

Matthew chapter 2
April 26, 2020

Wise Men from the East

Memory Verse

“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.” Matthew 2:6

Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh

Wise men came from the East bearing gifts for the King who had been born. (Daniel 1:20, 2:2, 4:7, 5:7) Although we don't know how many wise men there were, because it would have been a long and dangerous journey across deserted and desolate places, we can safely assume it was well over three people. One thing we do know is what gifts they brought to honor the new King.

Gold - A gift fit for a king. Gold is rare today, but it was even more rare in the days of Jesus.

Frankincense – Priests used this resin, mixed with oil as an offering in the temple to worship and give thanks to God.

Myrrh – This was used to anoint people that had died. After a person died, they would be wrapped in linen cloths. Myrrh would be placed in between the layers of linen to cover the bad odors associated with decaying bodies.

Why were these three gifts important and what did they have to do with Jesus? These three gifts spoke of the three offices, or jobs, of Jesus. He is the **King** (Matthew 2:6), He is a **Priest** (Psalm 110:4, Hebrews 7), and He is the martyred (murdered) **Prophet** (Deuteronomy 18:15, 17-19, Hebrews 1:1). Jesus is the King of our heart, the Priest that intercedes for us to God, and the Prophet that brought us God's word and died for our sins.

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Read Matthew Chapter 2 and answer the questions below.

1) God can speak to us in many different ways. One of those ways is through dreams. Who did God speak to in this way in this chapter?

Hint: Read Matthew 2:12, 13, 19, 22

2) About how old was Jesus when the wise men came to visit him?

Hint: Read Matthew 2:7, 16

3) Jesus fulfilled all prophecies that were written about Him in the Old Testament. How many prophecies were fulfilled in this chapter?

Hint: Read Matthew 2:6, 15, 18, 23

Bonus Question – Can you find the Old Testament scriptures that these prophecies come from?

4) God spoke to His people by using dreams and led the wise men to Jesus with a star in this chapter. List some other ways God speaks to his people?

Hint: Read John 1:1, Hebrews 4:12, 1 John 5:14, Psalm 143:10, Romans 8:14

5) How has God spoken to you recently?

Prayer for this week:

Lord, thank you that you are King of my heart, that you speak to the Father for me, and that you died for my sins. I pray for all my friends and family that do not know you, who have not accepted you into their hearts, that they would welcome you into their lives. I pray for all who are afraid, that they would come to know Your great love for us, for Your perfect love casts out all fear. Amen.