

The Christmas

JOURNEY



Remembering the *Reason* for the season.

Matthew 2:1-12 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ²and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” ³When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him.

⁴When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵"In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written: ⁶"But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel."

7 Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. 8 He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

⁹After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they were overjoyed.

¹¹On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

¹²And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

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Lessons from the Land

Life Lessons from Places in the Bible

Herod the Great Luke 1-2, Matt 2

Aristobulus

Archelaus

Matt 2:22

Herod Antipas

(Tetrarch) Every Gospel reference except Luke 1-2, Matt 2

Philip

Luke 3:1, Matt 14:3

Herod Agrippa I

Every Acts reference (except 4:27 & 13:1, which refer to Antipas)

Herodias

Philip's wife who became Antipas' wife – Matt 14:3-6

Herod Agrippa II

Every Acts reference to "Agrippa" (chap 25-26)

Bernice

"Wife" of Agrippa II

Drusilla

Wife of Gov. Felix (Acts 24:24)



King Herod





Jerusalem



**King Herod's
Palaces**

Caesarea Maritima



Herod's
aces





Masada

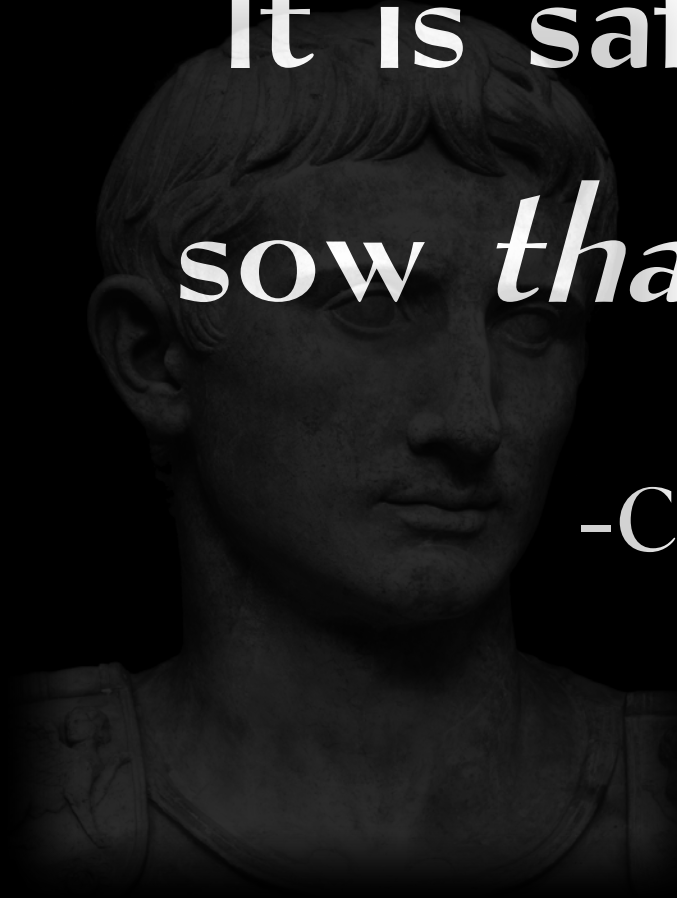


**King Herod's
Palaces**



King Herod's Palaces





“It is safer to be Herod’s
son *than* his son.”

-Caesar Augustus *friend and patron*

The Christmas

JOURNEY

The word "JOURNEY" is written in large, bold, red capital letters. To the right of the word, there are three black silhouettes of camels walking from left to right. Each camel is carrying a Christmas tree on its back. The background is a gradient from light blue at the top to dark grey at the bottom, with several white stars of varying sizes scattered across the sky. The entire scene is reflected in a dark, glossy surface at the bottom.

Remembering the *Reason* for the season.

Magi: wise men, astrologers, physicians or priest.

3 of them?: No number given, unlikely it was just 3 people. A journey from the “east” required support and protection.

From the East: The Jews had 500 years of history with the Persians, dating back to Daniel and the Exile.



The Star: Haley's Comet? Alignment of stars? Super Nova?

Numbers 24:17 "I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near. *A star will come out of Jacob*; a scepter will rise out of Israel. He will crush the foreheads of Moab, the skulls of all the people of Sheth.

Psalms 72:10 May the kings of Tarshish and of distant shores bring tribute to him. May the kings of Sheba and Seba *present him gifts*.

Isaiah 61:1-7 ³Nations will come to your light, and kings to the *brightness of your dawn*. ⁶Herds of camels will cover your land, young camels of Midian and Ephah.

And all from Sheba will come, *bearing gold and incense* and proclaiming the praise of the Lord.



The Star: Haley's Comet? Alignment of stars? Super Nova?

Arrival?: According to Matthew they entered a "house". No mention of Shepherds or Angels.

Gold: The most precious earthly commodity.

Incense: Burned as a pleasing offering.

Myrrh: Used for embalming.





Familiarity with the Truth
doesn't necessarily mean
that you'll *benefit* from it.

The “*Good News*” is not just for the religious
insiders, the socially elite,
or those with political power.





Herod saw Jesus as a threat to his “kingdom”. Like Herod often we act out of self-protection and personal promotion, protecting our “kingdom” at the expense of celebrating The King.

The Magi were willing to take great risk, journeying towards an unknown outcome, ready to present their treasures and worship a new King.



Herod saw Jesus as a threat to his “kingdom”. For some people today Jesus still remains a threat to

As Christmas approaches, ask yourself: In what ways am I living like Herod? How am I living like the Magi?

to present their treasures and worship a new King.



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