

Men from the East

Matthew 2

by Don Falkos

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Not long after Jesus was born in Bethlehem, some men from the east, astrologers, arrived in Jerusalem asking, "Where is the child who has been born King of the Jews? We saw his star, and have come to worship him."

King Herod was deeply disturbed. He summoned the chief priests and the experts in the Law and asked, "Where will the Messiah be born?"

They said, "According to the prophet Micah, in Bethlehem."

Herod asked the men from the east, "When exactly did the star appear?" Then he sent them to Bethlehem to look for the child. "When you find him come back and tell me – so that I too may go and worship him."

The star they had seen in the east guided them to Bethlehem. When they found Jesus they worshiped him and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. They were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, so they went home by a different route.

An angel appeared to Joseph in a dream saying, "Flee to Egypt and stay there until I tell you. Herod wants to kill the child." Joseph took Mary and Jesus and left for Egypt that very night.

Herod was furious that the men from the east had tricked him. He sent soldiers to Bethlehem to kill all the male children less than two years old – in accordance with the time the star had appeared. This fulfilled Jeremiah's prophecy, "Rachel is weeping for her children and will not be comforted because they are no more."

After Herod died, an angel told Joseph to go back to Israel. This fulfilled the words of the prophet Hosea, "Out of Egypt I called my son." Joseph took his family to Galilee and settled in the town of Nazareth.