

St Thomas Home Group Study

January 2023 - Week 2

Epiphany



The Study

Read the study passage: Matthew 2:1-12.

- Q1 What does 'Epiphany' mean?
- Q2 What do you think motivated the 'wise men' to journey so far from home to investigate another religion's Messiah?
- Q3 Why do you think King Herod and all Jerusalem were disturbed by the purpose of the Magi's journey?
- Q4 Why did Herod run to the chief priests and the scribes for answers?
- Q5 Do you think the 'star' was a supernova, or a comet, or a planetary conjunction, or doesn't it matter?
- Q6 How old was Jesus when the wise men arrived in Bethlehem?
- Q7 Where, and in what type of accommodation, did the Magi find Mary, Joseph and Jesus living when they arrived?
- Q8 What is the significance of the 'gifts' brought by the Magi to present to Jesus?
- Q9 What do the wise men teach us about worshipping Jesus?

What does this story mean for me?

- Q10 The wise men showed up to worship the new King, and they came bearing gifts. What gifts do you bring to God in worship?
- Q11 How have you experienced the peace that comes with loving God and living your life as an act of worship?

Epiphany

The Background

- Magi - plural, Magus - singular.
- Who were the Magi, and how many were there?

The Magi are thought to have been priests in Zoroastrianism, an ancient Persian (Iranian) religion. It is arguably the world's first monotheistic faith and is one of the oldest religions still in existence. It is based on the teachings of the prophet Zoroaster.

The Bible passage never states how many Magi there were, only that there were three gifts.

O God, who by the leading of a star
manifested your only Son
to the peoples of the earth:
Mercifully grant that we,
who know you now by faith,
may at last behold your glory face to face;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.

Common Worship - Collect for Epiphany