

Week 31 Parent Sheet: The Bright Star and Three Visitors

Matthew 2:1-12 NIV

The special gifts brought by the wise men tell us much about the person and work of Jesus!

Bethlehem Family Childcare – Wednesdays: Story Time (9:30-10:00) and Bible Time (10:00-10:30)

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Many Events of Jesus' Life in Chronological Order:

- Born (5 BC)
- Named – when 8 days old
- Presented at the Temple – when 40 days old
- Visited by Wise Men – when 2 months old
- Fled to Egypt – when 2 months old
- Returned to live in Nazareth – when 1 year old
- His parents thought He was lost – when 12 years old
- Baptized by John – when 30 years old
- Some important events of His three-year ministry:
 - ♦ Tempted in the wilderness
 - ♦ Moved from Nazareth to Capernaum
 - ♦ Called His disciples
 - ♦ Preached the Sermon on the Mount
 - ♦ Performed many miracles
 - ♦ Sent out His disciples to heal and teach
 - ♦ Warned about persecution
 - ♦ Told many parables
 - ♦ Heard of the death of John the Baptist
 - ♦ More miracles and teaching
 - ♦ Transfigured, Moses and Elijah appeared with Him
 - ♦ More miracles and teaching
 - ♦ Welcomed into Jerusalem – on Palm Sunday
 - ♦ Taught many things – on Holy Tuesday
 - ♦ Instituted the Lord's Supper – on Holy Thursday
 - ♦ Arrested, tried, crucified, and died – on Good Friday
 - ♦ Raised to life – on the third day, Easter Sunday
 - ♦ Ascended into heaven – 40 days after Easter

Previous history:

1. In the fullness of time, God sent His Son into the world to live and die to remove all sins.
2. In order to identify His Son to others, God sent an angel to communicate with Mary and Joseph, sent shepherds from outside of Bethlehem to visit on the day of His birth, and, *approximately two months later*, wise men arrived with special gifts.

The Bright Star and Three Visitors:

1. The Wise Men Travel and Search to Worship: ¹ Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, ² "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east, and have come to worship Him."
2. Herod and Jerusalem are Ignorant about Jesus' Birth: ³ And when Herod the king heard it, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.
3. God – through His Word – Tells Us the Truth: ⁴ And gathering together all the chief priests and scribes of

the people, he *began* to inquire of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵ And they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet, ⁶ 'And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the leaders of Judah; for out of you shall come forth a Ruler, who will shepherd My people Israel.'"

4. Herod Secretly Desires to Destroy the New Born King: ⁷ Then Herod secretly called the magi, and ascertained from them the time the star appeared. ⁸ And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, "Go and make careful search for the Child; and when you have found Him, report to me, that I too may come and worship Him."
5. Having Been Led by the Star, the Wise Men Rejoice, Worship, and Present their Gifts: ⁹ And having heard the king, they went their way; and lo, the star, which they had seen in the east, went on before them, until it came and stood over where the Child was. ¹⁰ And when they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹ And they came into the house and saw the Child with Mary His mother; and they fell down and worshiped Him and opening their treasures they presented to Him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh.
 - a. Gold – Jesus is the King of kings!
 - b. Frankincense – Jesus is the Priest of priests!
 - c. Myrrh – Jesus was born to die; *this perfume pointed ahead to the anointing of His body after He finished His saving work on the cross!*
6. The Wise Men Listen to God: ¹² And having been warned by God in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their own country by another way.

Thoughts: Even though many Nativity Scenes picture the wise men present when Jesus was born, this is the Biblical order of events:

1. Jesus was born in Bethlehem and visited by shepherds.
2. Joseph and Mary took Jesus to the temple when he was 40 days old.
3. Joseph, Mary, and Jesus returned to Bethlehem.
4. The wise men visited Jesus in Bethlehem.
5. Joseph, Mary, and Jesus fled from Herod's soldiers to Egypt.
6. After Herod died, Joseph, Mary, and Jesus returned to Israel and settled in Nazareth.