Him gifts, gold frankincense, and myrrh. This is the reaction of all who find Him, we lay our gifts at His feet. And being warned in a dream, they left another way and didn't go back to inform Herod (Matthew 2:12). FLIGHT INTO EGYPT (Matthew 2:13-15)

After the departure of the wise men, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and warned him that Herod would seek the young Child to destroy Him. The angel told Joseph to take the young Child and His mother, and flee into Egypt; and stay there until they heard from him (13). And so Joseph took them that night and departed into Egypt. Verse 15 *And was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Out of Egypt have I called My Son* (Hosea 11:1). Our Father has never missed it, there has never been a mistake in the fulfillment of His divine prophecies, He is very careful to fulfill every word.

THE SLAUGHTER OF THE INNOCENT (Matthew 2:16-18)

When Herod saw the wise men had mocked him, he was greatly angered. He slew all the children in Bethlehem and in all the coasts around, from two years and under (16). Therefore, Jeremiah 31:15 was fulfilled, saying, *In Ramah, Rachel weeping for her children and would not be comforted, because they are not* (18). This did not occur because God had predicted it, it occurred because God knew it would.