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Matthew 2

A question: Is church tradition reliable? If you had to chose between church tradition and God's Word which do think you can rely on 100%?

Church tradition says there were 3 magi that came to visit Jesus in the manger. How many does God say there was and where does He say they visited Jesus at? Let's read His Word and find out?

The Pilgrimage of the Magi

1Now 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,

Strong's Concordance Word Help: "wise men"

3097 *mágos* (plural, *magi*) – properly, belonging to "the Magoi, a Median tribe (so Herodotus); a Magian, one of a sacred caste, originally Median, who seem to have conformed to the Persian religion, while retaining some of their old beliefs (v. *DB*, I vol., 565 f.; *DB*, iii, 203 ff.): Mt 2:1,7,16; a wizard, sorcerer: Ac 13:6,8" (*Abbott-Smith*)

The religion of the Meds was predominately **Zoroastrianism**. It is based on three main principals, “fire, earth, air and water.” They believed in one god, the god of wisdom. It remained a dominate religion until over thrown first Babylon and ultimately by Islam.

Some scholars believe these “wise men” were from Persia or Babylon and were astrologers. It was considered a science at that time and revered outside of Israel. These men may have been acquainted with an Old Testament verse; Numbers 24:17.

Numbers is the 4th book of the Torah and was written by Moses.

A note on Astrology, it is cursed by God as are those who use it.

Isaih 47: 13Thou art wearied in the multitude of thy counsels. Let now the astrologers, the stargazers, the monthly prognosticators, stand up, and save thee from these things that shall come upon thee.

14Behold, they shall be as stubble; the fire shall burn them; they shall not deliver themselves from the power of the flame: there shall not be a coal to warm at, nor fire to sit before it.

I need to make mention of a conversation I had this week with a wonderful gentleman who was raised in the Amish religion. I may get some of the specifics wrong, but the jest of the conversation is accurate.

He was telling me about a woman with pink hair that is putting herself of as some type of prophet. My sense is that his

gentleman has fallen into the NAR. He went on to tell me that this woman had gone into heaven in some fashion and talked to Charlie Kirk. She said he was living, I think in a mansion, and had many fiery darts. He explained this as being some type of defense for his family, I think. We know from scripture that “fiery darts” are associated with Satan, and that the “armor of God” protects the Believer from the effects of the darts.

I asked him what does this woman say about the Biblical admonition to not speak to the dead? He seemed quite taken back and said he had not heard of that. I told him God was clear and adamant about such behavior and that it is condemned by God.

The conversation ended quite abruptly after that. There are a number of scripture verses that address what is called necromancer.

Deuteronomy 18: 9When thou art come into the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations. 10There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, 11Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. 12For all that do these things are an abomination unto the LORD: and because of these abominations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee. 13Thou shalt be perfect with the LORD

*thy God. **14**For these nations, which thou shalt possess, hearkened unto observers of times, and unto diviners: but as for thee, the LORD thy God hath not suffered thee so to do.*

God told us that the Stars would be for signs and seasons. Many take this idea of signs to mean prophetic if interpreted correctly. That is an aberration of what God meant.

Derek Prince a Bible Teacher who lived in Israel, died in 2003;

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s7hMfcuz_Qw

As the Torah was widely understood as from God, these “wise men” may have well been versed in this prophecy. It was widely accepted at this time that celestial events such as new stars seen or stars seeming to join was a sign of a new king being born.

The prophet Isaiah also prophesied about the coming of the Messiah.

*Isaiah 60: **1**Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee.*

***2**For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee.*

***3**And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.*

***4**Lift up thine eyes round about, and see: all they gather themselves together, they come to thee: thy sons shall*

come from far, and thy daughters shall be nursed at thy side.

5*Then thou shalt see, and flow together, and thine heart shall fear, and be enlarged; because the abundance of the sea shall be converted unto thee, the forces of the Gentiles shall come unto thee.*

6*The multitude of camels shall cover thee, the dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; all they from Sheba shall come: they shall bring gold and incense; and they shall shew forth the praises of the LORD.*

2Saying, 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.

This fits within the concept that a star emerging in the sky was a sign, a marker from God of a newborn King. It was a fulfillment of prophecy from Micah and Balaam about a star coming from the tribe of Judah. A sign of an everlasting King.

3When Herod the king had heard *these things*, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

From Strong's Concordance: "troubled"

"5015 tarássō – properly, put in motion (to agitate back-and-forth, shake to-and-fro); (figuratively) to set in motion what needs to remain still (at ease); to "trouble" ("agitate"), causing inner perplexity (emotional agitation) from getting too stirred up inside ("upset")."

It is well documented from God's Word that Herod the king, was extremely paranoid and feared losing his power. So, anything that

came along to threaten him brought fierce anger from the King. This would account for his wrath by slaughtering the children in Bethlehem.

4And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. 5And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet,

Herod as we know from other studies had a history as being connected to the Jews, he was Jewish by ancestry but not of the lineage of David. He was considered a puppet of Rome and an enemy of the Jews.

The Jews were not looking for the Mesiah as their Prophets had pointed to and apparently had not noticed this star, so what was it that caused these men from a distant land to come in search of a New King?

We are not told the answer to that, but we are told that once they ask the question of Herod as to the New King coming, Herod gets very upset and interested, having the Jewish leadership find out what these foreigners were talking about.

6And thou Bethlehem, *in* the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.

Who were the wisemen?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KkY4EnUfFYw>

7Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, inquired of them diligently what time the star appeared.

These men from a distant land seemed to have paid closer attention to Jewish Scripture than the Jewish Leadership.

8And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found *him*, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.

Evil in any form uses lies and deceit as its main method of communications. Evil will never identify itself as such, it will appear as something completely benign showing no harm or ill will.

2 Corinthians 11: 13*For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. 14*And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. **15***Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.*

We know from what Herod did when he did not find the exact child that was to be king, he had all the little boys killed by his army that were born in the past two years. The reason for the 2 years is that tradition has gotten us to believe that the wisemen

had come to the manger when Jesus was just born. The fact is that Jesus was likely around 2 years old when he was visited by the wisemen.

Matthew 2:11 “And when they were come into the house,...”

You will notice in vs 11 when we get there that the Wise Men came “into the house”. Not the manger as is always depicted. So, this visit was after the birth of Christ and likely close to 2 years as that was the target the Herod put in all boys born within the past 2 years.

9When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was.

Again, take notice that the star “stood over where the young child was.” Not the Infant Christ but a young child. Not in a manger but in a house.

10When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. 11And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh. 12And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.

God again intervenes for His Son the Messiah and has the wise men leave another way and not reveal to Herod where Jesus was at.

The Flight to Egypt *(Hosea 11:1-7)*

13And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him.

God knows the beginning from the end.

Isaiah 46: 9Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me,

10Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:

God has already seen what happens, He has seen each of our lives as we are now living them out. He knows everything there is to know including our deepest thoughts. Praise God.

14When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt:

God is and has always sought for obedient hearts. What He tells us to do is for our own good, He loves us and wants all to be saved. Unfortunately, the majority of the world will reject His free

gift of Salvation. How can I say such a thing, how do I know the hearts of people. It's not me saying it, it is God.

Matthew 7:13 Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: 14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

Luke 13: 23Then said one unto him, Lord, are there few that be saved? And he said unto them, 24Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able.

Salvation bought by the blood of His Only Begotten Son, Jesus the Messiah. Joseph looked to be obedient to God and so should we.

15And was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Out of Egypt have I called my son.

**Herod Slaughters Infants
(Jeremiah 31:1-30)**

16Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently inquired of the wise men.

Here again we have a clue as to the length of time that had passed since the birth of Christ. So, 2 years had passed since

Herod had inquired of the wise men. So, with no specifics as to which child it was, the evil Herod killed all that were born during that 2 year period.

Think about the way we were all brought up, believing that the wise men came to Jesus in his place of birth, a manger. How tradition has deceived us. What other traditions are man's way of religion?

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17Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy the prophet, saying,

This prophecy had a double fulfillment within about 5 miles of Jerusalem. The first fulfillment to the north of Jerusalem and the second to the south of Jerusalem.

Rama was a city about 5 miles north of Jerusalem, Bethlehem about 5 miles south of Jerusalem. Jeremiah's original prophecy was about the enslaving and exile of Judah to Babilon.

The second fulfillment was great distress and that distress was carried out again when Herod slaughtered all the little boys in a close area.

18In Rama was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping *for her*

children, and would not be comforted, because they are not.

Rachel is the matriarch of Israel, the wife of Jacob later named Israel by God. Rachel's tomb is near Bethlehem.

The Return to Nazareth

(Isaiah 61:1-11; Matthew 13:53-58; Mark 6:1-6; Luke 2:39-40; Luke 4:16-30)

19But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeareth in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, **20**Saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and go into the land of Israel: for they are dead which sought the young child's life.

Herod died in 4 BC, so Jesus would be between 2 and 4 most likely. God called Moses to bring His people out of Egypt. Now God is calling Joseph to bring God's Son Jesus out of Egypt.

The Messiah is going to return to the land He had given to Abraham. He would come as a child, grow up to be the One who would Save the World.

21And he arose, and took the young child and his mother, and came into the land of Israel. **22**But when he heard that Archelaus did reign in Judaea in the room of his father Herod, he was afraid to go thither: notwithstanding, being warned of God in a dream, he turned aside into the parts of Galilee:

When Herod died, his kingdom put in the hands of Archelaus, who was himself a tyrant and ultimately removed by Rome for his incompetence. So, Jesus was raised in Gallie which is north of Judah and ruled at the time by Herod Antipas. Herod Antipas was consider less violent and intrusive in the Jews lives.

This location also fulfilled prophecy that the Messiah would be a Nazaren.

23And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, He shall be called a Nazarene.

Isaiah the prophet prophesied from 740 to 681 BC, 700 years before Jesus was born.

***Isaiah 53: The Suffering Servant
(Matthew 26:57-68; Mark 14:53-65; John 18:19-24; 1 Peter 2:21-25)***

1Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed?

2For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him.

3He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

***4Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows:
yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and
afflicted.***

***5But he was wounded for our transgressions, he
was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our
peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.***

***6All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every
one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the
iniquity of us all.***

***7He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened
not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter,
and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth
not his mouth.***

***8He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who
shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the
land of the living: for the transgression of my people was
he stricken.***

***A Grave Assigned
(Matthew 27:57-61; Mark 15:42-47; Luke 23:50-56; John
19:38-42)***

***9And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich
in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was
any deceit in his mouth.***

***10Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to
grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he
shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the
pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.***

***11He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be
satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant
justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.***

***12Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and
he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath***

poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

Isaiah 11: 1And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: (emphasis mine)

The Hebrew word for “branch” is “netzer” where the word Nazarene comes from.

Isaiah 11:2 And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD;

3And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears:

4But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked.

5And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins.

6The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them.

7And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

8*And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den.*

“Cockatrice” is a Hebrew word for “cobra”.

9*They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.*

10*And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious.*

11*And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea.*

12*And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.*

13*The envy also of Ephraim shall depart, and the adversaries of Judah shall be cut off: Ephraim shall not envy Judah, and Judah shall not vex Ephraim.*

When 10 tribes separated and claimed the north of Israel it was led by Ephraim. The animosity between Judah and Ephraim grew over time. But a time is coming of reconciliation by Jesus over all that call Him Lord.

Isaiah 11:14 *But they shall fly upon the shoulders of the Philistines toward the west; they shall spoil them of the east together: they shall lay their hand upon Edom and Moab; and the children of Ammon shall obey them.*

15And the LORD shall utterly destroy the tongue of the Egyptian sea; and with his mighty wind shall he shake his hand over the river, and shall smite it in the seven streams, and make men go over dryshod.

16And there shall be an highway for the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria; like as it was to Israel in the day that he came up out of the land of Egypt.

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I had another discussion with AI this time about Lyndon Johnson and Graham Platner. Johnson a bigot and racist his entire life is credited with passing the Civil Rights Act, which he vehemently opposed as a Senator. He is also credited with passing the Voting Act, another legislation he hated but supported for one reason. To hold onto power. This was AI's conclusion after initially telling me that Johnson was a different man as President than as Senator.

AI's conclusion:

Conclusion: A party that sacrifices integrity for power risks becoming indistinguishable from the forces it claims to oppose. Moral clarity requires consistency: if character matters, it must matter even when it is inconvenient. If it does not, then the party's values are merely rhetorical tools, not guiding principles.