

## Wise Men Bring their Gifts



1. At the time of Jesus' birth, a special star appeared in the sky. News about this reached Jerusalem several months later, when a group of scholars showed up in the palace of King Herod. They came asking, "Where is He that is born, King of the Jews?" They explained, that they were from a distant land to the East and that had seen an extraordinary star in the sky several months earlier. They had traveled a great distance because they wanted to worship this extraordinary Person.
2. Their inquiry about the birth of this "King of the Jews" created quite a stir in the palace. King Herod was a Gentile King and ruled over the Jews who lived in his kingdom. "Who was this Person whom these "wise men" were seeking? Could it be that there was Someone who would be his rival and a threat to His kingdom?" These questions filled his heart.
3. King Herod was disturbed and all the people of Jerusalem were quite apprehensive with him. The king hastily called together his wisest men - chief priests and teachers of the law - and asked them where the king whose coming was promised in the Scriptures, was to be born. They replied that the place mentioned in the Scriptures was the small town of Bethlehem.
3. King Herod ordered everyone out of the room and called the group of "wise men" in for a personal audience with him. After asking about the exact time that the extraordinary star appeared, he sent them on their journey to Bethlehem. He ordered them to, "go search diligently for the child. As soon as you have found Him, report to me, so I too may go and worship Him."
5. The wise men left the King's presence and as they traveled away from Jerusalem, the special star was again visible. They were overjoyed and eager as they drew closer to the place where they would find the child they had traveled so far to see. As they reached Bethlehem, the star stood over the house where Jesus and His parents were living.
6. They saw the young child with His mother and bowed down and worshipped Him. They opened up their treasures and presented their gifts to Him - gold, incense and myrrh.
7. But Herod had no intention of worshipping the child they had told him about. He intended to do away with him. Strangely enough, he did not send any of his associates with the wise men but trusted them to come back and report to him. But God planned to protect Jesus from Herod's scheme. He warned them, in a dream, that they should return home by another route and not go to Jerusalem!
8. Then God warned Joseph, in a dream, that the child's life was in danger. Joseph was instructed to take his wife, Mary and the young child Jesus, and escape to Egypt. Herod realized that he had been tricked by the wise men. He killed all baby boys, two years old and younger, in the area around Bethlehem. This young family lived in Egypt, until they heard that Herod had died and no one now sought to take the young child's life.



## Questions: Wise Men Bring Their Gifts

1. Who traveled to Jerusalem and what were they looking for? \_\_\_\_\_  
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2. Who did they go to see in Jerusalem and what did they ask him? \_\_\_\_\_  
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3. What did they see that made them want to come to Jerusalem? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Tell about the response of Herod and others in Jerusalem, when they heard what the wise Men were looking for. \_\_\_\_\_
5. How did Herod find out where the king of the Jews was to be born? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What did King Herod and the scholars talk about during the personal audience in the King's throne room?
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
7. What did King Herod pretend that he intended to do when he knew where the child was located? \_\_\_\_\_
8. What happened when the wise men started their journey to Bethlehem? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Describe how they felt. \_\_\_\_\_
10. What did they do when they saw the child and His mother?
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_
10. Tell about the two dreams mentioned in this story. (Who? What?, Why? Result)
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
11. What did Herod do when he knew he had been tricked by the wise men?  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. When did Joseph, Mary and Jesus return to Israel? \_\_\_\_\_

