

## The Forgotten Jesus Podcast

### S3E20 - Christmas Bonus #3

#### Wise Men Or Disciples of Daniel? - (Matthew 2:1-12)

**Description – Have you ever wondered how the Wise Men who came to see Jesus came from, or how they even knew to look for the Jewish Messiah? Join us on today's episode as we examine who these men were & where they came from.**

#### **Matthew 2:1-12**

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of King Herod, wise men from the east arrived in Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star at its rising and have come to worship him." <sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this, he was deeply disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. <sup>4</sup> So he assembled all the chief priests and scribes of the people and asked them where the Messiah would be born.

<sup>5</sup> "In Bethlehem of Judea," they told him, "because this is what was written by the prophet: <sup>6</sup> **And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah: Because out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.**"

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod secretly summoned the wise men and asked them the exact time the star appeared. <sup>8</sup> He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. When you find him, report back to me so that I too can go and worship him."

<sup>9</sup> After hearing the king, they went on their way. And there it was—the star they had seen at its rising. It led them until it came and stopped above the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup> Entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and falling to their knees, they worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. <sup>12</sup> And being warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their own country by another route.

There's a few things we need to look at here:

Were they kings? No, the text just says wise men.

Were there three of them? No, there could have been, but we get 3 from the number of gifts they brought for Jesus.

We don't really know how many of them there were. It could have been a bunch of them.

We also know they were traveling from "the east."

2:9 & 11 - "When they entered the House they saw the child" - greek for child here is a young toddler, normally 1 - 2 years old.

Also the mentioning of a house, not the manger, the barn or the cave. Clearly this is not in the manger.

The star also probably rose at the birth of Jesus. And coming from Babylon, it would have been anywhere from a 4 - 6 month journey, depending on the time of year.

1. The star was called "His Star" the Messiah's star.
2. The star has the ability to rise from North to South.
3. The star has the ability to move from East to West.
4. The star comes and goes.
5. The star hovers over a house.

Clearly this isn't a regular star, because the gravity & heat from a star that close would burn up the earth.

It has starlike qualities, but it's not a star. Robby thinks that the light would have been the Shekinah glory of God.

So how do these astrologers / wise men know how to follow this particular star?

Daniel 9:24

<sup>24</sup> Seventy weeks are decreed about your people and your holy city— to bring the rebellion to an end, to put a stop to sin, to atone for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most holy place.

Daniel 2:48-49

<sup>48</sup> Then the king promoted Daniel and gave him many generous gifts. He made him ruler over the entire province of Babylon and chief governor over all the wise men of Babylon. <sup>49</sup> At Daniel's request, the king appointed Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to manage the province of Babylon. But Daniel remained at the king's court.

So Daniel is put in charge of the wise men and saved all their lives by properly interpreting King Nebuchadnezzar's dream. The astrologers of Babylon, who sought wisdom, knowledge by looking to the stars.

Balaam's prophecy about the coming Messiah:

Numbers 24:17

<sup>17</sup> I see him, but not now; I perceive him, but not near. A star will come from Jacob, and a scepter will arise from Israel. He will smash the forehead of Moab and strike down all the Shethites.

Who was Balaam? He was from the land of Babylon. Pethor, "which is by the Euphrates in the land of his people."

Numbers 22:4-6

Since Balak son of Zippor was Moab's king at that time, <sup>5</sup> he sent messengers to **Balaam son of Beor at Pethor, which is by the Euphrates in the land of his people**. Balak said to him, "Look, a people has come out of Egypt; they cover the surface of the land and are living right across from me. <sup>6</sup> Please come and put a curse on these people for me because they are more powerful than I am. I may be able to defeat them and drive them out of the land, for I know that those you bless are blessed and those you curse are cursed."

Where was the Messiah to be born?

Micah 5:2

<sup>2</sup> Bethlehem Ephrathah, you are small among the clans of Judah; one will come from you to be ruler over Israel for me. His origin is from antiquity, from ancient times.

The three gifts:

1. Gold - gifts for a king.
2. Frankincense - Incense was burned in the temple on the altar of prayers by priests.
3. Myrrh - used to prepare the body for burial.

The gifts show that Jesus is a King, who will also be a priest, but will die.

But the gifts are more than that. They also provide wealth to Mary & Joseph so that they can flee to Egypt, to flee Herod. These were poor working class people. They didn't have money to flee from home for 12 - 24 months.