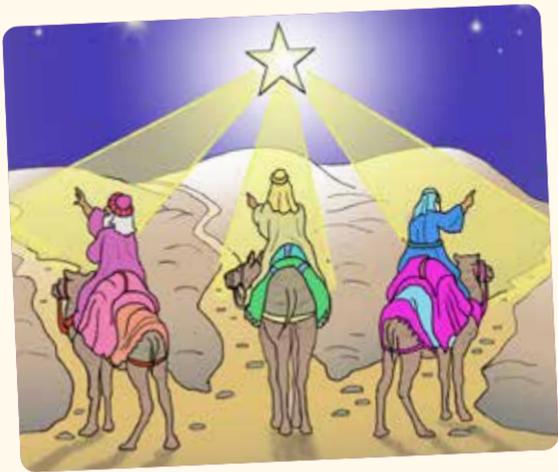


Jesus was born in a stable in Bethlehem when Herod was king in Jerusalem. One day, wise men from eastern lands came to speak to Herod, asking 'Where is the newborn King of the Jews? We have followed the Birth Star all the way here. We have come to worship him.'



Herod was frightened when he heard this and so was everyone else in Jerusalem.

He called a meeting of all the wise and religious scholars to find out where this Messiah was to be born. ❁ 'The prophet Micah wrote that it was to be Bethlehem,' they told him. ❁

Herod met again with the wise men, in secret. He found out more about their learning and in turn told them to go and search for the newborn King in Bethlehem. Herod also asked the wise men to come back to him and tell him exactly where the baby was to be found, 'So that I too may worship him.'

So, the wise men set off again, following the same star, and it led them to Bethlehem, right to the Christ-child. When they entered the place where the child and his mother Mary were, their hearts were overwhelmed with joy.

The wise men knelt down before him and worshipped indeed. Then they offered their precious gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. But when it was time for them to leave, the wise men went home by a different route, because God had warned them in a dream not to return to Herod. ❁

Matthew 2.1-12

❁ See *Share the Word*.