

A Move by Move and Event by Event Account of The Life of Christ

(Arranged chronologically)

#	The move of Jesus	Place	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
02	The Wise Men 博士 Visit of the Wise Men – Flight Into Egypt	Bethlehem 伯利恆	02:01-18			

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SCRIPTURE LISTING

Matthew 2:1-18
<p>¹Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, 當希律王的時候，耶穌生在猶太的伯利恆。有幾個博士從東方來到耶路撒冷，說：</p> <p>²Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. 那生下來作猶太人之王的在那裡？我們在東方看見他的星，特來拜他。</p> <p>³When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. 希律王聽見了，就心裡不安；耶路撒冷合城的人也都不安。</p> <p>⁴And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. 他就召齊了祭司長和民間的文士，問他們說：基督當生在何處？</p> <p>⁵And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet (<i>Micah 5:2, 2 Samuel 5:2</i>), 他們回答說：在猶太的伯利恆。因為有先知記著，說：</p> <p>⁶And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel. 猶大地的伯利恆阿，你在猶大諸城中並不是最小的；因為將來有一位君王要從你那裡出來，牧養我以色列民。</p> <p>⁷Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. 當下，希律暗暗的召了博士來，細問那星是甚麼時候出現的，</p> <p>⁸And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also. 就差他們往伯利恆去，說：你們去仔細尋訪那小孩子，尋到了，就來報信，我也好去拜他。</p>

Matthew 2:1-18

⁹When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was.

他們聽見王的話就去了。在東方所看見的那星忽然在他們前頭行，直行到小孩子的地方，就在上頭停住了。

¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.

他們看見那星，就大大的歡喜；

¹¹And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense and myrrh.

進了房子，看見小孩子和他母親馬利亞，就俯伏拜那小孩子，揭開寶盒，拿黃金、乳香、沒藥為禮物獻給他。

¹²And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.

博士因為在夢中被主指示不要回去見希律，就從別的路回本地去了。

¹³And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him.

他們去後，有主的使者向約瑟夢中顯現，說：起來！帶著小孩子同他母親逃往埃及，住在那裡，等我吩咐你；因為希律必尋找小孩子，要除滅他。

¹⁴When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt:

約瑟就起來，夜間帶著小孩子和他母親往埃及去，

¹⁵And was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet (*Hosea 11:1*), saying, Out of Egypt have I called my son.

住在那裡，直到希律死了。這是要應驗主藉先知所說的話，說：我從埃及召出我的兒子來。

¹⁶Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently inquired of the wise men.

希律見自己被博士愚弄，就大大發怒，差人將伯利恆城裡並四境所有的男孩，照著他向博士仔細查問的時候，凡兩歲以裡的，都殺盡了。

¹⁷Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet (*Jeremiah 31:15*), saying,

這就應了先知耶利米的話，說：

¹⁸In Rama was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, and would not be comforted, because they are not.

在拉瑪聽見號咷大哭的聲音，是拉結哭他兒女，不肯受安慰，因為他們都不在了。

List of Old Testament Quotations

Matthew 2:6 And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel. 猶大地的伯利恆阿，你在猶大諸城中並不是最小的；因為將來有一位君王要從你那裡出來，牧養我以色列民。	Micah 5:2 But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting. 伯利恆、以法他啊，你在猶大諸城中為小，將來必有一位從你那裡出來，在以色列中為我作掌權的；他的根源從亙古，從太初就有。	2 Samuel 5:2 Also in time past, when Saul was king over us, thou wast he that leddest out and broughtest in Israel: and the LORD said to thee, Thou shalt feed my people Israel, and thou shalt be a captain over Israel. 從前掃羅作我們王的時侯，率領以色列人出入的是你；耶和華也曾應許你說：你必牧養我的民以色列，作以色列的君。
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Note: Ephrathah, or Ephrath, is the ancient name for the town of Bethlehem, in Judah, in the southern part of the land of Israel. When the prophet Micah prophesizes in Micah 5:2 that the town of Bethlehem would be the birthplace of the Messiah, he refers to the town as "Bethlehem Ephrathah," to distinguish it from another town named Bethlehem in the northern part of Israel.

Matthew 2:15 And was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet (<i>Hosea 11:1</i>), saying, Out of Egypt have I called my son. 住在那裡，直到希律死了。這是要應驗主藉先知所說的話，說：我從埃及召出我的兒子來。	Hosea 11:1 When Israel was a child, then I loved him, and called my son out of Egypt. 以色列年幼的時候，我愛他，就從埃及召出我的兒子來。
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Matthew 2:18 In Rama was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, and would not be comforted, because they are not. 在拉瑪聽見號咷大哭的聲音，是拉結哭他兒女，不肯受安慰，因為他們都不在了。	Jeremiah 31:15 Thus saith the LORD; A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, and bitter weeping; Rahel weeping for her children refused to be comforted for her children, because they were not. 耶和華如此說：在拉瑪聽見號咷痛哭的聲音，是拉結哭他兒女，不肯受安慰，因為他們都不在了。
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CONNECTION

It is reasonable to suppose that the Holy Family may have returned to Bethlehem the same day Jesus was dedicated to the Lord in the temple. Being people of meager 貧弱的 circumstances, as was indicated by their offering of a pair of birds, would be sufficient reason for an immediate return.

At this point Luke turns the story over to Matthew and he alone continues it for quite some time. While Matthew presents the story of the wise men in the first verse after the presentation, it does not necessarily follow that they visited Herod immediately following this ceremony. But at whatever time this occurred, it indicates Herod's attitude and what he would have done if he had been informed about the Baby Jesus before He was brought to the temple.

Who the wise men were, where they came from, and how they got their information about the Baby King through a message from the stars, is not the matter of greatest interest in connection with the story, but because if there had been no wise men, there would have been no flight into Egypt nor other incidents which are woven into it, the story as a whole can not be disassociated from the early experiences of the Holy Family.

By the time the wise men arrived, which may have been as much as two years after Jesus' birth, Joseph and Mary were living in a "house," (Mt. 2:11) presumably with a relative, because practically all members of the House of Judah in Bethlehem were related.

Matthew 2:11	And when they were come into the <u>house</u> , they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense and myrrh. 進了房子，看見小孩子和他母親馬利亞，就俯伏拜那小孩子，揭開寶盒，拿黃金、乳香、沒藥為禮物獻給他。
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DISCUSSION

Bethlehem, the town glorified in history as the birthplace of Jesus, has about 10,000 inhabitants, and is located five miles south of Jerusalem. It is just off the main road to Hebron. It is surrounded by a fertile country which produces an abundance of corn, figs, and olives. During the time of David, Bethlehem occupied a place of importance in the history of Israel. Because of the position of the town, which is one of natural strength, it was occupied by a garrison of the Philistines (2 Sam. 23:14; 1 Chron. 11:16), and was fortified by Rehoboam (2 Chron. 11:5-6). . . . Ruth, famous chiefly as the ancestress of David and of the Messiah, settled in Bethlehem with her second husband, Boaz; from her home she could view the mountains of Moab, her native land.... David, himself, was the son of that Ephrathite of Bethlehem-Judah, whose name was Jesse. . . . To Bethlehem came Samuel to anoint a successor to unworthy King Saul. "David went to and fro from Saul to feed his father's sheep at Bethlehem." (1 Sam. 17:15)

Bethlehem was occupied by a garrison of the Philistines

2 Samuel 23:14	1 Chronicles 11:16
And David was then in an hold, and the garrison of the Philistines was then in Bethlehem. 那時大衛在山寨，非利士人的防營在伯利恆。	And David was then in the hold, and the Philistines' garrison was then at Bethlehem. 那時大衛在山寨，非利士人的防營在伯利恆。

2 Chronicles 11:5-6	And Rehoboam dwelt in Jerusalem, and built cities for defence in Judah. He built even Bethlehem, and Etam, and Tekoa, 羅波安住在耶路撒冷，在猶大地修築城邑，為保障修築伯利恆、以坦、提哥亞、
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1 Samuel 17:15	But David went and returned from Saul to feed his father's sheep at Bethlehem. 大衛有時離開掃羅，回伯利恆放他父親的羊。
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After the time of David, Bethlehem sank into insignificance, but her future fame was pointed out in Micah 5:2: "But thou Bethlehem Ephratah, which art little to be among the thousands of Judah, out of thee shall one come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel." (R.V.)

Micah 5:2	But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting. 伯利恆、以法他啊，你在猶大諸城中為小，將來必有一位從你那裡出來，在以色列中為我作掌權的；他的根源從亙古，從太初就有。
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The brief record that we have concerning the birth of Jesus tells of a very interesting visit by some strange characters, whose real title was that of Magi. The Magi were a priestly class among the Babylonians, Persians, and other peoples of the East. They had no lust for world power and no ear for the sound of clashing swords. Their contribution to man's development lay mainly in the realm of spiritual achievements. Their aim and endeavor was to uncover the secrets of nature, divination, astrology, and medicine. The chief source of their knowledge was the clear starlit vault蒼穹 of their oriental sky. It was while some of them were searching the pages of this book in an effort to secure a new revelation of truth from the eternal God, that their eyes fell upon the light of a new star.

This was infinitely more than just another star. To these men it was the announcement of God that the long promised and expected Messiah had been born. With hearts throbbing with joy they set out to follow its light to His cradle. Probably these men were familiar with the Jewish expectations of a coming Messiah who would be their deliverer. Jewish synagogues had been established throughout the East and exerted使受(影響) a wide influence. The belief widely held in Jewish circles, that the birth of the Messiah was imminent逼近眼前的, together with the general belief that the birth of unusually great men was accompanied by signs in the heavens, would be sufficient to account for the journey of the "wise men."([Mt. 2:1](#))

Matthew 2:1	Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came <u>wise men</u> from the east to Jerusalem, 當希律王的時候，耶穌生在猶太的伯利恆。有幾個博士從東方來到耶路撒冷，說：
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In the heart of these regions to the east of Palestine, wise men were feeling after God "if haply they might find him," ([Acts 17:27](#)) and when the light of that strange new star suddenly blazed in the heavens before them, their hunger to better know God was intensified and they were led out like Abraham of old to a place they knew not where.

Acts 17:27	That they should seek the Lord, <u>if haply they might</u> feel after him, and <u>find him</u> , though he be not far from every one of us: 要叫他們尋求神，或者可以揣摩而得，其實他離我們各人不遠；
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Having been led by the star to the vicinity_{附近} of Jerusalem, they concluded that the proper place to secure definite information concerning the new king was in the household of the royal family, so they went to Herod, the king. However, Herod and the Jews of Jerusalem were quite ignorant of the birth of the Messiah. The people who considered themselves as the favorites of God were so deeply engrossed_{埋頭} in the regular routine of their religious ceremonies and daily living that they completely missed all of the signs that might have informed them of the greatest event in their history. Their first inkling_{暗示} that anything of unusual significance had happened was revealed to them by strangers, who had learned of it from afar and had come to pay reverence to the new-born King of the Jews.

It seems to us that the query, "Where is he that is born King of the Jews, for we have seen his star in the east and are come to worship him?" (Mt. 2:2) should have sent a thrill of joy through the heart of every Jew, but the immediate result was the filling of their hearts with fear. And well might the hearts of the people of Jerusalem be troubled, for Herod, only about two years before this, had slain some of the leading Pharisees as a result of jealous fear. There was good reason to expect that he would resort_{使用} to the use of severe measures in an effort to dispose_{除掉} of One who might become a claimant_{索取者} to the throne.

Matthew 2:2	Saying, Where is he that is born <u>King of the Jews</u> ? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. 那生下來作猶太人之王的在那裡?我們在東方看見他的星,特來拜他。
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At times, when it best suited his purpose, Herod was religious. When wicked men scent_{察覺} trouble, they often feign_{裝作} piety. The inquiry of the Wise Men had given Herod the information that somewhere in his kingdom was a Child whom travelers from afar had saluted as "King of the Jews." (Mt. 2:2) Where this young King was or how strong His following, Herod knew not. So it were better to move slowly and warily_{謹慎}. Therefore, when investigation revealed that Bethlehem had been prophesied as the birthplace of the Messiah, Herod directed the Wise Men to hasten on their way and when they had found the Child to bring him word, that he also might pay homage_{表示敬意} to Him.

As was the Eastern custom not to approach monarchs and princes without a gift, the Magi brought to Jesus the most costly gifts of the country in which they lived, as if to show that nothing is too precious to be used in the service of God.

Though the Magi did not have knowledge of His divinity, or of the future suffering which Jesus would endure for humanity's sake, their gifts have been mystically interpreted as follows: **Gold**, symbolizing His royalty; **Frankincense**, His divinity_{神性}; **Myrrh**, His passion.

God had not sent His son into the world to fall a prey to Herod's jealousy before He had even begun His work of human deliverance. So the Father, who had sent a star to guide the feet of the Magi to the cradle of the Christ-child, now used a dream to reveal to them the real purpose of Herod and to send them home by a different way.

After the departure of the visitors from the East, a dream also carried the warning to Joseph and Mary of the danger threatening the child and directed them to go to Egypt for His safety. Egypt was the nearest and most accessible place of refuge from Bethlehem. It was outside the dominion of Herod and contained a large population of Jews.

When the diabolical_{兇暴的} plans of wicked men are thwarted_{阻撓} in one direction, they always look for another way by which to accomplish their dastardly *(mean, sneaky)* purpose. So Herod, when he discovered that

the Wise Men had avoided him, was "exceeding wroth."([Mt. 2:16](#)) Thus being unable to actually lay hands upon the Christ-child to dispose of him, Herod decided to destroy all male children of Bethlehem who came within the possible range of the age of the new king. This incident is in perfect accord with what we know of Herod's character. During the later years of his life he was afflicted with a painful disease and a thirst for blood amounting almost to insanity. Among his many victims were his most tenderly beloved wife, Mariamne, and three of his own sons.

Matthew 2:16	Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was <u>exceeding wroth</u> , and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently inquired of the wise men. 希律見自己被博士愚弄，就大大發怒，差人將伯利恆城裡並四境所有的男孩，照著他向博士仔細查問的時候，凡兩歲以裡的，都殺盡了。
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The sojourn^{寄居} of Joseph and his family in Egypt was for a short time, as Herod died not long after this incident. It has been hinted that the intention of Joseph was to return to Bethlehem and make that his home as the most appropriate place for the bringing up of the Messiah. But it was ordained in the providence of God that the despised Galilee was to be His boyhood home; so they returned to Joseph's home in Nazareth, an unimportant village of Galilee.

MEDITATION

If we are wise we will look for humanity's redemption by spiritual means—not economic, political or military.

The Star of the East, and the Bible prophecies, both led to Bethlehem and to Jesus. Nature and Scripture alike testify of Him.

Herod's fearful fury and reckless slaughter of the innocents are typical of the Satanic world-rule, with its wars and persecutions.

Herod and all the city of Jerusalem were "troubled" when they heard of Jesus. ([Mt. 2:3](#)) Here is the picture of every heart. The human heart is filled with self and with the desire to please this self. When Jesus comes the whole city of man's heart is troubled with its Herod self. It doesn't want to be troubled, doesn't want its way changed. Herod does not want to be dethroned. But Jesus stands at the door and knocks. And no greater joy can the human heart have than that supping with Jesus when the door is opened to Him. ([Rev. 3:20](#)) Don't kick against the pricks ([Acts 9:5; 26:14](#)); let the star guide you to the lowly Jesus, where in abasement before Him you offer Him the gifts of your heart.

...were "troubled"

Matthew 2:3	When Herod the king had heard these things, he was <u>troubled</u> , and all Jerusalem with him. 希律王聽見了，就心裡不安；耶路撒冷合城的人也都不安。
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Jesus stands at the door and knocks

Revelation 3:20	Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. 看哪，我站在門外叩門，若有聽見我聲音就開門的，我要進到他那裡去，我與他他與我一同坐席。
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Acts 9:5	Acts 26:14
And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks. 他說：主阿！你是誰？主說：我就是你所逼迫的耶穌。	And when we were all fallen to the earth, I heard a voice speaking unto me, and saying in the Hebrew tongue, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks. 我們都仆倒在地，我就聽見有聲音用希伯來話向我說：掃羅！掃羅！為甚麼逼迫我？你用腳踢刺是難的！

FROM THE GREEK: The "diligently" of v. 8, comes from the adjective "exact, careful." Herod's advice is good for all. In seeking spiritual things we should not be haphazard (*lack of order or planning*), spiritless.

Matthew 2:8	And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also. 就差他們往伯利恆去，說：你們去仔細尋訪那小孩子，尋到了，就來報信，我也好去拜他。
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STUDY

If the "wise men" arrived after Jesus had been dedicated in Jerusalem, then Jesus was more than forty days old when the wise men got there, and of course they did not meet the shepherds around the "manger" as most Christmas cantatas 清唱劇 picture them. Is there anything in the story to indicate that they did not arrive until Jesus was nearly two years old? (vs. 7) Who in your opinion were these "wise men"? Where do you think they came from? Does the record say how many men there were? Could their conviction have been created by some arrangement of stars in the heavens, or was it a single star that did it? How do you think this star indicated that a "King of the Jews" had been born? Why do you suppose they did not know more details about who, what, and where He was? Would you be willing to travel a great distance on information read from a physical star without at least some details? If they were divinely led, why did they run into that vicious Herod, the very man they apparently should have avoided? How do you suppose the birth of Jesus had been kept a secret from this blood-thirsty Herod for all this time, when Bethlehem was only four or five miles away? How did the king get the information the wise men asked for? Were they aware at this time that Herod was a jealous deceiver? When and how did the wise men find this out? If God provided a way for them to escape Herod's wrath, then may He not have given them some specific information aside from the message from the stars, before they left their own country? And yet, would you be more willing to trust the message of a dream than that of a star? Why did God permit the horrible slaughter of Bethlehem babies? Do you think God might have arranged some other method of saving Jesus' life, and at the same time these children also? Do you think Jer. 31:15 is a prediction of this murderous event? Aside from Joseph's dream was there any apparent supernatural interference to save Jesus other than might have been used in the experience of the most commonplace child? And yet Jesus became the most outstanding character of all ages. His gracious influence upon the hearts of men has lived on, and He shall ever be the Saviour of the world.

Matthew 2:7	Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. 當下，希律暗暗的召了博士來，細問那星是甚麼時候出現的，
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Matthew 2:18	Jeremiah 31:15
In Rama was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, and would not be comforted, because they are not. 在拉瑪聽見號咷大哭的聲音，是拉結哭他兒女，不肯受安慰，因為他們都不在了。	Thus saith the LORD; A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, and bitter weeping; Rahel weeping for her children refused to be comforted for her children, because they were not. 耶和華如此說：在拉瑪聽見號咷痛哭的聲音，是拉結哭他兒女，不肯受安慰，因為他們都不在了。

Thoughts to Ponder

(Selected Quotes from the Lesson)

- “In the heart of these regions to the east of Palestine, wise men were feeling after God "if haply they might find him," (Acts 17:27) and when the light of that strange new star suddenly blazed in the heavens before them, *their hunger to better know God was intensified* and they were led out like Abraham of old to a place they knew not where.” *(page 5)*
- “The people who considered themselves as the favorites of God were so deeply engrossed埋頭 in the regular routine of their religious ceremonies and daily living that they completely missed all of the signs that might have informed them of the greatest event in their history.” *(page 6)*
- “As was the Eastern custom not to approach monarchs and princes without a gift, the Magi brought to Jesus the most costly gifts of the country in which they lived, as if to show that *nothing is too precious to be used in the service of God.*” *(page 6)*
- “*The human heart is filled with self and with the desire to please this self.* When Jesus comes the whole city of man's heart is troubled with its Herod self. It doesn't want to be troubled, doesn't want its way changed. Herod does not want to be dethroned. But Jesus stands at the door and knocks. *And no greater joy can the human heart have than that supping with Jesus when the door is opened to Him.*” *(page 7)*

REVIEW

Questions	Answers
1. Who came to King Herod in Jerusalem soon after Jesus had been dedicated there?	The Wise Men
2. What were these men?	Magi
3. What inquiry did they make?	Where is he that is born king of the Jews
4. What did Herod do about it?	Demand from the chief priests and scribes where Christ should be born
5. Where did the chief priests and scribes say that "Christ should be born" according to the prophets?	Bethlehem
6. What did Herod then demand the Magi should do?	To find the baby and then report back to him
7. Do you think they were aware at this time Herod was lying about it?	No
8. When the wise men found Jesus at Bethlehem, what did they do?	They worship him and present him gifts
9. Why did they not return to Herod as he had requested?	They were warned in a dream not to return to Herod
10. What did Herod then do?	Herod was exceeding wrath
11. How did Jesus escape the king's wrath with His life?	Joseph was warned in a dream to escape right away
12. Do the words, "two years," indicate to you that Jesus was that old at this time?	Yes
13. What did Jeremiah, the prophet, say about this incident?	Rachel wept for her children for they were not
14. Picture the flight of the Holy Family into Egypt: How they got there (150 miles)?	
15. What excuse they had to offer the authorities?	
16. How long they were there? How they made a living?	Not too long. They made a living using the gifts from Magi
17. What was their signal for leaving the country?	The death of King Herod
18. How did they receive the message?	They received the message through an angel of the Lord in a dream to Joseph.
19. Which writer records this lesson?	Matthew

