

Ready for Christmas  
Week 3 notes  
12.11.22  
Matthew 2:1-12

## **Preparing for the Promise: The Shepherd King**

**Jeremiah 29:13** *"You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart."*

### **I. Magi**

#### **A. Who were they?**

- Magi means astrologer in Hebrew
- they were from the east; known for astrology, fortune telling, and dream interpretation

#### **B. How did the Magi know to be looking in the first place?**

1. The Message Must Have Come Through the Exile
  - a. in 587 BC God allowed the Babylonians, led by King Nebuchadnezzar to defeat Israel and began deporting its citizens (**Jeremiah 29: 4-9**)
2. The Message Must Have Been Shared by Daniel
  - a. The Magi were among the highest-ranking officials in Babylon.
  - b. Daniel was appointed to a high position and was made ruler over the entire province; placing him in charge of all its wise men. (**Dan. 2:48**).
  - c. Daniel successfully pleaded for the lives of the wise men who had failed to interpret the king's dream and became highly regarded among the Magi. (**Dan. 2:24**),
  - d. The Magi learned much from that prophet about the one true God, and about His will and plans for His people through the coming King.

#### **C. Why Might have God Chosen to Include the Magi in the Nativity Account?**

- |                              |                                    |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| a. They brought Gold         | -representing Jesus' full Kingship |
| b. They brought Frankincense | -representing Jesus' full Divinity |
| c. They brought Myrrh        | -representing Jesus' full Humanity |
- Daniel 7:13-14**

### **II. The Promise of God and Response of the Magi**

#### **A. The Promise of God (Matthew 2:6)**

1. Bethlehem, out of you will come a ruler
2. who will shepherd
3. my people Israel

## B. The Response of the Magi (Matthew 2:9-11)

They were seeking by:

- Starting** with a specific direction of travel
- Following** with a focus that led them to joy
- Witnessing** the promised child with his mother
- Worshipping** with both humility and generosity

## III. Our Response to the Promise Fulfilled

*"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness,  
and all these things will be given to you as well."* (Matthew 6:33)

### A. Our Response of Preparing by Seeking means...

1. Our journey of seeking has an **Orientation**:
  - called the Word of God
  - Psalms 119:105**
2. Our journey of seeking has an **Elation**:
  - producing Joy
  - Philippians 4:4**
3. Our journey of seeking has a **Destination**:
  - named Jesus
  - Hebrews 12:2**
4. Our journey of seeking has a **Expression**:
  - called Worship
  - John 4:24**

## B. God's Promise Fulfilled (Jeremiah 29:10-14)

**10** This is what the Lord says: "When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my good promise to bring you back to this place. **11** For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. **12** Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. **13** You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. **14** I will be found by you," declares the Lord, "and will bring you back from captivity. I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have banished you," declares the Lord, "and will bring you back to the place from which I carried you into exile."

WHO ARE WE SEEKING?

WE CAN ORIENT OURSELVES TO THE WORD BECAUSE JESUS IS THE INCARNATE WORD  
WE CAN REJOICE IN HIM BECAUSE HE FIRST CAME TO SEEK AND SAVE THE LOST  
WE CAN LOOK TO THE PROMISE, BECAUSE HE WENT BEFORE US TO PREPARE A PLACE  
WE CAN WORSHIP BECAUSE HE'S THE SHEPHERD KING WHO HAS COME, IS WORTHY,  
AND WILL COME AGAIN