

## "The Wise Men" - Matthew 2:1-12

This time of year you see Christmas cards, bumper stickers, and church plays that depict the Wise Men of the Christmas Story. But who really were they?

### Myths about the Magi ("Wise Men" - KJV)

- no evidence that there were \_\_\_\_\_ of them. 2:11
- they were not \_\_\_\_\_.
- they were not \_\_\_\_\_.
- they did not represent the decedents of the \_\_\_\_\_.
- their \_\_\_\_\_ were not Caspar, Balthasar, or Melchior
- probably didn't ride \_\_\_\_\_.
- the Masonic "Order of the Eastern Star" – got their \_\_\_\_\_ wrong.

### **Magi in the Ancient World:**

1. The Greek historian, \_\_\_\_\_ (490-430 BC) recorded that the magi were a priestly caste of the \_\_\_\_\_.
2. They were priests of the monotheistic religion \_\_\_\_\_, the official religion of Persia (6<sup>th</sup> Century BC).
3. Were Occult practitioners: \_\_\_\_\_, astrology, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, soothsaying, and \_\_\_\_\_.  
 - \_\_\_\_\_ in the Bible. **Lev. 19:26, 34; Deut. 18:10-14**  
 - where our word \_\_\_\_\_ comes from.
4. Also were the \_\_\_\_\_ of their day. (astronomy, medicine, mathematics, philosophy, law)  
 - where we get our term \_\_\_\_\_.
5. They were advisors to the Kings of Media, Persia, and Greece because of their wisdom, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and ability to interpret \_\_\_\_\_.  
**Jeremiah 39:3, Gen. 41, Daniel 1:20; 2:2; 4:7; 5:11**
6. \_\_\_\_\_ miraculously became master of all the magi of the Babylonian Empire. **Daniel 2:48-49**  
 - This brought knowledge to the East of the \_\_\_\_\_.  
 - And familiarity with the Hebrew \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Magi in the Christmas Story:**

1. The arrival of the Magi in Jerusalem \_\_\_\_\_ King Herod. **V.3**
  - A. They traveled with an \_\_\_\_\_.
  - B. His realm was between the Roman and \_\_\_\_\_ Empires.
  - C. They were \_\_\_\_\_; men of tremendous power.
  - D. They were looking for the \_\_\_\_\_.

2. They knew of the \_\_\_\_\_ prophecies. **Book of Daniel, V.5-6**  
 - a \_\_\_\_\_ Numbers 24:17  
 - a \_\_\_\_\_
3. The star showed the Magi that the King of all Kings:  
 A. \_\_\_\_\_ been born. **V.2**  
 B. \_\_\_\_\_ He had been born **V.7**  
 C. \_\_\_\_\_ He was. **V.11**
4. These powerful men humbled themselves before, and \_\_\_\_\_  
 openly this long-awaited King. **V.11**
5. The Magi brought \_\_\_\_\_ and gifts of: **V.11**  
 A. Gold – the symbol of wealth & \_\_\_\_\_ **1 Kings 7:19-22**  
 B. Frankincense – an expensive fragrance used to \_\_\_\_\_  
 deity. **Leviticus 2:2**  
 C. Myrrh – to \_\_\_\_\_ the dead. **John 19:39, Mark 15:23**

*\* What will you do with this Coming King?*