

Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further ***International Bible Lessons***

Matthew 2:1-12

Sunday, December 24, 2017

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Some Bible study groups or classes can further discussion by asking some or all of the **Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** below. Others may want to send the bulletin size *International Bible Lesson* home with their students for further study in the coming week to encourage continuing Bible study. The *Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further* below are not actually intended to be *the answers* to the discussion questions. These indeed are “hints” a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class. The *Class Preparation Guide* includes the questions below, and it can be given to students at the end of the previous class so they can pray, read, and think ahead to prepare for the next week’s Bible class.

Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further

1. What does the name Jesus mean and what name was Jesus to be called? How did He get this name and why was He to be called by the other name too? See Matthew 1:18-25.

Jesus means “Savior, because He will save His people from their sins. The angel gave this name to Joseph to name God’s Son, Jesus. He is to be called “Immanuel,” which means “God with us,” because Jesus is the only begotten Son of God through the Virgin Mary.

2. What are Magi and from where did they come? Do you think they were Jews or Gentiles?

Magi are astrologers, philosophers, counselors, or wise men. They came from Persia or Arabia in the East. I think they were Jews (see commentary).

3. Describe some features of the star and its purpose and appearances.

It appeared and reappeared. It led the Magi first to Judea and later to the house where Jesus was living. Apparently, Herod and the Jewish leaders could not see it, for the protection of Jesus and His family.

4. Who did King Herod and the Magi consult to find where the Messiah was to be born? Why were they given accurate information?

They consulted the chief priests and teachers of the law. They quoted the Scriptures.

5. Where did the Magi find Jesus?

In a house (not in a stable or someplace with a manger), presumably in Bethlehem, but not necessarily so, for an angel may have warned them earlier to move to Jerusalem where they met Simeon and Anna (see Luke 2) or to some other nearby town for their protection. The Bible does not tell us the answer other than “a house.”

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