

# Feast of the Epiphany (Matthew 2:1-12)

Gifts of the Magi: What do they offer the Christ Child Jesus, as King?

Jesus as Priest, Prophet and King: ***Priest-Incense, Gold-King, and Myrrh-Prophet***

Psalm 72:10-11 "May the kings of Tarshish and the islands bring tribute, the kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts. May all kings bow before him, all nations serve him."

Isaiah 60:6 "Caravans of camels shall cover you, dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; All from Sheba shall come bearing gold and frankincense, and heralding the praises of the LORD."

1 Kings 10:10 "Then she gave the king one hundred and twenty **gold talents**, a very large **quantity of spices**, and precious stones. Never again did anyone bring such an **abundance of spices** as the queen of Sheba gave to King Solomon."

Mark 14:3 "woman came with an alabaster jar of perfumed oil, costly genuine spikenard. She broke the alabaster jar and poured it on his head."... *onto verse 8*... She has anticipated anointing my body for burial."

John 19:39 "And there came also Nicodemus, which at the first came to Jesus by night, and brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pound weight."

??Mark 15:23 "And they gave him to drink wine mingled with myrrh: but he received it not."

*Interesting Note:* Three gifts, not necessarily limited to only three wise men.

*While we are at it,* When did they arrive? Traditional Church celebrates their arrival on January 6 (12<sup>th</sup> Day of Christmas), but might they have arrived even later than that?

Matthew 2:1 "When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in **Jerusalem**" (*No exact date or timing of days between*)

Matthew 2:7 "Then Herod called the magi secretly and ascertained from them the time of the star's appearance" & Matthew 2:9-11 "After their audience with the king they set out. And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was. They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother...." to Bethlehem?

Matthew 2:16 "He ordered the massacre of all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity **two years old and under...**"

**Numbers 24:17** "*I see him, though not now; I observe him, though not near: **A star shall advance from Jacob**, and a scepter shall rise from Israel,*"

**Numbers 12:6** "*And he said, "Hear my words: If there is a prophet among you, I the Lord make myself known to him in a vision; **I speak with him in a dream**"*"

**Joel 3:1** "*It shall come to pass. I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions."*"

## Four Dreams of St Joseph

First dream: In Matthew 1:20–21, Joseph is told not be afraid to take Mary as his wife, because she has conceived by the Holy Spirit.

Second dream: In Matthew 2:13, Joseph is warned to leave Bethlehem and flee to Egypt.

Third dream: In Matthew 2:19–20, while in Egypt, Joseph is told that it is safe to go back to Israel.

Fourth dream: In Matthew 2:22, because he had been warned in a dream, Joseph awakens to depart for the region of Galilee instead of going to Judea.

## OT Namesake for St Joseph, is also a Dreamer & Interpreter of Dreams

Genesis 37:6-7 “Joseph said to his brothers, “Listen to this dream I had. There we were, binding sheaves in the field, when suddenly my sheaf rose to an upright position, and your sheaves formed a ring around my sheaf and bowed down to it.”

Genesis 37:9 “Then he had another dream, and told it to his brothers. “Look, I had another dream,” he said; “this time, the sun and the moon and eleven stars were bowing down to me.”

Genesis 37:19 “They said to one another: “Here comes *that dreamer!*”

MUCH LATER: Genesis 42:8-9 “When Joseph recognized his brothers, although they did not recognize him, he was reminded of the dreams he had about them”

Genesis 40:6-8 “When Joseph came to them in the morning, he saw that they looked disturbed. So he asked Pharaoh’s officials who were with him in custody in his master’s house, “Why do you look so troubled today?” They answered him, “We have had dreams, but there is no one to interpret them.” Joseph said to them, “Do interpretations not come from God? Please tell me the dreams.” (*Cupbearer does ok--good, but Baker gets impaled--bad*)

Genesis 41:8 “Next morning his mind was agitated. So Pharaoh had all the magicians and sages of Egypt summoned and recounted his dream to them; but there was no one to interpret it for him.” Or were they afraid to?

Genesis 41:15-16 “Pharaoh then said to Joseph: “I had a dream but there was no one to interpret it. But I hear it said of you, ‘If he hears a dream he can interpret it.’” “It is not I,” Joseph replied to Pharaoh, “but God who will respond for the well-being of Pharaoh.”

Genesis 41:25 “Joseph said to Pharaoh: “Pharaoh’s dreams have the same meaning. God has made known to Pharaoh what he is about to do.”

## Another Prophetic Interpreter of Dreams - Daniel

Daniel 2:1-3, 8-10 “In the second year of his reign, King Nebuchadnezzar had a dream which left his spirit no rest and robbed him of his sleep. So he ordered that the magicians, enchanters, sorcerers, and Chaldeans be summoned to interpret the dream for him. When they came and presented themselves to the king, he said to them, “I had a dream which will allow my spirit no rest until I know what it means....” Verse 8 “But the king replied: “I know for certain that you are bargaining for time, since you know what I have decided. If you do not tell me the dream, there can be but one decree for you. You have conspired to present a false and deceitful interpretation to me until the crisis is past. Tell me the dream, therefore, that I may be sure that you can also give its correct interpretation.” The Chaldeans answered the king: “There is not a man on earth who can do what you ask, O king; never has any king, however great and mighty, asked such a thing of any magician, enchanter, or Chaldean.

Daniel 2:25 “Arioch said to the king, “I have found a man among the Judean exiles who can give the interpretation to the king.”

Daniel 2:27-31 “In the king’s presence Daniel made this reply: “The mystery about which the king has inquired, the wise men, enchanters, magicians, and diviners could not explain to the king. But there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries, and he has shown King Nebuchadnezzar what is to happen in the last days; this was your dream, the visions you saw as you lay in bed. To you in your bed there came thoughts about what should happen in the future, and he who reveals mysteries showed you what is to be. To me also this mystery has been revealed; not that I am wiser than any other living person, but in order that its meaning may be made known to the king, that you may understand the thoughts of your own mind. “In your vision, O king, you saw a statue, very large and exceedingly bright, terrifying in appearance as it stood before you.....”

Daniel 5:11-12 (Handwriting on Wall Interpretation) “The queen said, “There is a man in your kingdom in whom is a spirit of the holy gods; during the lifetime of your father he showed brilliant insight and god-like wisdom. King Nebuchadnezzar, your father, made him chief of the magicians, enchanters, Chaldeans, and diviners. Because this Daniel.....has shown an extraordinary spirit, knowledge, and insight in interpreting dreams, explaining riddles and solving problems, let him now be summoned to tell you what this means.”