



Life Guide

applying God's Word to life



1-9-21: The Festival of Epiphany The Wondrous Mystery Uncovered: A Light for all People

Text: Matthew 2:1-12

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem² and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

³When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵"In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

⁶"But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for out of you will come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel."

⁷Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

⁹After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was.

¹⁰When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

¹²And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

1. Does your Nativity set include three wisemen presenting their gifts at the manger? Where and when does this event actually take place?
2. Agree or Disagree: God loved the Jews more than the Gentiles, because he only gave the covenants and promises to the Jews.
3. Long ago God promised Abram, "All peoples on earth will be blessed through you." (Gen. 12:3) This was the first promise of the Savior repeated to Abram. How was this promise fulfilled on Epiphany?
4. The Apostle John says in John 1:11,12, "He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God." Compare this verse to the characters in the story of the Magi. Who was who?
5. The chief priests and scribes knew what the Prophet Micah said about where the child would be born, but it didn't seem to have any effect on their hearts. What is the similar danger that exists for those who've known the Bible verses and promises since they were little?
6. When the Magi arrived and found Jesus with his mother Mary, why would it have still been a test of faith for them to worship Jesus?
7. Many churches have chosen to call themselves "Star of Bethlehem" or "David's Star". For what reasons are these names a fitting description of the mission Jesus gives us?

Everyone Outreach. February 26th and 27th. Register here. <https://forms.gle/FEsJpcdKTdZgUyzj9> or on mountoliveappleton.com.