

ADVENTure 2019

Exploring Faith — Encountering Christ

**St Peter's Church
Phibsboro**

www.tarsus.ie



SEQUENCE

- ☐ **Magi: Read and observe**
- ☐ **Magi: Background**
- ☐ **Magi: Kind of writing**
- ☐ **Magi: Purpose**
- ☐ **Magi: Prayer**

Matthew 1-2

Genealogy 1:1-17

A.	Announcement to Joseph	1:18-25	Isaiah 7:14
B.	The Magi	2:1-12	Micah 5:1, 3 2Sam 5:2
C.	The Flight into Egypt	2:13-15	Hosea 11:1
D.	The Killing of Children	2:16-18	Jeremiah 31:15
E.	Return home (to Nazareth)	2:19-23	?Judges 13:5-7 ?Isaiah 11:1

Matthew 1-2

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A. **Announcement to Joseph** **1:18-25** **Isaiah 7:14**

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E. **Return home** **2:19-23** **?Judges 13:5-7**
(to Nazareth) **?Isaiah 11:1**

Matt 2:1 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, in the time of King Herod, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem **2** saying, "Where is the one who is born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." **3** When King Herod heard this he was alarmed, and all Jerusalem with him. **4** After assembling all the chief priests and experts in the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born. **5** "In Bethlehem of Judea," they said, "for it is written this way by the prophet:

6 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are in no way least among the rulers of Judah, for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.'"

Matt 2:7 Then Herod privately summoned the wise men and determined from them when the star had appeared. **8** He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and look carefully for the child. When you find him, inform me so that I can go and worship him as well." **9** After listening to the king they left, and once again the star they saw when it rose led them until it stopped above the place where the child was. **10** When they saw the star they shouted joyfully. **11** As they came into the house and saw the child with Mary his mother, they bowed down and worshiped him. They opened their treasure boxes and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. **12** After being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back by another route to their own country.

Magi: Background

- ☐ Magi
- ☐ Gifts
- ☐ Kings
- ☐ Bethlehem



Balaam and Balak

- ☐ **Numbers 22-24**
- ☐ **Balak tries to curse Israel using Balaam**
- ☐ **Instead of a curse, a blessing!**
- ☐ **"A star shall come out of Jacob"**

Balaam and Balak

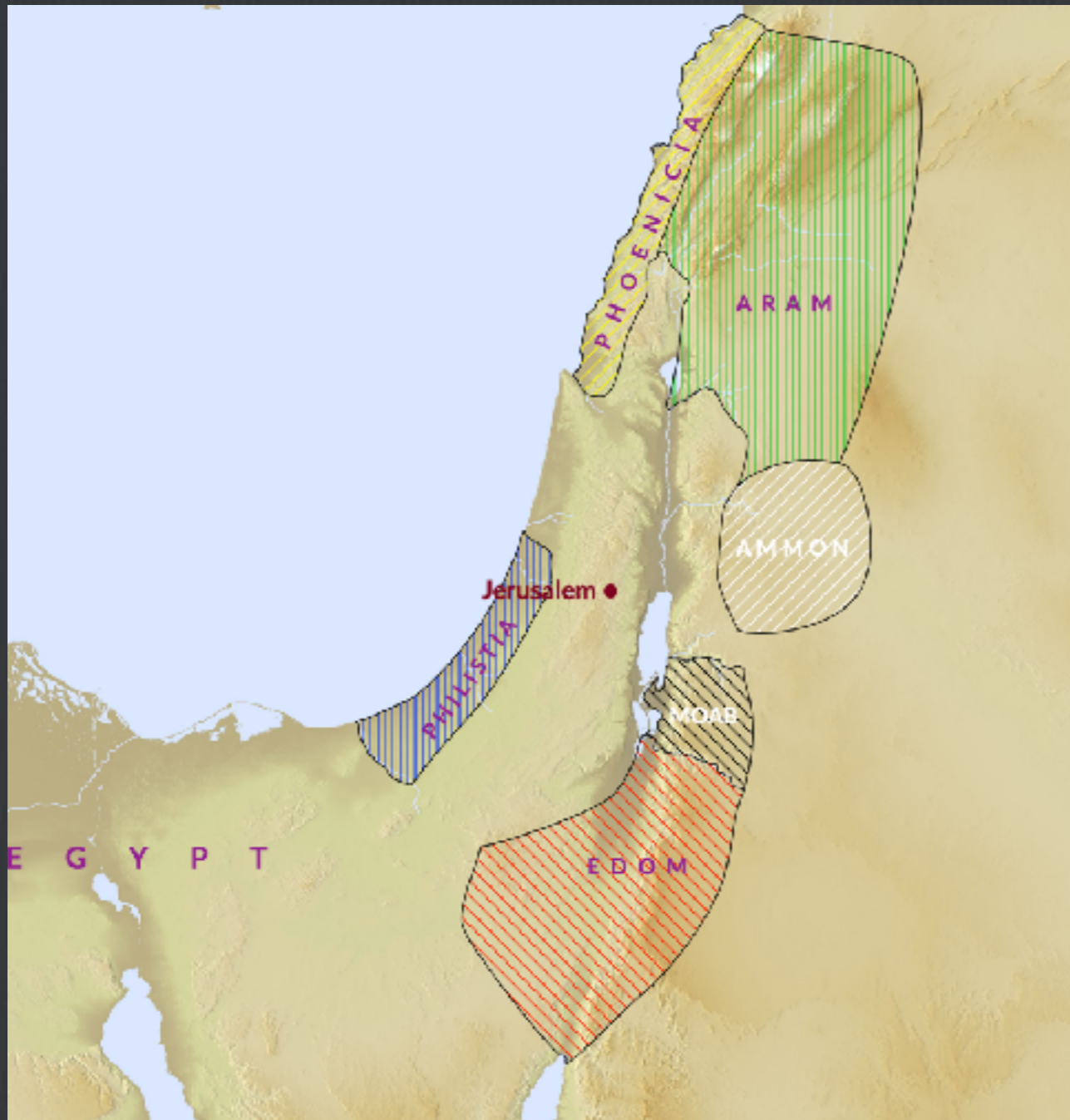
Num 22:4 So the Moabites said to the elders of Midian, "Now this mass of people will lick up everything around us, as the bull devours the grass of the field." Now Balak son of Zippor was king of the Moabites at this time. **5** And he sent messengers to Balaam son of Beor at Pethor, which is by the Euphrates River in the land of Amaw, to summon him, saying, "Look, a nation has come out of Egypt. They cover the face of the earth, and they are settling next to me. **6** So now, please come and curse this nation for me, for they are too powerful for me. Perhaps I will prevail so that we may conquer them and drive them out of the land. For I know that whoever you bless is blessed, and whoever you curse is cursed."

Balaam and Balak

Num 22:26 Then the angel of the LORD went farther, and stood in a narrow place, where there was no way to turn either to the right or to the left. **27** When the donkey saw the angel of the LORD, she crouched down under Balaam. Then Balaam was angry, and he beat his donkey with a staff.

Num 22:28 Then the LORD opened the mouth of the donkey, and she said to Balaam, "What have I done to you that you have beaten me these three times?" **29** And Balaam said to the donkey, "You have made me look stupid; I wish there were a sword in my hand, for I would kill you right now." **30** The donkey said to Balaam, "Am I not your donkey that you have ridden ever since I was yours until this day? Have I ever attempted to treat you this way?" And he said, "No." **31** Then the LORD opened Balaam's eyes, and he saw the angel of the LORD standing in the way with his sword drawn in his hand; so he bowed his head and threw himself down with his face to the ground.

Balaam and Balak



Parallels

Numbers 22-24	Pattern	Matthew 2:1-12
Balak	An evil ruler	Herod
Balaam	Tries to us a prophet or holy man	The Magi
To curse the offspring	To bring disaster on Israel / the Jews	To kill the child
Star and scepter oracle	Thwarted	The magi worship the child and make it home safely

Num 24:15 Then he uttered this oracle:

**"The oracle of Balaam son of Beor,
the oracle of the man whose eyes are open,**

**16 the oracle of the one who hears the words of God,
and who knows the knowledge of the Most High,
who sees a vision from the Almighty,
although falling flat on the ground with eyes open:**

17 'I see him, but not now;

I behold him, but not close at hand.

**A star will march forth out of Jacob,
and a sceptre will rise out of Israel.**

**He will crush the skulls of Moab,
and the heads of all the sons of Sheth.**

Two citations combined

- ☐ **As for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, seemingly insignificant among the clans of Judah- from you a king will emerge who will rule over Israel on my behalf, one whose origins are in the distant past. (Mic 5:2)**
- ☐ **In the past, when Saul was our king, you were the real leader in Israel. The LORD said to you, 'You will shepherd my people Israel; you will rule over Israel.'" (2 Sam 5:2)**
- ☐ **'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are in no way least among the rulers of Judah, for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.'" (Matt 2:6)**

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Camels, kings, gifts

Is. 60:5 Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice,

because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

6 A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come.

They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

Kind of writing

- ☐ **This is a kind of midrash, a Rabbinic style of writing which explores and exposes meaning by a resonant acoustic of echoes.**
- ☐ **Everything is in some way symbolic, the star, the magi, the king, Bethlehem and the gifts, pointing to the identity of Jesus and the inclusion of the Gentiles in salvation.**

Kind of writing


- ☐ **2: 1- 12 search for the new King Herod (2: 1, 12)**
- ☐ **The worship of the magi (2: 2, 11) First segment: 2: 1- 8 - magi and star**
- ☐ **Second segment: 2: 9- 12 - magi and star**

Kind of writing

Kind of writing


A	(2:1)	magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem
B	(2:2)	We saw his star at its rising
C	(2:3-4)	King Herod heard this
D	(2:5-6)	Prophecy of Micah
C'	(2:7-8)	Herod called the magi
B'	(2:9-11)	the star that they had seen at its rising
A'	(2:12)	they departed for their country by another way.

Kind of writing

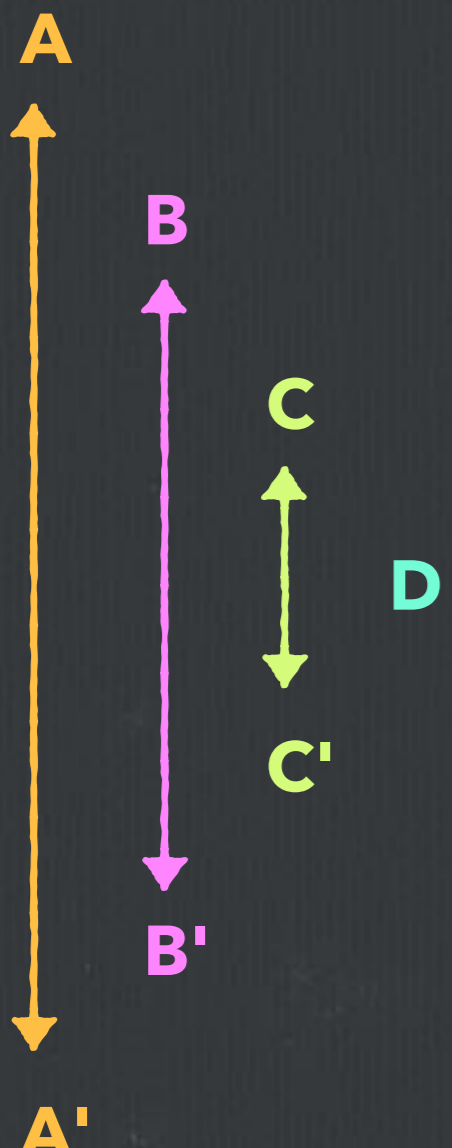


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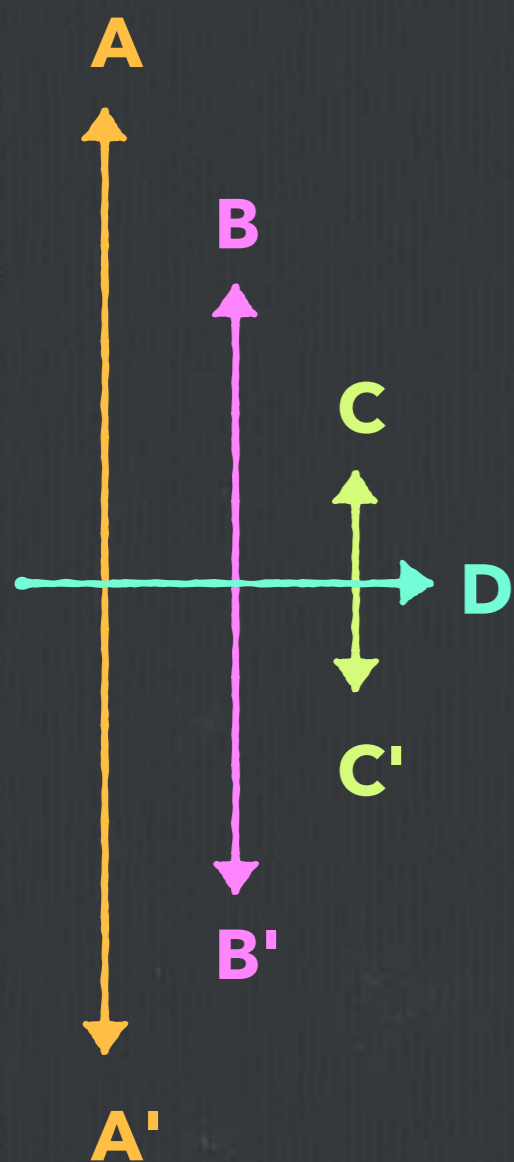
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Kind of writing

 A diagram on the left side of the table. It features three vertical arrows. The outermost arrow is orange, with 'A' at the top and 'A'' at the bottom. The middle arrow is purple, with 'B' at the top and 'B'' at the bottom. The innermost arrow is green, with 'C' at the top and 'C'' at the bottom. To the right of these arrows is a cyan letter 'D'. <p>A B C D C' B' A'</p>	(2:1)	magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem
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Kind of writing



(2:1) magi from the east **arrived** in Jerusalem

(2:2) We saw his **star** at its rising

(2:3-4) King **Herod** heard this

(2:5-6) **Prophecy of Micah**

(2:7-8) **Herod** called the magi

(2:9-11) the **star** that they had seen at its rising

(2:12) they **departed** for their country by another way.

Purpose of Matthew 2:1-12

- ☐ **First, it accords with the expectation that nations would come to Israel in the latter days in recognition of God's reign**
- ☐ **Ps 72: 10- 11; Isa 2: 1- 4; 43: 5- 10; 60: 3- 6; Mic 4: 1; Psalm of Solomon 17: 31; Sibylline Oracles 3: 702- 19, 772- 73, 785- 88**

Purpose of Matthew 2:1-12

- ☐ **Second, the magi serve as an antitype for Balaam, a diviner who came from the mountains of the East acclaimed Israel's king and kingdom (Num 24: 7), and prophesied that a star would arise from Jacob (Num 24: 17).**
- ☐ **Num 22: 5; 23: 7; Philo, Moses 1. 276, dubbed Balaam a magos**

Jesus and the Gentiles

- ☐ **Matthew's Gospel reflects the historical memory that Jesus did not himself directly evangelise the Gentiles, at least initially.**
- ☐ **"These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." (Matt 10:5-7)**

Jesus and the Gentiles

- **"When Jesus became aware of this, he departed. Many crowds followed him, and he cured all of them, and he ordered them not to make him known. This was to fulfil what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah: "Here is my servant, whom I have chosen, my beloved, with whom my soul is well pleased. I will put my Spirit upon him, and he will proclaim justice to the Gentiles. He will not wrangle or cry aloud, nor will anyone hear his voice in the streets. He will not break a bruised reed or quench a smouldering wick until he brings justice to victory. And in his name the Gentiles will hope."" (Matt 12:15-21)**

Jesus and the Gentiles

- **"Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."" (Matt 28:16-20)**

The big picture

WHO?

1:1-17

Abraham

David

Exile

Tamar

Rahab

Ruth

Bathsheba

Mary

ORIGIN

HOW?

1:18-25

Ishmael

Isaac

Samson

David (Is 7:14)

BIRTH

WHERE?

2:1-12

Moses

Baalam

Kings

Camels

Jer 31 (Rachel)

EXILE

WHENCE?

2:13-22

Moses

Nazorean

Is 4:3; Judge 16:7;

Gen 49:26; Is 11:1

Remnant

Samson

Joseph

David

EXODUS

Prayer

**Lord God of the nations,
we have seen the star of your glory rising in
splendour.**

**The radiance of your incarnate Word pierces the
darkness that covers the earth and signals the dawn
of peace and justice.**

**Make radiant the lives of your people with that same
brightness,
and beckon all the nations
to walk as one in your light.**



Conversation

Conversation

