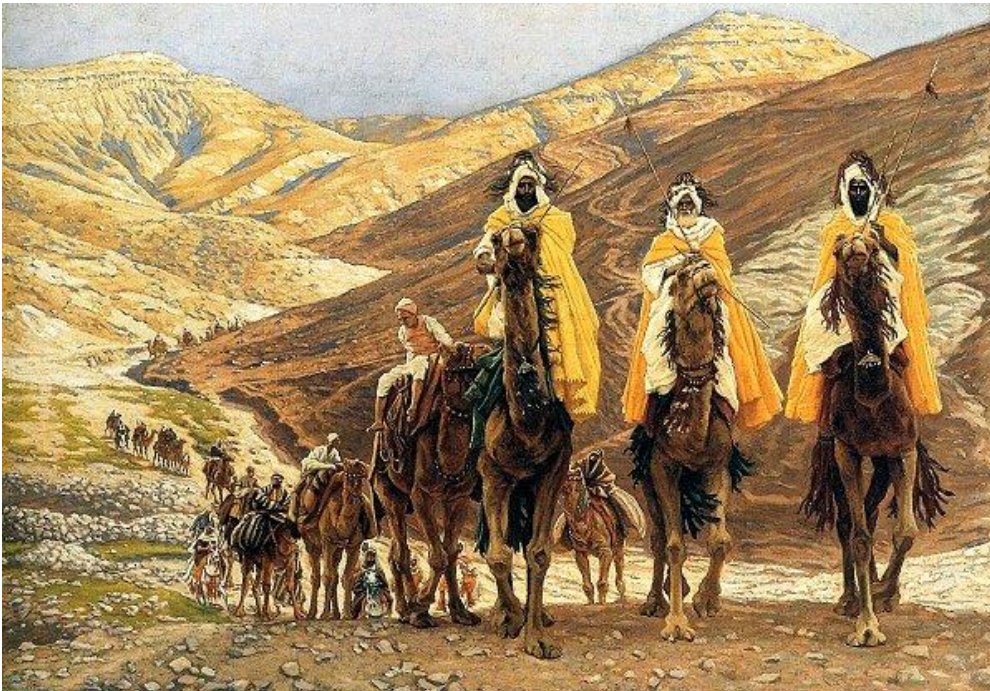


***“Behold, there came wise men”*** Matthew 2:1



### **Three Wise Men**

Matthew 2:1-2 state ***“Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.”*** See *The Book of Matthew* by Dr Peter S. Ruckman pp 24 ff for detailed study.

Matthew 2 is the one passage on the ***“wise men from the east.”*** It does not of course say how many wise men were present, only that they brought three gifts, Matthew 2:11. ***“Comparing spiritual things with spiritual”*** 1 Corinthians 2:13, or scripture with scripture nevertheless shows that *three* wise men were present in Matthew 2. See Proverbs 18:16.

***“A man’s gift maketh room for him, and bringeth him before great men.”***

The Lord is ***“the young child”*** in Matthew 2:8, 9, 11, 13 twice, 14, 20 twice, 21, i.e. 9 times but none is greater than ***“the man Christ Jesus”*** 1 Timothy 2:5 that He became with ***“a name which is above every name”*** Philippians 2:9. Though ***“there was no room for them in the inn”*** Luke 2:7 at the Lord’s birth, Proverbs 18:16, with respect to ***“a man’s gift”*** singular, singular, confirms that *three* givers gave *three* gifts to make room for themselves in the house Matthew 2:11 to worship ***“the man Christ Jesus.”*** Note also Genesis 9:18-19 ***“And the sons of Noah, that went forth of the ark, were Shem, and Ham, and Japheth...and of them was the whole earth overspread,”*** by Shem the Oriental, Ham the African, Japheth the European. So *three* wise men must be present for *all men*, because ***“All men seek for thee”*** Mark 1:37.

Wise men seek the Lord for the *right* reason and so the ***“wise men from the east”*** were:

**Three Godly Pilgrims** – among the ***“strangers and pilgrims on the earth”*** Hebrews 11:13

- They trusted a godly guide, namely ***“his star”*** Matthew 2:1. The Lord Jesus Christ calls Himself ***“the bright and morning star”*** in Revelation 22:16 and the Lord also calls Himself ***“his angel”*** in Revelation 1:1. ***“His star”*** is therefore an appearance of ***“the angel of the Lord”*** as in Matthew 1:20 ***“the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream...”*** No guide is godlier than ***“the angel of the Lord.”*** Make sure He’s your guide.

- They went *a godly way*, namely ***“from the east,”*** east to west. That’s God’s way. Psalm 19:4-5 states ***“the sun...is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race.”*** The sun moves east to west and is a type of Jesus Christ Who is ***“the Sun of righteousness”*** Malachi 4:2. The Lord says ***“Follow thou me”*** John 21:22 so then ***“let us run with patience the race that is set before us”*** Hebrews 12:1.
- They had a *godly purpose*, namely ***“we...are come to worship him”*** Matthew 2:2. They could say with the Lord in John 4:22 ***“we know what we worship”*** and with Paul in 2 Timothy 1:12 ***“I know whom I have believed.”*** Make sure you know Him, so you never hear Him say ***“I never knew you”*** Matthew 7:23. All of us should be *godly pilgrims*.

### Three Good Gifts

The wise men gave ***“their treasures...gold, and frankincense, and myrrh”*** Matthew 2:11.

- Gold is for a *king*. 1 Kings 10:18 says of Solomon that ***“...the king made a great throne of ivory, and overlaid it with the best gold.”*** The Lord Jesus Christ is ***“the King of kings, and Lord of lords”*** 1 Timothy 6:15, so the ***“the best gold”*** befits Him.
- Frankincense is for a *priest*. Luke 1:9 says of Zacharias that ***“According to the custom of the priest’s office, his lot was to burn incense when he went into the temple of the Lord.”*** The Lord Jesus Christ is ***“the Apostle and High Priest of our profession”*** and ***“he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them”*** Hebrews 3:1, 7:25. Incense goes with prayer because ***“the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God”*** Revelation 8:4, so frankincense befits the Lord our ***“High Priest.”***
- Myrrh is for a *prophet*. 1 Kings 19:10 says of ***“the children of Israel”*** that they ***“have slain thy prophets.”*** The Lord said ***“it cannot be that a prophet perish out of Jerusalem”*** Luke 13:33 and for His burial ***“Nicodemus...brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes”*** John 19:39, so myrrh befits ***“Jesus the prophet of Nazareth”*** Matthew 21:11.

1 Kings 1:32 typifies the *three* offices that the Lord Jesus Christ fulfils according to the *three* gifts. ***“And king David said, Call me Zadok the priest, and Nathan the prophet..”*** In type, that’s also why *three* wise men must be present in Matthew 2 to personify those gifts. Note that the Lord fulfils the offices of *prophet, priest* and *king* in *reverse* order to that of 1 Kings 1:32 and to that in which the gifts were given, because *God* wants ***“the first of all”*** Mark 12:29 His Son *as King*, as in Zechariah 14:9. So should you and I. ***“And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one.”***

### Three Houses of Worship

The first house is in Matthew 2:11. Matthew 2:11 is the first time that the word ***“house”*** is mentioned in the New Testament. It was a place of giving to and worshipping of ***“Jesus Christ, the Son of God”*** Mark 1:1 by ***“they that be wise”*** Daniel 12:3. That’s what God wants for a house that is *a household*, a domestic ***“household of God”*** Ephesians 6:19.

Every house, or household, like yours or ours, should be the same, *where the Lord Jesus Christ is King*, not the DVD player, the television or the laptop. That is the second house.

The third house is you. ***“Ye are God’s building”*** Paul says in 1 Corinthians 3:9. He emphasises that in 1 Corinthians 3:16, which should be memorized. ***“Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?”***

May *that* temple and *that* house especially *always* be a place of giving to and worshipping of ***“Jesus Christ, the Son of God”*** by ***“they that be wise”*** ***“till he come”*** 1 Corinthians 11:26, that is, Hebrews 13:21, ***“Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.”***