Visit of the Magi (Matt. 2:1-12)

1. Up to two years has gone by in between Matt. 1&2 (Matt. 2:7,16).
2. Magi (μάγοι magoi) from the east arrived in Jerusalem for the purpose of worshiping the King of the Jews (Matt. 2:1-12).
   a. Their number is not stated, nor does Scripture call them kings. The μάγοι magoi were Babylonian & Persian astrologers who had tremendous influence in the eastern thrones (e.g. Dan. 2:2).
   b. They came in response to “His star.” Likely an angel (commonly called stars). This star’s guidance led them to Jerusalem (not Bethlehem) for a public audience with Herod.
3. Herod—and all Jerusalem with him—was greatly troubled over the birth of a Jewish King (Matt. 2:3).
   a. Aor.pass.ind. ταράσσω tarassō #5015 17x: to cause inward turmoil, stir up, unsettle. Pass. be troubled, frightened, terrified (Matt. 2:3; 14:6; Mk. 6:50; Lk. 1:12; 24:38; Jn. 12:27; 14:1,27; 1st Pet. 3:14).
   b. Herod’s agitation was matched by “all Jerusalem” (πᾶσα Ἱεροσόλυμα pasa Hierosoluma) indicating where the Sanhedrin’s priorities were truly placed (cf. Matt. 6:21).
   c. Herod knows that this coming King is the expected Christ/Messiah (Matt. 2:4).
      1) King of the Jews (v.2). βασιλεὺς τῶν Ἰουδαίων basileus tōn Ioudaiōn.
      2) Messiah (v.4). ὁ Χριστὸς ho Christos.
   d. The chief priests and scribes cooperated with Herod, and revealed to him the Bethlehem prophecy (Matt. 2:4-6).
   e. Herod summoned the magi for a secret audience and the magi provide the two year time-frame (Matt. 2:7).
4. The Magi continued their journey to the Lord.
   a. They did not need Herod’s directions, as they followed the “star” to the very house (οἶκια oikia) where the child (παιδίον paidion) was.
   b. They worshiped Him, and presented Him with gifts.
      1) This does not fulfill Ps. 72:10,11 or other such OT passages.
      2) These gifts provided for travel and living expenses for Joseph’s family in Egypt.
   c. They obeyed the dream warning to avoid Herod (v.12).