

Mt. 2 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, **Magi** from the east came to Jerusalem ² and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him.”

³ When King Herod heard this he was **disturbed**, and **ALL Jerusalem** with him. ⁴ When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ 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 be the shepherd of my people Israel.”* ⁷ Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the **exact time** the star had appeared. ⁸ He sent them to Bethlehem

and said, “Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.” ⁹ After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east **went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was**. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were **overjoyed**. ¹¹ On 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** and of **incense** and of **myrrh**. *gold as a symbol of kingship*

on earth, frankincense (an incense) as a symbol of a priest, and myrrh (an embalming oil) as a symbol of death.

¹² And having been **warned in a dream not** to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by **another route**. ¹³ When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. “**Get up**,” he said, “take the child and his mother and escape to **Egypt**. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to **search for the child to kill him**.” ¹⁴ So he got up, took the child and his mother **during the night** and left for Egypt, ¹⁵ where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: “Out of Egypt I called my son.” ¹⁶ When Herod realized that he had been **outwitted** by the Magi, he was **furious**, and he gave **orders to kill all the boys** in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were **two years old and under**, in accordance with the **time he had learned from the Magi**. ¹⁷ Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled: ¹⁸ *“A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more.”*



1. Herod 40 BC / 37 BC / Caesar’s policy of détente – buffer nations

2. Magi - Council of the Megistanes / Weak old King / why no spies

3. Parthian Jews / 11 Parthian books of Bible / Acts 2:9 / Daniel 6:9

II Kgs./ I & II Chron./ Ezra/ Neh/ Esther/ Isaiah/ Jer./ Lam./ Ez./ Dan.