

Did ‘Three Wise Men’ visit Jesus as a newborn?

Members of many churches observe Jan. 6 as the Epiphany, commemorating the coming of the Magi to visit the newborn Jesus.

Some view the gift-giving at Christmas as being in imitation of the Magi or “Three Wise Men.” Are these views in line with what the Bible teaches? Who were the Magi, and when did they visit Jesus? Were there three of them?

The account of when the Magi came to visit Jesus is found in Matthew chapter 2. Verses 1, 2 say, “After Jesus had been born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, look! astrologers from eastern parts came to Jerusalem, saying, ‘Where is the one born king of the Jews? For we saw his star (when we were) in the east, and we have come to do him obeisance.’”

Verses 11, 12 say, “When they went into the house they saw the young child with Mary its mother, and, falling down, they did obei-



sharon corcoran

- use it or lose it

sance to it. They also opened their treasures and presented it with gifts, gold, frankincense and myrrh. However, because they were given divine warning in a dream not to return to Herod, they withdrew to their country by another way.”

The Bible does not say how many Magi went to see Jesus. *The Catholic Encyclopedia* says, “the gospel accounts omit to mention the number of Magi... traditions include up to 12.”

Why do many feel there were three? Most likely because three types of gifts were presented. Is that a sound reason to believe they were presented by “Three Wise Men”?

1 Kings 10:2 says of the Queen of Sheba’s visit to King Solomon: “Finally she arrived at Jerusalem with a very impressive train, camels carrying balsam oil and very much gold and precious stones.”

There was only one queen, but she brought three types of gifts, the specific quantities not being mentioned. Any number of people could bring any number of gifts.

La Nueva Biblia Latinoamericana 1989 edition says, “the Magi were not kings, but fortune-tellers and priests of a pagan religion.”

La Sagrada Escritura — Texto y comentario por profesores de la Compañía de Jesús (The Holy Scriptures — Text and Commentary by Professors of the Company of Jesus) says that “among the Persians, Medes and Chaldeans, the Magi formed a priestly class that

promoted occult sciences, astrology and medicine.”

In line with their knowledge of the stars, it was a star they followed. But the star did not lead them directly to Jesus; it took them first to Herod, who then devised a plot to kill this young king.

So, the star was not from God but from someone who wanted Jesus killed. Also, the Magi did not visit Jesus as an infant.

Notice from Matthew 2:11 that they visited the “young child” in a “house.” Jesus was born in a stable and laid in a manger; by the time the Magi arrived, he was a child at home, not a newborn.

After the Magi returned home by another way, rather than report back to Herod, he came up with a plot to be sure to kill Jesus.

Matthew 2:16 says, “Then Herod, seeing he had been outwitted by the astrologers, fell into a great rage, and he sent out and had all the boys in Bethlehem and in all

its districts done away with, from two years of age under, according to the time that he had carefully ascertained from the astrologers.”

Herod did not know the exact location of Jesus, just that he was in the area. But he did not expect Jesus to be a newborn; he expected a young child, possibly as old as 2.

As for the choice of dates to celebrate Christmas and the Epiphany, Pope John Paul II said in 1993 regarding Dec. 25: “On that day in pagan antiquity, the birthday of the ‘Invincible Sun’ was celebrated to coincide with the winter solstice. It seem logical and natural to Christians to replace that feast with the celebration of the only and true Sun, Jesus Christ.”

A press release from the Vatican said, “Much evidence leads us to believe that the choice of Jan. 6, like that of Dec. 25... was also influenced by a pagan anniversary. In Alexandria, on the night between Jan. 5 and 6, pagans used to cel-

ebrate the birthday of the god Aeon (god of time and eternity).”

Could traditions filled with falsehood and patterned after pagan traditions be acceptable to Christians?

Matthew 15:3 says, “In reply he (Jesus) said to them: ‘Why is it you overstep the commandment of God because of your tradition?’”

John 17:17 says, “Sanctify them by means of the truth; your word is truth.”

Jesus told his disciples at Matthew 28:19, 20, “Go therefore and make disciples of people of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the holy spirit, teaching them to observe all the things I have commanded you.”

Jesus did not teach his followers to observe men’s commandments, but rather God’s teachings of truth from the Bible.

Drug store moved; new location was ‘elegant, an ornament to city’

By Evelyn Ward

Sherman County Historical Society
January 1, 1905: Arensberg & Cullen Moved Their Drug Stock Into the Daylight Brick —

Arensberg & Cullen moved into their new store the first of the week.

They have everything well arranged, and the store throughout is elegant — indeed, it would be an ornament to any city or large town in Kansas. The furniture, shelving and counters are all new and of the finest style and material.

The second floor is now complete and has ten good-sized rooms, opening on the hallway, which has a skylight and front and rear entrance, and every suite of rooms is well lighted both from the hallway and large windows opening on daylight.

today in history

Drs. Smith, Gulick and Harvey have nice suites of rooms in the second floor, which was approached by an easy stairway guarded by an elegant balustrade.

Perry Coler will occupy the rear suite of rooms, and Kolacny has been talking of taking the remaining suite of rooms.

Over every door is a large transom, the rooms are beautifully decorated by the paper hanger’s art, and the wood work is of hard pine, dressing hard oil and varnish. The building above and below is a credit to the enterprise of the owners and an ornament to the town.

January 2, 1905: AD —

ARENSBERG & CULLEN Drug-gists — Clearance Sale — A CLEAN SWEEP of all our toilet and fancy articles is what we intend.

We can readily understand why we do not care to carry them over. But you cannot fail to be surprised at our drastic method of getting rid of them. SUCH PRICES for fine merchandise of this description were never heard of before. Come early and get your share of the best things.

January 3, 1905: AD — W.S. COLEMAN HARDWARE AND HARNESS — A Decorated Horse — Your horse needs to have stylish harness, as it goes toward making

the horse look well.

We have a large line of Harness, Blankets, Robes, etc. Even though you may not need any now, perhaps our prices would be an inducement for you to buy. Call in and see if there is not something you need.

January 4, 1905: Women to Make Trouble for the Men — There is trouble ahead for the men. Mrs. C.W. Foulks has begun a suffrage crusade on new lines.

“If any would not work, neither shall he eat,” said the apostle. If a man won’t vote for woman suffrage, says Mrs. Foulks, let him get is own meals.

She has the brute corned there. The threat not to make the bed or to leave the house unswept and undusted would have been in vain. The man would simply stay away

from home as much as possible.

But he is bound to eat. Starvation will bring him to terms in a hurry. There is no use opposing Mrs. Foulks’ plan. The hand that sets the table is the hand that rules the world.

January 5, 1905: Penalty Will Be Added — On all real estate tax, unpaid, a penalty of 5 percent will be added starting on December 21. Pay now and save money. I. Warner, County Treasurer.

January 6, 1905: The board of county commissioners of Sherman County, composed of J.W. Germann, B.F. Brown and N.E. Albertson convened Monday and Tuesday to finish up the business of the old board.

These gentlemen have kept a close watch upon the business affairs of the county, and the retiring members have been honored and respected by their constituency.

The new board, which meets for organization Jan. 9, is composed of W.A. Sexson, J.W. Klauer and N.E. Albertson. These gentlemen are from our most substantial citizens and enjoy the respect and confidence of all the people of Sherman County.

From weekly issues of The Goodland News, provided by the Sherman County Historical Society. Since the paper was published weekly, some items were arbitrarily assigned a date.

Arts council elects new members, gives away basket

The Goodland Arts Council elected new members and officers at its annual meeting, raised \$2,000 with the Holiday Home Tour and gave away a Christmas gift basket in December.

Carnegie Arts Center Director Tina Goodwin said the 154 home tour tickets set a record. Wal-Mart matched the council’s fund-raising efforts with a \$1,000 grant, she said,

and provided cookies for the reception at the arts center.

Avis Alcorn, a long-time council supporter, won the Christmas basket, Goodwin said. Every year, she said, the board donates items for the basket and each year seems to outdo the last.

The board’s new officers are Karen Ginther, president; Kin Huang, vice president; Juli Shelley,

secretary; and Michelle Shoff, treasurer. New board members are George Adelgren, Dana Fulcher, Charla Miller, Tom Purvis and Kay Younger. They replace outgoing members Duane Hanke, Toni Hoss, Gracia Maricle, Joan Reid and Elwyn Vatcher.

Members are serve three-year terms and must leave the board for at least a year after two terms.

The council is doing its membership drive, Goodwin said, adding that Sherman County residents has sustained an active group for more than 25 years. It takes everyone to keep the arts alive in a community, she said.

The center and gift gallery will be open in January, but there is no artist featured. The February show will be elementary art.

matters of record

District Traffic

The following fines were paid in the Sherman County District Court: **Dec. 15** — Valerie J. Rowland, 45, Colorado Springs, \$90 for speeding.

Lesla D. Crow, 43, Piedmont, S.D., \$120 for speeding.

Bud C. White, 66, Commerce City, Colo., \$108 for over weight limits on wheels and axles.

Dec. 16 — Matthew P. Rice, 22, Prairie Village, \$120 for no seat belt \$90 for speeding.

Jason A. Lloyd, 18, Greeley, Colo., \$144 for speeding.

Anthony J. Moran, Jr., 22, Troy, Ohio, \$150 for speeding.

Sang H. Han, 31, East Ridge, Tenn., \$144 for speeding.

Sam M. Sarracino, 27, Golden, Colo., \$213 for speeding.

Dec. 17 — Zachary A. Knighton, 26, New York, \$128 for speeding.

Johonna M. Manning, 20, Webb City, Mo., \$120 for speeding.

Frederick Severance, 41, Beloit, \$120 for improper parking.

Anita D. Barnard, 51, North Glenn, Colo., \$126 for speeding.

Bradley G. Blankenship, 24, St. Louis, Mo., \$126 for speeding.

Michelle L. Burgess, 35, Littleton, Colo., \$120 for speeding.

Ashley A. Hubbard, 21, Frankfort, Ill., \$150 for speeding.

Olov G. Johansson, 31, Dallas, Texas, \$132 for speeding.

Brian A. Koonsvitsky, 31, Lakewood, Colo., \$138 for speeding.

Rolf H. Pickering, 49, Evergreen, Colo., \$132 for speeding.

Evelyn E. Guirsch, 54, Corona, Calif., \$213 for speeding.

Carlos Rodriguez-Mendez, 28, Wichita, \$132 for speeding.

Miguel C. Rodriguez, 29, Oklahoma City, \$120 for speeding.

Roberto J. Ruiz, 31, Garland, Texas, \$126 for speeding.

Jerry J. Smith, 42, Greeley, Colo., \$159 for speeding.

Zoila J. Solis-Gomez, 25, Alamosa, Colo., \$120 for violating basic rules of speed.

Patrick R. Tully, 21, Middleburg, Fla., \$195 for speeding.

David H. Wacker, 17, Colorado

Springs, \$120 for improper parking.

Ashley S. Zimmer, 21, Manhattan, \$155 for speeding.

David G. Watkins, 47, Longmont, Colo., \$159 for speeding.

Dec. 20 — Isaac E. Auten, 23, Arvada, Colo., \$159 for speeding and \$10 for no seat belt.

Adam A. Allen, 23, Media, Pa., \$150 for speeding.

Tiffany D. Wetzler, 24, Lakewood, Colo., \$186 for speeding.

Jared Helin, 18, Colby, \$120 for improper parking.

Robert D. Allman, 42, Parker, Colo., \$120 for speeding.

Yen L. Cheng, 29, Eugene, Ore., \$138 for speeding.

Antonio J. Figueroa, 26, Rock Hill, S.C., \$111 for over weight limit on wheels and axles.

Yazmin M. Garcia, 19, Junction City, \$138 for speeding.

Julie A. Jack, 30, San Francisco, Calif., \$120 for speeding.

Michael A. Lane, 43, Colorado Springs, \$132 for speeding.

Charles G. Lile, \$19, Colorado Springs, \$159 for speeding.

Jose Chaparro, 51, Vero Beach, Fla., \$168 for speeding.

Preston L. Howe, \$120 for speeding.

Mark E. Kieffer, 49, Denver, \$126 for speeding.

Lexi L. Skaanild, 23, Colorado Springs, \$120 for speeding.

Damon A. Smythia, 29, Blue Springs, Mo., \$126 for speeding.

Brenda Vazela, 16, Longmont, Colo., \$213 for speeding.

Sherron A. Kellison, 61, White Bear Lake, Minn., \$240 for speeding.

Christian L. Robinson, 26, Omaha, Neb., \$231 for speeding.

Sandra K. Larry, 48, West Valley, Utah, \$108 for over weight limits on wheels and axles.

Joseph B. Miles, 35, Mount Washington, Ky., \$138 for speeding.

Michael F. Epstein, 26, Colorado Springs, Colo., \$132 for speeding.

Michael W. Heberling, 43, Centennial, Colo., \$159 for speeding.

Mark O. Scott, 49, Colorado Springs, \$126 for speeding.

Juan J. Balarezo, 28, Miami Beach, Fla., \$125 for speeding.

Kim L. Johnston, 31, Shephersull, Ky., \$154 for speeding.

Dwayne D. Allen, 30, St. Louis, Mo., \$75 for speeding.

Dec. 21 — Savannah Rupp, 18, Colby, \$120 for improper parking.

Gene A. Bridges, 53, Curlew, Wash., \$120 for over weight limits on wheels and axles.

Daniel R. Moeller, 43, Denison, Iowa, \$210 for tractor trailer violations.

Dec. 22 — Melissa M. Ransier, 20, Boulder, Colo., \$159 for speeding.

John C. Urich, 36, Brooklyn, N.Y., \$138 for speeding.

Brewster All-Star Booster Club

SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR JAN. 6 - JAN. 11

Thursday - Junior High basketball at Brewster agsinst Grinnell.

Friday - High School basketball in Brewster against Tribune.

Monday - Western Kansas Liberty League Tournament in Brewster; 4-H meeting at Hunter Hall 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday - Western Kansas Liberty League Tournament in Brewster.

Goodland Star-News

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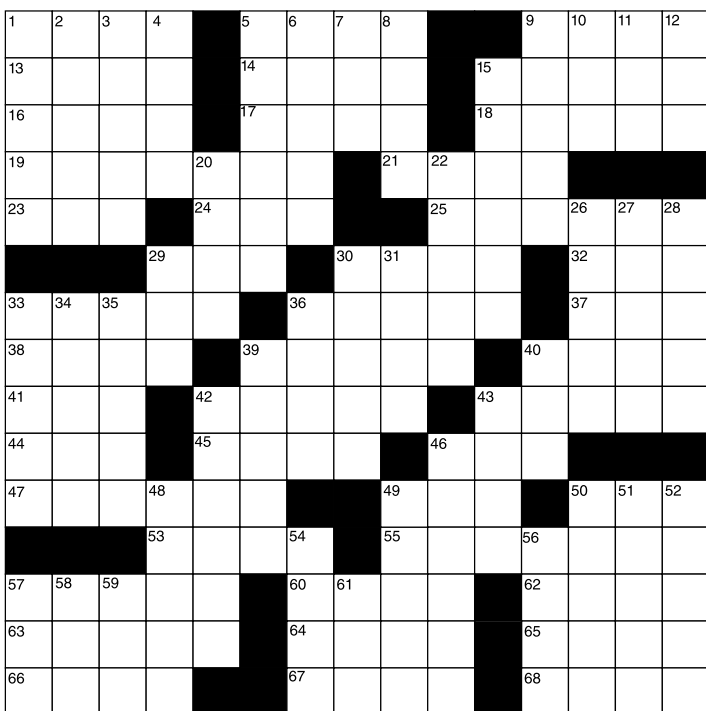
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Crossword Puzzle



CLUES ACROSS

- Swiss mountains
- Dalai ____
- Verge
- Underdone
- Same
- Shams
- Flatten
- Torn
- Tiny island
- Type of dog
- Island
- Extremely high frequency (abbr.)
- Root vegetable
- Misfortune
- Choose
- Afloat
- Boxer Mohammad
- Fish-tank growth
- Delating to a Duke
- Rive
- Shoddy
- English architecture style
- Compass pt.
- Not amateur
- Circle, as in planets
- Muggy
- Gent
- Decay
- Caustic substance
- Low ranking officer
- Baby goat
- Expert
- Bog
- Sated
- Permanent mark
- Past
- Anthem
- Epics
- Water pitcher
- Choose
- Bound

CLUES DOWN

- Get out of bed
- Pine tree
- Impression
- Mailed
- Lasso
- BB Player Abdul -Olajuwon
- Not max
- Negative (prefix)
- Comforts
- 10 liters, abbr.
- “To the right”
- Time zone, abbr.
- Relating to a child
- Font
- Slander
- Group of royal wives
- Defense
- Spoke up
- Paddle
- Inspect
- Resident of Aberdeen
- Fruit
- Navigation system
- Wares
- Names
- Locker
- Take to court
- Offal
- ____ Park, London
- Type of stable
- Book by Homer
- North and South ____
- In progress
- Pennies
- Sharp
- Sight organs
- Please respond
- Peat plane
- Thai
- Ripen
- Night bird



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