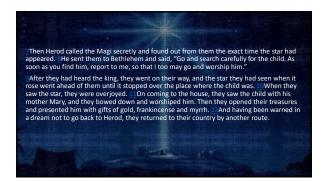


MATTHEW 2:1-12 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem 2and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

3When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. 4When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. 5"In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

<u>6"</u> 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.' (Micah 5:2-4)"





"THE DAYS of HEROD"

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of <u>Herod the king</u>, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem saying where is he that is <u>BORN</u> King of the Jews...v 23 Behold! The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call Him Immanue!" (which means, "God with us").

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. Is.7:14

A star will come out of Jacob;

a scepter will rise out of Israel. Num. 24:17





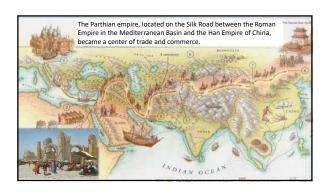


IRANIAN TRADITION

The Magi who visited the infant Jesus travelled from **Saveh**, and are buried among its ruins.



Marco Polo - Il Millione: In Persia is the city of Saveh, from which the Three Megi set out... and in this city they are buried, in three very large and beautiful monuments, side by side. And above them there is a square building, beautifully kept. The bodies are still entire, with hair and beard remaining. (1270 CE)







The king summoned the enchanters, <u>magi</u>, administers of potions and astrologers to tell him what he had dreamed.... the king was so angry and furious that he ordered the execution of all the vise men of Babylon. Dan 2:2, 12 (Septuagint)

Dan. 2:48 Then the king promoted Daniel ... He made him ruler over the entire province of Babylon and administrator over all the wise men of Babylon.



"Mordecai the Jew was second in

PARTHIAN PARLIAMENT (from 137 BC)

The parliament was of two parts:

- Wise men and Magi (from across the country)
- 2. Relatives of the royal family.

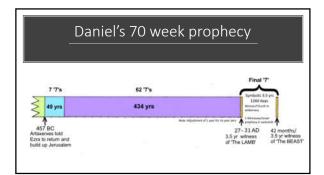
The Magi, in their dual priestly and governmental office, composed the upper house of the Council of the Megistanes (from which we get the term "magistrates"), whose duties included the absolute choice and election of the king of the realm.

Magi - "Parthian King Makers"

PARTHIAN KING MAKERS

Orodes III was raised to the throne of the Parthian Empire around AD 4 by the magnates (magistanes/magi) after the death of Phraates V. He was killed after a short reign "on account of his extreme cruelty". (Josephus)





Magi from the east Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been BORN King of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

When King Herod heard this <u>he was</u> troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.



"THE DAYS of HEROD" Parthia/Octavian/Marc Antony/Cleopatra

(Civil war in Rome – Parthian Wars)

73 BC Herod Born

69 BC Cleopatra born - mistress of Julius Caesar. Mistress then wife of Mark Antony – she funded his Parthian war which involved the capture of Jerusalem

Rejected by Herod



33 BC Cleopatra's visit to Herod (Herod was 40, Cleopatra was 36)

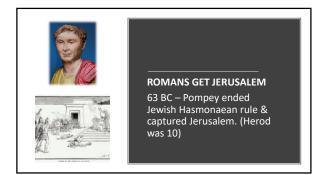
What more dramatic picture can we imagine in history?

imagine in history?

We hear that she actually attempted to seduce Herod, but failed, owing to his deep, devotion to his wife Mariamne. The prosaic Josephus adds that Herod consulted his council whether he should not put her to death for this attempt upon his virtue. He was dissuaded by them on the ground that Antony would listen to no arguments, not even from the most persuasive of the world's princes (Herod), and would take awful vengeance when he heard of her death. So she was escorted with great gifts and politenesses back to Egypt."

Plutarch [1st cent. Writer) Plutarch (1st cent. Writer)







47 BC Julius Caesar besieged in Alexandria – (Cleopatra his mistress). Antipater (father of Herod) rescued him and made Procurator of Judea

44 BC Julius Caesar assisinated

41 BCE, Herod and his brother Phasael named as Roman tetrarchs by Mark Antony-Phasael governor of Jerusalem-Herod of Galilee.



40 B.C Parthian invasion swept Romans out of Palestine. Herod fled to Egypt then Rome and with Marc Antony's support got himself proclaimed King of the Jews – A King without a Kingdom

40 BC – In Jerusalem - Parthian Megistanes (Magi) declared Antigonus (Jew) king and put him on the throne.

Parthians empowered the Jews

HEROD THE KING OF THE JEWS



Antigonus the King of the Jews





Herod's Alarm

Dan. 11:42 Tidings from the east and the north shall alarm him, and he shall go forth with great fury to exterminate and utterly destroy many.

EAST -News of King via Magi

Matt. 2:16. Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under."

NORTH

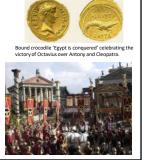
- 2 Sons plotting his murder
- Had them killed... then a 3^{rd} son and 300 of his supporters



WEALTH OF EGYPT GOES TO ROME

Daniel 11:43 He (Octavius the King of the North) shall become ruler of the treasures of gold and of silver, and all the precious things of Egypt; and the Libyans and the Ethiopians will follow in his train.

Octavius captured the riches of Egypt with his victory over Antony and Cleopatra. He celebrated his triumph in Rome in 29 BCE. His general, Cornelius Balbus, later took Libya and Ethiopia for Rome.



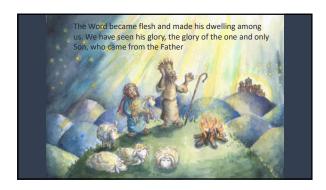
The Star?

"Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose in the east and have come to worship him."



He sent them to Bethlehem ...they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. 10When they saw the star, they were overjoyed.

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." Luke 2:8-12



HELENA – Mother of Constantine 326-328 CE Trip to Holy Land Age no barrier – 78-80 yrs old

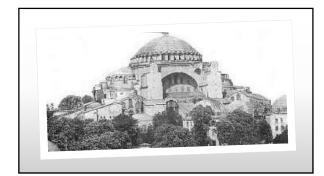
Where Jesus born (church of Nativity) Where Jesus ascended (chapel of ascension)

Place of burning bush Robe of Jesus

The True Cross Nails & rope

Remains of the Magi









The scene at Herod's palace must have been inimitable. The display of counter-fascinations between these two tigers, their voluptous natures mutually attracted; their hatred giving to each that deep interest in the other which so often turns to mutual passion while it incites to conjueuts; the grace and finish of their manners, conceoling a ruthless ferocity; the splendour of their appointments — what more dramatic picture can we imagine in history?

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INFANCY GOSPELS Revelation of the Magi(Magi from Shir – star becomes child - talks) — motivated by prophecy Arabic/Syriac Infancy Gospel - date uncertain— (miracles of Jesus as a boy – magi worship swaddling cloth)

There appeared to them an angel (messenger) in the form of that star which had before been their guide in their journey; the light of which they followed till they returned into their own country. Syriac Infancy Gospel 3:3 A star will come out of Jacob; a scepter will rise out of Israel. He will crush the foreheads of Moab, the skulls ^a of ∈ all the people of Sheth. ^a I&Edom will be conquered; Seir, his enemy, will be conquered,

Seir, his enemy, will be conquered, but Israel will grow strong. 19A ruler will come out of Jacob and destroy the survivors of the city." Num. 24:17