

“The Wise Men from the East and the Flight into Egypt”

Joseph Ratzinger, Jesus of Nazareth: The Infancy Narratives (2012)

1. *Wise Men from the East*

Read and discuss > Matthew 2.1-12 and Isaiah 60.1-9

1.1. Historical and geographical framework

Why are Bethlehem and Judea mentioned? (vs 6) See Genesis 49.10, Numbers 24.17

1.2. Who were these Magi?

Persian priestly caste; philosophers; magicians; deceivers; seekers after truth. See Acts 13.10
How did these magi become kings with camels? See Psalm 72.10; Isaiah 60.1-9

1.3. And what about that star?

Nature points to Christ; the Holy Scriptures are needed; then astrology came to an end. “It is not the star that determines the child’s destiny, it is the child that directs the star.” (Ratzinger, p. 101)

1.4. Why was Jerusalem in turmoil?

2. *Flight into Egypt*

Read and discuss: Matthew 2.13-23

2.1 What sort of person was Herod?

2.2 How was Jesus the fulfilment of “out of Egypt have I called my son?” (Hosea 11.1-2)

2.3 What is the meaning of “He shall be called a Nazarene”? See also John 19.19.

From Nazareth?

A Nazarene?

A “nezer” - a shoot? See Isaiah 11.1-2

