

The Wise Men and Flight to Egypt

Matthew 2:1-23

If you were given a compass and a map, would you be able to find an address in your town?

How about an address in a state miles away?

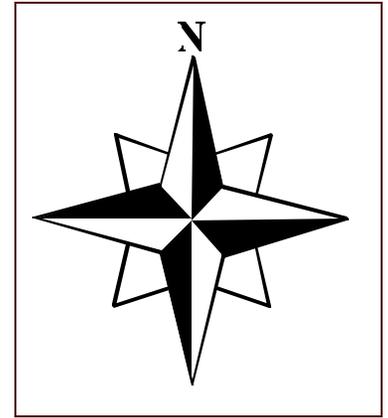
Suppose you were given a compass and a piece of paper that held all of the information you need to find a person, but when you look at the paper all you see is the word baby.

Would you be able to complete the assignment by finding this specific child?

What kind of questions would you ask to narrow down your search?

Where would you look for the answers?

How about the other side of the story - How would you feel being a parent of a child that: 1) strange people from a different country spent months (maybe even years) to find, and 2) when they arrived gave the child precious and expensive gifts?



Prayer

Dear God,

You have given us the faith to believe in You. Please help us not to take our faith for granted. As we study today about the lengths to which the wise men went in order to worship Your Son, strengthen our faith, and make us truly thankful for the gifts You have given each of us. Amen.

The Story - Matthew 2:1-23

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, {2} saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him."

{3} When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. {4} And when he had gathered all the

chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.

{5} So they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet: {6} 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.'"

{7} Then Herod, when he had



secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared.

{8} And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found Him, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also."

{9} When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was.

{10} When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. {11} And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

{12} Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way.

{13} Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him."

{14} When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, {15} and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord

through the prophet, saying, "Out of Egypt I called My Son."

{16} Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men.

{17} Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying:

{18} "A voice was heard in Ramah, Lamentation, weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, Refusing to be comforted, Because they are no more."

{19} But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, {20} saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the young Child's life are dead."

{21} Then he arose, took the young Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel. {22} But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea instead of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being warned by God in a dream, he turned aside into the region of Galilee.

{23} And 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."

Review - Read the following statements. If they are correct write **CORRECT** in the blank. If they are incorrect cross out the incorrect word and **WRITE THE CORRECT WORD** in the blank.

1. _____ The wisemen came from Egypt.
2. _____ They first looked for Jesus in Nazareth.
3. _____ Herod was paranoid at the news of this new king.

4. _____ Herod's scribes found their answer from the writings of the prophet Jeremiah.
5. _____ Herod told the wisemen that he wanted to kill Jesus.
6. _____ The star led the wisemen to Jerusalem.
7. _____ The wisemen presented gifts of gold, cloth, and myrrh.
8. _____ The wisemen immediately told Herod where Jesus was.
9. _____ God told Joseph through a dream to go to Egypt.
10. _____ Herod ordered that all male children age two and younger be put to death.
11. _____ After Herod's death Joseph returned with Mary and Jesus to Jerusalem.

Hymn Study

Which verses of Hymn #130 best fit the thoughts of today's story?

What does verse six remind us of?

Outer Aim

God led the wisemen to Jesus.

Passage Study - Look up the following passages. How do they apply to today's lesson?

- A. Psalm 2:2-4
- B. Isaiah 49:6
- C. Micah 5:2
- D. Isaiah 60:2-3
- E. John 5:39
- F. Numbers 24:17

Inner Aim

God reveals the Savior of all people.

Closing Prayer

Hail, Thou all inviting Savior!
Gentiles now their offerings bring;
In Thy temples seek Thy favor,
Jesus Christ, our Lord and King.
May we, body, soul, and spirit,
Live devoted to Thy praise,
Glorious realms of bliss inherit,
Grateful anthems ever raise. Amen.