

The Magi and the Messiah

Matthew 2:1-12

I. The Magi (v. 1)

A. The Bible doesn't tell their number or their names.

B. The Magi were high-ranking officials with power and influence (Daniel 1:20, 2:2, 4:7, 5:7).

II. The Contrasts (vv. 2-10)

A. Herod, the wicked usurper king, contrasts with Jesus, the righteous King of Israel by birthright.

B. The Gentile Magi's sensitivity and responsiveness to divine guidance contrasts with the insensitivity and unresponsiveness of Israel's religious leaders.

III. The Gifts (vv.11-12)

A. Gold symbolically pointed to Jesus' role as our King (1 Kings 10:14-23; Psalm 45:9, 13; 72:15; Philippians 2:10-11).

B. Frankincense symbolically pointed to Jesus' role as our Great High Priest (Exodus 30:34, Leviticus 2:1, Nehemiah 13:5).

C. Myrrh symbolically pointed to Jesus' role as our Redeemer (John 19:38-42, Mark 15:23).