

Stained Glass Windows: Magi & Escape to Egypt

Who are the Magi?

1. Based on these verses, what do we learn about the Magi? See Daniel 2: 1-3, 10-11, 47-48. See also Deuteronomy 18:9-12?
2. In Numbers 24:17, Balaam utters this prophecy: “a star shall come out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel”. Commentaries believe that the magi linked the appearance of the star with a Jewish king, based on their familiarity with this prophecy. How might they have known of this prophecy? [Note: the star is referring to a king, not a heavenly event]

The Visit of the Magi (Matthew 2: 1-12)

Written Biblical Facts & Story Elements	Poor Man’s Bible-Window Elements
A. Setting:	Setting:
B. Characters:	Characters:
C. Name the action and the story descriptors:	Name the action and the window descriptors: (Include colors and shapes)
D. What does this story tell us about Jesus?	What does this window tell us about Jesus?
E. Describe the symbol in the lower section of the window. How does it relate to the story in the upper section of the window?	

One commentator felt that the three gifts were simply treasures fit for a king. Other commentators felt that there was symbolism involved with the three gifts. Gold suggests royalty and Jesus was King of the Jews. Incense (the frankincense) was used in temple worship, thus signifying Jesus' deity. Myrrh points to His suffering and death—myrrh mixed with wine was offered to Jesus on the cross and may have also been used as a burial spice.

3. What evidence do we have that the “Wise Men” might not be as wise as they were reputed to be?

4. If the star was a natural phenomenon (like a conjunction of the planets), then it would have appeared continuously in the sky. What evidence points to the star instead being a miraculous event (see verses 2 & 9)?

5. What did God use to guide the magi on their way to and from their visit with Jesus?

Escape to Egypt (Matthew 2: 13-18)

Written Biblical Facts & Story Elements	Poor Man's Bible-Window Elements
F. Setting:	Setting:
G. Characters:	Characters:
H. Name the action and the story descriptors:	Name the action and the window descriptors: (Include colors and shapes)
I. What does this story tell us about Jesus?	What does this window tell us about Jesus?
J. Describe the symbol in the lower section of the window. How does the symbol relate to the story in the upper section?	

6. Why Egypt? It has appeared before as a place of refuge. Herod had no jurisdiction there. Mary and Joseph would have fit right into a Jewish community since there were a number of Jews living there at the time. It also fulfills something that the prophet Hosea had said when he was reminding Israel about how graciously God had treated them in the past. Read Matthew 2:15b and Hosea 11:1-2.
 - a. How does Jesus fulfill this prophecy?

 - b. In another sense, Jesus is the new Israel—succeeding where the nation of Israel had failed. How is Jesus different from the Israel of the Old Testament?

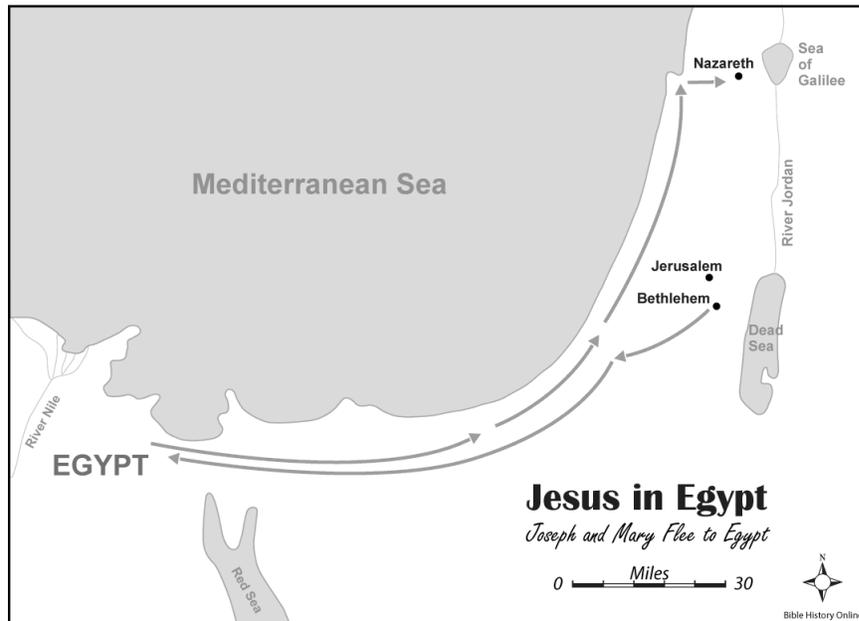
7. Jacob (later called Israel) had two wives. His favorite wife was Rachel, who gave birth to Joseph and Benjamin. Rachel died during Benjamin's birth and was buried on the way to Bethlehem, according to Genesis 35:16-19. Ramah is a town about 5 miles north of Jerusalem. What is the significance of the town of Ramah, according to Jeremiah 40:1?

8. Matthew quotes another passage from Jeremiah in Matthew 2:18.
 - a. Why was "Rachel weeping" at the time of Jeremiah?

 - b. How does this quote from Jeremiah apply to what is happening in Matthew 2?

Where was Jesus When the Magi Visited?

Most people assume, and perhaps rightly so, that the family was still in Bethlehem. Jeffrey Gibbs, the author of the Concordia Commentary on Matthew, has a different viewpoint. Forty days after giving birth, Mary and Joseph and Jesus traveled to Jerusalem for the purification rites. Luke 2:39 states: "And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth." When the magi met with Herod, they were directed to go to Bethlehem. Gibbs believes that when the star reappeared, it actually led them all the way to Nazareth—he doesn't think the star would have been needed to find the house in the small village of Bethlehem (which was only 6 miles away). He doesn't address why there was such urgency to leave after Joseph's dream if they were so far away.



Bible Verses

Daniel 2:1-3, 10-11, 47-48>>> In the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; his spirit was troubled, and his sleep left him. ² Then the king commanded that the magicians, the enchanters, the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans be summoned to tell the king his dreams. So they came in and stood before the king. ³ And the king said to them, “I had a dream, and my spirit is troubled to know the dream.” ¹⁰ The Chaldeans answered the king and said, “There is not a man on earth who can meet the king's demand, for no great and powerful king has asked such a thing of any magician or enchanter or Chaldean. ¹¹ The thing that the king asks is difficult, and no one can show it to the king except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh.” ⁴⁷ The king answered and said to Daniel, “Truly, your God is God of gods and Lord of kings, and a revealer of mysteries, for you have been able to reveal this mystery.” ⁴⁸ Then the king gave Daniel high honors and many great gifts, and made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon and chief prefect over all the wise men of Babylon.

Deuteronomy 18:9-12>>> ⁹ “When you come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you, you shall not learn to follow the abominable practices of those nations. ¹⁰ There shall not be found among you anyone who burns his son or his daughter as an offering, ^[a] anyone who practices divination or tells fortunes or interprets omens, or a sorcerer ¹¹ or a charmer or a medium or a necromancer or one who inquires of the dead, ¹² for whoever does these things is an abomination to the Lord. And because of these abominations the Lord your God is driving them out before you.

Hosea 11:1-2>>> When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son. ² The more they were called, the more they went away; they kept sacrificing to the Baals and burning offerings to idols.

Jeremiah 40:1>>> The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord after Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard had let him go from Ramah, when he took him bound in chains along with all the captives of Jerusalem and Judah who were being exiled to Babylon.

