

“Down To Earth”

“A Miraculous Story with an All-Star Cast!”

“The Magi: Supporting Characters”

*“About that time some wise men from eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem, asking ‘Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw His star as it rose, and we have come to worship Him.’” Matthew 2:1b-2*

#### A. God created the greatest story...

1. God specifically picked each of the characters for this story!
2. Each character had special significance...there are no accidents in God’s plan!
3. If God’s original creation was spectacular, imagine His plan for the redemption of all mankind!
4. Every detail was part of the plan with prophetic fulfillment; every detail held deeper meaning!
5. This is His-Story of love for all mankind!

#### B. The Magi (or The Wise Men)...

1. Where did the magi journey from? Matthew only tells us they were from the east. Most likely they were from Mesopotamia near Babylon (present-day eastern Iraq) – over 1,000 miles from Bethlehem.
2. Who were they? Matthew only records the word magi to describe them and does not tell us how many magi. This same name is used to describe the magicians, astrologers and wise men who served in King Nebuchadnezzar’s court during the time of Daniel. Although Daniel remained true to God, he would have been considered one of the king’s magi.
3. When did they visit the Christ child? Matthew only records that it was after Jesus was born and during the reign of King Herod. Assuming the star appeared when Jesus was born, the journey would have taken the magi from 2 to 4 months on camels and from 6 to 8 months on foot.
4. Why did they travel so far to look for a Hebrew baby boy? Matthew records that they bowed down and worshipped Him and gave Him gifts. Assuming the ancestors of the magi would have known Daniel 500 years earlier, they would have been familiar with the prophecy about the Messiah, the King of the Jews, who was to come.

#### C. The Magi were chosen to look for Jesus...

1. God could have revealed Jesus’ birth to anyone – why did He choose the magi and not Jewish chief priests and wise men?

**“Where is the One who has been born King of the Jews?” Matt. 2:2**

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2. Matthew is the only Gospel writer to record the information about the magi. Why would Matthew see this event as important?

**“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 be the shepherd of my people Israel.” Matt. 2:6 (Micah 5:2-4)**

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3. Why would the magi invest a year of their lives traveling such a great distance to see a young child?

**“On coming to the house, they saw the child with His mother Mary, and bowed down and worshipped Him.” Matt. 2:11a**

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#### D. The Magi were looking for the King...

1. The magi went to Herod assuming he would know about this child born King of the Jews.

**“When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him.” Matt. 2:3**

2. The magi presented three gifts to the child Jesus.

**“They opened their treasures and presented Him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh.” Matt. 2:11b**

3. The magi protected the young king by disobeying Herod.

**“And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.” Matt. 2:12**

#### Are you looking for the King?

**“Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made Himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to death— even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted Him to the highest place and gave Him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” Phil. 2:6-11**