

A visit from the magi

Matthew 2:1–12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born, wise men, or magi, from the East came to Jerusalem. They asked, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? We have seen his star in the night sky, and we want to bring him gifts and worship him.”

King Herod heard what the magi were saying, and he was frightened. He did not want anyone else claiming to be king in his land. He asked the chief priests and teachers of the law what they knew about this child. They told Herod that the prophets had written that a new king would be born in Bethlehem.

King Herod secretly called for the wise men to come to him. He said, “Go and search for this child. When you find him, let me know so that I may also go and worship him.”

When the magi left the king, they followed the star from Jerusalem to Bethlehem. The star stopped over a house. They went in and saw young Jesus with his mother. They knelt before him and worshiped him. They opened their treasure chests and offered him gold, and precious spices of frankincense and myrrh.

That night the magi were warned in a dream not to go back to King Herod. So they returned to their own country by a different road.

Wonder: Imagine what it would be like to take a long journey with only a star to guide you.