



## Chapter 2

1 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.

## Observations

1. Based on your reading of the text what can we know for sure about the wise men? In your opinion what is the most important fact revealed about the wise men?
2. Based on your reading of the text do you think the star the wise men followed was a natural star or a supernatural sign? Explain your answer.
3. Why was Herod troubled by the news of a newborn king?
4. In your opinion why do you think that the Herod and the religious leaders did not go to Bethlehem to see if the Messiah had in fact been born? What application/warning might you take from Herod's behavior?
5. Why is it important that Jesus was born in Bethlehem?
6. The gifts brought by the wise men seem odd for a newborn baby (no blankets, clothes, baby Yoda dolls, etc.) Why do you think they brought the gifts listed?