

What child Is This

Theme: Wise Men

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Words composed by an Englishman named William Chatterton Dix in 1865 continue to help people around the world consider the annual question posed during the Christmas season: **What child is this?** Within the lyrics of this famous Christmas carol about the baby Jesus who was born in the manger in Bethlehem, people encounter characters and their actions which help answer the inquiry posed in the title of the song.

Although wise men or magi specifically are not mentioned as characters in the carol, their notifiable actions of worship and generosity lead the lyrics of the third stanza. We don't know if it was 3 or not. We do know that they brought gifts.

"So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh..."

The wise men make their appearance in Matthew's gospel account of the Christmas story. From the start of chapter two, we are introduced to these men and discover some details about their origins and intentions... Let us allow their lives to help us understand "what child is this."

Denny

**Verse 1 Magi from the East** ... men of learning / experts in astrology interpretation and dreams. They came following a star. How did they know to follow the star? As learned men They had studied the Word of God which foretold the promised Hope to come. Led by the HOLY Spirit They follow a star which did not whisper that the new born king is born. This star is the light of the world come into darkness to shine Hope and fulfill the promise of God.

**This is** Emmanuel. **This is** the gift of salvation **This is** the star of Love to love the world. **This is** star of Peace to restore Gods People. **This is** the star of comfort to turn from sorrow and death to life resurrection and healing. **This is** the star of Joy in the forgiveness that is come. This is who they came to see.

V2 King of the Jews... whom they have come to worship Him.

V4 Herold even calls him the Messiah (The anointed promised One.)

V5-6 the chief priests and scribes answer by sharing Micah 5:2 In Bethlehem.

This is the Child they are looking for this is where the star is leading them

V 10 they are overjoyed. A heartfelt celebration of the Holy Spirit.

They rejoiced ... They worshiped ..... They offered gifts

*"And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and myrrh."* Matthew 2:11

**Gifts indicating they understood Jesus to be ...**

Truly God – so they offer frankincense used in worship, where it was burned as a pleasant offering to God and anoint the King

He is The King of all – and they offer Gold

And that He would die to redeem mankind...they offer myrrh, It was used chiefly in embalming the dead

What child is this? He is the one who would give the ultimate gift. He was born to give His life as a ransom for many. Notice these scriptures of Galatians 1:3-5 that speak to this attribute of Jesus as a generous giver that exceeds even the generosity and gifts of the wise men. *"Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen."*

The list of gifts Jesus gave to his followers is long. He has the heart of His Heavenly Father. *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."* John 3:16

"You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart." Jeremiah 29:13 Notice how Jesus later described who He was as recorded in Luke's gospel. *"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."* Luke 19:10

These Gentile wise men worshiped this Jewish king of kings who came as the **promised Savior of the whole world**. This child in the manger was the Messiah and king of Jews and Gentiles alike. Luke's gospel account records this truth within the words of Simeon who also saw the baby Jesus shortly after he was born. Simeon said, *"...for my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel."* Luke 2:30-32

Simeon's words concerning what child this was gave credence to the worship the Gentile wise men were offering to the newborn king they, too, had just seen with their own eyes.

Today we also come to seek the child with our own eyes and heart. To seek him by the light this is the Word by the Holy Spirit for us to see and know that he is God.

**He is the One who is worthy of worship by all people, of all places and races and people.**

He is the One True Savior of the entire world that is worthy to seek and to worship.

He is the One not impeded by distance to be born as the One to give His life on a cross that we may receive forgiveness of sin and the gift of life everlasting.

May we do as the wise men did!

MAY we be led by the Holy Spirit light to see Jesus!

May we Study the Word to know the Truth and be set free.

May we seek Him, bow before Him, worship Him, and give Him the gifts of our lives as we go and tell other about Him.

Jesus Lord Jesus Messiah Jesus King Jesus Savior! Amen