

Arise, shine; for your light has come ...
Nations shall come to your light, and
kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Isaiah 60:1a, 3



Star of Bethlehem Quilt

c. 1835 Metropolitan Museum of Art New York, NY In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem,



Journey of the Magi -- James Tissot, Minneapolis Institute of Art, Minneapolis, MN

asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage."

Three Kings

Annette Gandy Fortt Silver Spring, MD When King Herod heard this, he was frightened ... and calling together all the chief priests and scribes ...

Matthew 2:3a, 4a



Herod Consults with Priests and Scribes

Amiens Cathedral Amiens, France ... he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

Matthew 2:4b, 5

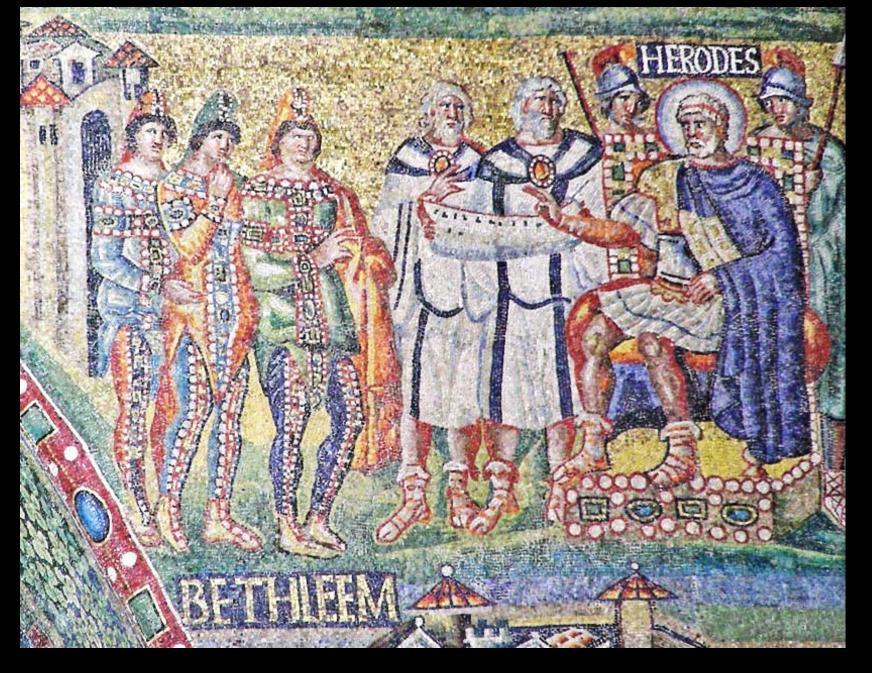


Figure of the Tres Reyes Magos Maracaibo, Venezuela 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"



Christ Child as Good Shepherd

Goa, India Walters Art Museum Baltimore, MD Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared.



Herod Speaks with the Magi -- Mosaic, Santa Maria Maggiore, Rome, Italy

Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage."

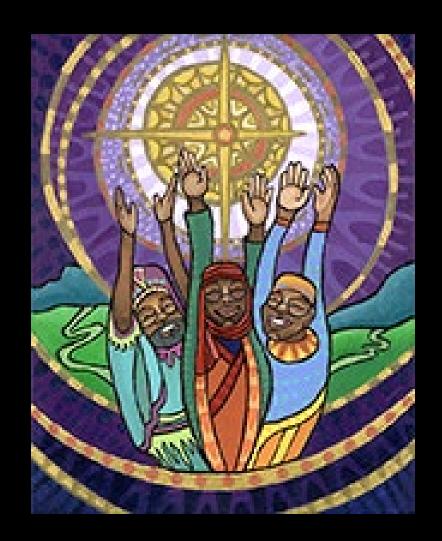


Herod with the Three Kings -- Church of Saint-Gonery, Plougrescant, France

When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was.



When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.



Nativity

Lauren Wright Pittman Liturgical Artist On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage.

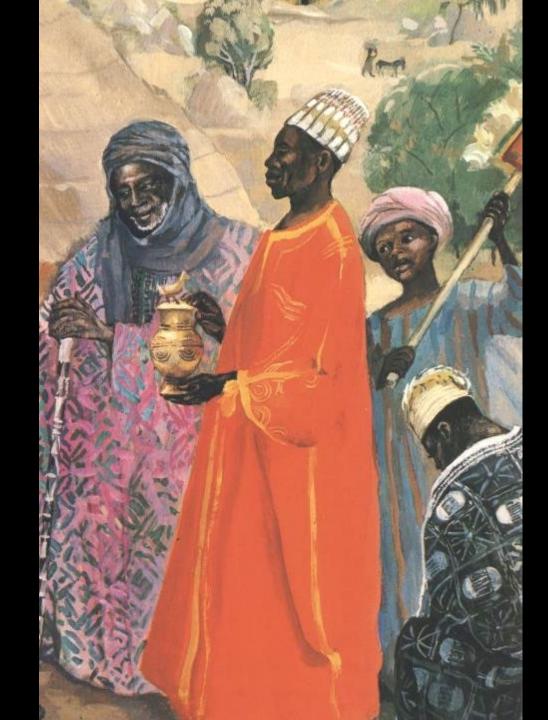
Matthew 2:11a



The Magi and the Christ Child, detail

Peter Paul Reubens Royal Museums of Fine Arts of Belgium Brussels, Belgium Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Matthew 2:11b



Adoration of the Magi

JESUS MAFA Cameroon And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.



The Magi Warned in a Dream

Amiens Cathedral Amiens, France

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