



# The Wise Men

Matthew 2: 1-12



## Why did Matthew include?

❖ To state/emphasise Gospel theme

- Jesus is King of the Jews; Messiah; Deliverer
- “A record of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, son of (king) David”
- Born in Bethlehem, King David’s home town
- “Out of you – Bethlehem - will come a ruler to shepherd Israel” (Micah 5:2)



## Who were the Wise Men?

- **Priests/Philosophers/Advisors - Persian(?)**
- ❖ **For Matthew they represent**
- **The world's spiritual and intellectual elite BUT**
- **They willingly “bow down (= prostrate themselves) and worship”**
- **Wise people today still seek out Jesus**



## What did their (precious) gifts mean?

- ❖ **Gold: a royal “standard” - authority/kingship**
  - ❖ **Frankincense – symbol of God’s presence**
    - Also: the gift of priests to “the great high priest”
- Hebrews 10: 19-20**
- ❖ **Myrrh – associated with pain and death; how Jesus achieved his saving work for us**
- Are we also enthusiastic in our worship?**



**Their guiding star? Our guiding star?**

- **Spiritual illumination - not star gazing**

**Where to find guidance?**

- **Obedience to and trust in God**
- **Reflect on God's Word**

**“God has.....spoken by his Son.” Heb. 1: 2-3.**

**“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.” Psalm 119:105.**