

Wise Men Still Search

Magi: old and powerful **priestly class** among Babylonians (from the time of Daniel who was over all the wise men), known for **special knowledge in sciences and religion**. Some negatively as in sorcery (as with Simon the Sorcerer); others by medicine and astronomy.

Mat 2:1-12 Now after Jesus was born in **Bethlehem** of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, {2} saying, "Where is He who has been **born King of the Jews**? For we have **seen His star** in the East and have come to worship Him." {3} When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. {4} And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. {5} So they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet: {6} 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.'" {7} Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, **determined from them what time the star appeared**. {8} And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the **young Child**, and when you have found Him, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also." {9} When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the **young Child** was. {10} When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. {11} And when they had come into the **house**, they saw the **young Child** with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. {12} Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way.

These men were **not reliant on occult methods, but on the Word of God**. They had the **Tenach** (scripture in three divisions: **Torah** (law) Num.24; **Keturim** (writings) Dan 9; **Neviim** (prophets) Micah 5). They brought **wealth for the Egyptian sojourn** Joseph would be instructed to take.

"We three kings from Orient are..." is a song only; this would have been a **caravan**. Note, also, a **house**, not a stable; a young child, **not a babe** in swaddling clothes...

{7} Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, **determined from them what time the star appeared**. **{Why was this important?}**

Num 24:17 "I see Him, but not now; I behold Him, but not near; **A Star shall come** out of Jacob; **A Scepter shall rise** out of Israel, And batter the brow of Moab, And destroy all the sons of tumult. **{Herod was a descendant of Esau, not Jacob}**

Daniel was over the "wise men of Babylon" and all would subsequently study his writings in which **he set the timetable for messiah's arrival**:

Dan 9:24-27 "Seventy weeks **{heptads = sevens = 490 years}** are determined For your people and for your holy city, To **finish the transgression**, To **make an end of sins**, To **make reconciliation for iniquity**, To **bring in everlasting righteousness**, To **seal up vision and prophecy**, And to **anoint the Most Holy**. {25} "Know therefore and understand, That from the going forth of the command To restore and build Jerusalem Until Messiah the Prince, There shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks **{483 years}**; The street shall be built again, and the wall, Even in troublesome times. {26} "And after the sixty-two weeks **Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself**; And the people of the prince who is to come **{Rome}** Shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it shall be with a flood, And till the end of the war desolations are determined. {27} Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week **{week seventy}**; But in the middle of

the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, Even until the consummation, which is determined, Is poured out on the desolate.”

Thus, the **wise men knew the time** for birth of Messiah was appropriate. They also knew the **location** as Bethlehem from which should come a Ruler to shepherd Israel.

Micah 5:2 “But you, **Bethlehem Ephrathah**, Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting.”

Recall Mt 2:12: Then, being **divinely warned in a dream** that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way. **Heb.11:6 tells us diligent seekers get rewarded** by God. **Note also, others who sought Him:**

Luke 2:25-26 And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was **Simeon**, and this man was just and devout, **waiting for the Consolation of Israel**, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶ And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ.

Luke 2:36-38 ³⁶ Now there was one, **Anna**, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, and had lived with a husband seven years from her virginity; ³⁷ and this woman was a widow of about eighty-four years, who did not depart from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day. ³⁸ And coming in that instant she gave thanks to the Lord, and spoke of Him **to all those who looked for redemption** in Jerusalem.

Anna and Simeon were God's **two witnesses**. **Herod's Priests** had knowledge but no heart. The **Shepherds** had little knowledge but big hearts (**Better**). Anna and Simeon had **both knowledge and big hearts (Best)**.

The Wise men, the shepherds, Anna, and Simeon all got the reward = being in the Presence of Jesus. Simeon said: **Luke 2:30** For my eyes have seen Your salvation.

You too need to diligently search – like Anna, Simeon, and the Wise Men. Your position is to be:

1 Cor 1:7 ...eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ,

1 Thessalonians 1:9-10 ⁹ ...you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, ¹⁰ and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

This position will make you confident:

1 Jn 2:28 And now, little children, **abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming. {10 virgins waited...}**

Titus 2:11-13 For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, {12} **teaching us** that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, {13} **looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,**

You will find Me when you search for Me with all your heart. (Jeremiah)

Peter 3:11-13 ¹¹ Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, ¹² looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire,

and the elements will melt with fervent heat? ¹³ Nevertheless **we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.**

Wise Men still seek Him...

Philippians 3:20 ²⁰ For our citizenship is in heaven, from which **we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,**

2 Timothy 4:8 ⁸ Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but **also to all who have loved His appearing.**

Wise Men still seek Him...

Hebrews 9:27-28 ²⁷ And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, ²⁸ so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. **To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.**

Wise Men still seek Him and their journey by faith STILL CULMINATES IN THE PRESENCE OF JESUS!