

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

Homage from the Magi

2 ¹When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, in Judea, during the days of King Herod, wise men from the east arrived in Jerusalem. ²They asked:

—Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw the rising of his star in the east and have come to honor him.

³When Herod heard this he was greatly disturbed and with him all Jerusalem. ⁴He immediately called a meeting of all high-ranking priests and the scribes, and asked them where the Messiah was to be born.

⁵They told him:

—In the town of Bethlehem in Judea; for this is what the prophet wrote: ⁶*And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, you are by no means the least among the clans of Judah, for from you will come a leader, the one who is to shepherd my people Israel.*

⁷Then Herod secretly called the wise men and asked them the precise time the star appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem with the instruction:

—Go and get precise information about the child. As soon as you have found him, report to me, so that I too may go and honor him.

⁹After the meeting with the king, they set out. The star that they had seen in the East went ahead of them and stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰The wise men were overjoyed on seeing the star again. ¹¹They went into the house and when they saw the child with Mary his mother, they knelt and worshiped him. They opened their bags and offered him their gifts of gold, incense and myrrh. ¹²In a dream they were warned not to go back to Herod, so they returned to their home country by another way.

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