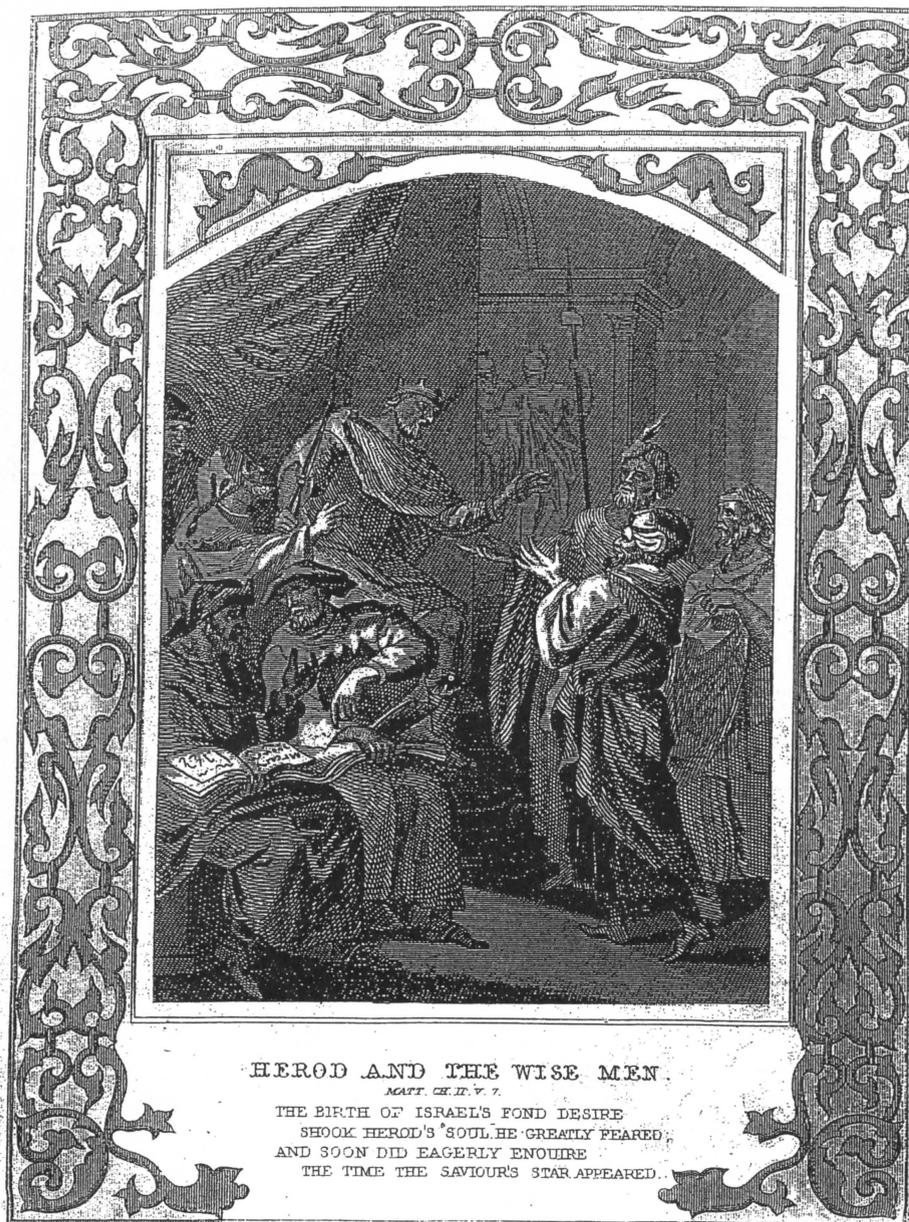


The Seeking Sages and Scholarly Scribes

A Study in Contrast

Manfred E. Kober, Th.D.



HEROD AND THE WISE MEN

MATT. CH. II. V. 7.

THE BIRTH OF ISRAEL'S FOND DESIRE
SHOOK HEROD'S SOUL HE GREATLY FEARED;
AND SOON DID EAGERLY ENQUIRE
THE TIME THE SAVIOUR'S STAR APPEARED.

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	THE MAGI		THE SCRIBES
1	Experts in the stars	<u>EXPERTISE</u>	Experts in the Scriptures
	The magi were highly skilled in the study of the stars. The scribes and spiritual leaders were Israel's foremost biblical scholars.		
2	Informed about the signs	<u>KNOWLEDGE</u>	Ignorant of the signs
	The magi somehow knew what transpired a long distance from them. The scribes were woefully ignorant of the most momentous events nearby.		
3	Interested in events	<u>ALERTNESS</u>	Indifferent to events
	The magi were interested in world events. The scribes were indifferent to the events of the day.		



	THE MAGI		THE SCRIBES
4	Rejoiced in the star	<u>EMOTIONS</u>	Retreated into their stupor
	The magi were beside themselves for joy ("They rejoiced with exceeding great joy" Mt. 2:10). The scribes gave no sign of curiosity or anticipation of events five miles to the south.		
5	Acted on the light they had	<u>EFFORT</u>	Avoided the logic of their information
	The magi used their information to initiate a diligent search. The scribes made no effort to act on their special knowledge.		
6	Guided by right action	<u>ACCLAIM</u>	Gave the right answer
	The magi were motivated to drastic action. The scribes were able to cite important Scripture.		
7	Received special revelation from God	<u>REVELATION</u>	Rejected written revelation from God
	The magi received natural and special revelation from God. The scribes callously ignored the specific written revelation they had.		
8	Made a gargantuan effort	<u>EXERTION</u>	Missed a unique opportunity
	The magi spared no effort in time, travel and treasure to locate the newborn king. The scribes missed the opportunity to witness a miracle occurring only once in the history of the planet.		



	THE MAGI		THE SCRIBES
9	Honored the holy child	<u>ALLEGIANCE</u>	Honored the haughty potentate
	The magi bestowed affection and honor on the newborn king. The scribes continued their compliance with the infamous potentate.		
10	Worshipped the infant	<u>ADORATION</u>	Withdrew in ignorance
	The magi's quest culminated in the worship of the infant, their Creator and Savior. The scribes failed to inquire even indirectly about the event in Bethlehem which according to the chronology of Daniel 9 could occur at any time.		
11	Presented precious gifts	<u>CONTRIBUTION</u>	Perpetuated pharisaical callousness
	The magi presented exquisitely valuable and useful gifts to the infant king. The scribes failed miserably in honoring the One Whose arrival they should most certainly have expected.		
12	Eternal rewards	<u>DESTINY</u>	Everlasting remorse
	The magi were rewarded with the immediate and longed-for presence of the Savior and are rewarded eternally for their faith and dedication. The scribes forfeited blessings by their failure to inquire about the events in Bethlehem and would regret eternally that they did not act on their scriptural knowledge (Fortunately, some were probably later converted, because, as Luke reports, "a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith," Acts 6:7).		

Wise Men
still seek Him

