

THE MAGI REVISITED

Reference: **Matthew 2:1-12**

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The word for “*wise men*” in the original Greek language is “*magoi*” and that word has been transliterated (respelled) into English as Magi. The original Magi assisted the Babylonian ruler, Nebuchadnezzar, as priests for an ancient form of religion called Zoroastrianism.

One of the problems at Christmas time is that some of the accounts of the birth of Christ have been reduced to elaborate fables.

Some examples of historical and biblical inaccuracies:

- There is no evidence that there were just _____ Magi.
- For more than six centuries, through different cultures and empires, these Magi assisted different royalties; but, these Magi were not _____ themselves.
- There is no available information to document that these Magi were _____.

Question: How would these ancient Gentile Zoroastrian priests have known about a promised Jewish Messiah being born somewhere in Palestine?

Answer: There is evidence to indicate that some of the Magi converted to _____ during the period of the Babylonian captivity.

Explanation:

Zoroastrianism emphasized a combination of _____ and _____ and the Magi often confused them. Considering this background, it is understandable that these Magi were susceptible to astronomical phenomena, which is the reason God used a _____ to direct them to where the Messiah would be found. This particular star might have been some form of God's _____.

Another interesting misconception is that the Magi did not visit Jesus the night of His birth. Remember that after His birth Jesus was put into a manger probably in a stable; but, according to **verse eleven**, the Magi found Jesus in a _____. That means there was probably a sizable time gap between the birth of Jesus and when the Magi found Him.

Notice the particular gifts these Magi brought for Jesus.

The first gift is gold. In giving this gift, these men are substantiating Jesus, as the Messiah, had been born a _____.

The second gift is frankincense. In giving this gift, these Magi are demonstrating Jesus is _____ and deserves our sacrifice.

The third gift is myrrh. In giving this gift, these Magi are, in a prophetic symbolic sense, demonstrating Jesus the man was scheduled to _____.

Reference: **Romans 3:11b** (see screen)

The Magi were spiritual seekers because God put it into them the desire to seek the messianic child, Jesus. Notice three things about spiritual seekers and seeking:

One is that these Magi wanted to _____ the _____ about Jesus.

Two is that these Magi _____ the _____ that was available to them.

Before we are seeking God, God was first seeking us because He wants us to have a meaningful relationship with Him and His Son, Jesus. That relationship does three basic things for us. It gives us:

- complete and irreversible _____
- a _____ purpose
- a guarantee of _____

Three is that these Magi ultimately both _____ and _____ the truth about Jesus.

The fact these Magi worshiped the Christ-Child answers the question as to the exact identity of Jesus Christ.

Reference: **Revelation 19:10** (see screen)

Explanation: