

Week 1.

- What might be 'on the horizon' for you this year?
- Read Matthew 2:1-12
- What prompted the Wise Men (Magi) to visit Herod?
- Why did the scribes & pharisees not realise that Hosea's prophecy was being fulfilled?

[A Prophet] 'translates the gaze & the 'word of God' into the 'today' of time and history.'
[Bianchi : p11]

- What qualities did the Magi have that Herod's scribes and pharisees appeared to lack?
- 'The Wise Men were Gentiles, also wealthy, and they were scholars—scientists in their own right.' yet they had interpreted the 'signs' in the sky and were looking for answers (perhaps of a Spiritual nature) in an appropriate setting. Does this surprise you?
- The Magi were keen to worship the 'new born King' and were open to hearing from God about not returning via Jerusalem. What was Herod's response (v13 onwards)?
- Compile a list overleaf of words reflecting the contrasting responses from the Gentile Magi & the Jewish King Herod.
(e.g. Positive / Negative)
- How open are you to what may happen this coming year? Do have 'rigid' expectations? Or are you willing to surrender any preconceived ideas and embrace the unexpected?
- Close in prayer for one another.



New Beginnings : New Horizons

'vigilance is inner lucidity, intelligence, the ability to think critically, awareness of and involvement in the world.....'

[Words of Spirituality : Enzo Bianchi : 2012: p.11]

* [The Gospels: Be Loyal, Be Diligent, Be Compassionate, Be Courageous, Be Alive, and Be Transformed by Warren W. Wiersbe : Via Kindle]

The Magi's outlook was in stark contrast to that of Herod. They were looking for answers / meaning in life whereas Herod was looking to hold onto his power base in Jerusalem through Political / Violent means, perhaps fearing insignificance and vulnerability. He only ruled by the 'grace' of the Roman Occupiers so his position was already tenuous.

