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## The Three Kings

In Christian tradition, the Magi, also referred to as the (Three) Wise Men, (Three) Kings, or Kings from the East, are a group of distinguished foreigners who are said to have visited Jesus after his birth, bearing gifts of gold,

gifts led to a widespread assumption that they were three as well. Their identification as kings in later Christian writings is linked to Old Testament prophecies, which describe the Messiah being worshipped by kings.

of Matthew, the Magi found Jesus by following his star, which thus traditionally became known as the Star of Bethlehem. Various theories have been presented as to the nature of this star.

On finding Jesus, the kings gave him three symbolic gifts: gold, frankincense and myrrh. Warned in a dream that Judean king Herod intended to kill the child, they decided to return home by a different route. This prompted Herod to resort to killing all the young children in Bethlehem, an act called the Massacre of the Innocents, in an attempt to eliminate a rival heir to his throne. Jesus and his family had, however, escaped to Egypt beforehand.

After the visit the Magi leave by returning another way so as to avoid Herod, and do not reappear in the gospel. *from the internet*



The adoration of the magi by Botticelli

myrrh and frankincense. They are regular figures in traditional accounts of the nativity and in celebrations of Christmas.

The Gospel of Matthew, the only one of the four Gospels to mention the Magi, states that they came "from the east". Although the account does not tell how many they were, the three

The phrase 'from the east' is the only information Matthew provides about the region from which they came. Traditionally the view developed that they were Babylonians or Persians or Jews from Yemen, as the kings of Yemen then were Jews. The majority belief was they were from Babylon. According to the Gospel

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