

Coastal Message Notes: NATIVITY: The Christmas You Never Knew
Week 2: Magicians, Murder, and the Messiah: Matthew 2:1-12

Key Verse

"Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, magi from the east arrived in _____." — Matthew 2:1 (NASB)

Answer: Jerusalem

Main Points

1. The Nativity Scene: Chronological Issue:

Luke 2: The shepherds came the _____ Jesus was born and found Him in a _____.

Answers: night, manger

Matthew 2: The Magi came much _____ and found Him in a _____ (v. 11).

Answers: later, house

Jesus was probably born in _____ or _____, not December 25th.

Answers: spring, fall (either order)

2. Who Were the Magi?

Notice the NASB says "**magi**" (not "wise men"). The word in Greek is μάγοι (magoi) - where we get the word "_____."

Answer: magic

The Magi were:

- _____ priests from the Zoroastrian religion
- _____ who studied the stars
- Dream _____
- Practitioners of magic and _____
- Advisors to kings (known as "_____")

Answers: Persian, Astronomers, interpreters, divination, kingmakers

3. The Zoroastrian Connection

The Magi's religion taught them to expect a savior called the _____.

Answer: Saoshyant (optional - can just write "Savior")

Zoroastrian prophecies said he would:

- Be born of a _____
- Defeat _____
- Raise the _____
- Restore _____

Answers: virgin, evil, dead, creation

4. Daniel's Influence

_____ became the chief of the magicians, enchanters, Chaldeans, and astrologers in Babylon (Daniel 5:11). **Answer: Daniel**

Daniel was _____ times better than all the magicians in the kingdom (Daniel 1:20).

Answer: ten

Daniel left the Magi with _____ about a coming King from Israel.

Answer: prophecies

5. The Prophecies They Followed

Daniel 9:25 - The Timeline

- "From the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince there will be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks"
- 69 "weeks" of years = _____ years from the decree to rebuild Jerusalem to the Messiah's coming (69x7) **Answer: 483**

Numbers 24:17 Balaam's Prophecy: The Star

- "A _____ shall come forth from Jacob, A _____ shall rise from Israel"

Answers: star, scepter

6. The Journey

Distance: Over _____ miles from Persia to Judea

Answer: 1,000

Travel time: _____ months **Answer: 2-3**

Preparation time: _____ months **Answer: 2-6**

Total time: Could have been a _____ or more from when they first saw the star **Answer: year**

The Magi brought _____, _____, and _____ as gifts.

Answers: gold, frankincense, myrrh (any order)

7. Two Years and Under

Herod asked the Magi: "What _____ did the star appear?" (Matthew 2:7) **Answer: time**

Based on their answer, Herod killed all boys _____ years old and under (Matthew 2:16).

Answer: two

8. The Contrast

The Magi:

- Traveled over _____ miles
- Spent months preparing and traveling
- _____ Jesus when they found Him. **Answers: 1,000, worshiped**

The Jewish scribes:

- Knew the _____ (Micah 5:2)
- Were only _____ miles away in Jerusalem
- Never went _____

Answers: prophecy, six, looking (or "to Bethlehem")

The Challenge

Are we like the _____?

- People who know the Bible but miss Jesus because He doesn't show up the way we expect

Answer: scribes

Or are we like the _____?

- Willing to seek, willing to journey, willing to worship even when it costs something

Answer: Magi

Memory Verse

"After coming into the house they saw the Child with Mary His mother; and they fell to the ground and worshiped Him." — Matthew 2:11 (NASB)

Reflection Questions

1. What surprised you most about the Magi's story?
2. How does knowing the Magi were pagan priests change your understanding of the Christmas story?
3. Are you more like the Magi (seeking) or the scribes (settled)? What needs to change?

Next Week: Week 3: The Lost Tribe, the Long Wait, and the Word Made Flesh