

## Magi, Kings, or Wise Men? by Tim Chaffey, AIG

The Greek word for *magi* is translated as “wise men” in the NKJV, KJV, and ESV, while the NASB and NIV use the word *magi*. Originally, the word often referred to a class of Persian wise men, and possibly priests, who were interpreters of special signs, particularly in astrology. Eventually, the word was used variously to refer to one who possessed supernatural knowledge and ability, a magician, or even a deceiver or seducer. There is little to no biblical or historical basis for identifying them as kings.

The book of Matthew contains the account of the wise men:

“Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.” (*Matthew 2:1–2*) The original meaning of *magi* is likely in view here—wise men who interpreted special signs. There are at least three reasons for this

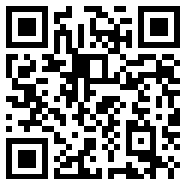
identification. First, they acknowledged that they were interested in signs in the heavens. Second, the Bible states that they were from “the East,” which would be in the direction of Babylon and ancient Persia. Third, of all the peoples of “the East,” the Babylonians had many opportunities to learn of the Jewish Scriptures, which contain multiple promises of the coming Messiah. Daniel was an influential government official in Babylon about 600 years earlier, and he foretold the coming of the Messiah (*Daniel 9:24–26*). Also, tens of thousands of Jews lived in Babylon during the time of the Exile (605–536 BC), and they maintained a large presence there for the following centuries.

While these are plausible suggestions, we do not have enough information about the magi to know for sure. However, we can be sure that they fully expected to behold a child who was “born King of the Jews.” This is probably why they traveled first to Jerusalem, the most likely location for the birth of a Jewish king.

### Events

Today  
College & Career Lunch 1 PM  
Hawfields Ministry 3 PM  
7th/8th Christmas Party 7 PM  
12/5 Flourishers Christmas Party  
6 PM  
12/9 VisionYouth Christmas Party  
6:30 PM  
12/17 Christmas Music  
Program PM service

### Give



### Upcoming Events



### Pastors

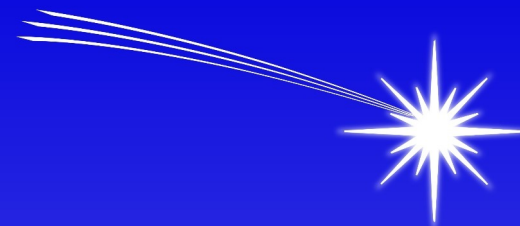
Gary Hendrix	Stephen Byrd
Charles Fortner	Robert Fisher
Stu Johnston	Bob Prentice
Andy Dunkerton	Michael Lopes

### Service Times

- Sunday School 9:30 am
- Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 am
- Sunday Evening Worship 5:30 pm
- Wednesday Prayer Meeting 7:15 pm

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When they saw the star,  
they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy



**GRACE**  
REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH

December 3, 2017

## Morning Worship

Call to Worship  
Opening Hymn

Pastor Bob Prentice  
Beautiful Savior

1. All my days I will sing this song of gladness, give my praise to the Fountain of delights; For in my helplessness You heard my cry, and waves of mercy poured down on my life.

**(Chorus) Beautiful Savior, Wonderful Counselor.**

**Clothed in majesty, Lord of history, You're the Way, the Truth, the Life.**

**Star of the Morning, glorious in holiness, You're the Risen One,  
heaven's Champion, and You reign, You reign over all!**

2. I will trust in the cross of my Redeemer; I will sing of the blood that never fails,  
Of sins forgiven, of conscience cleansed, of death defeated and life without end.

**(Chorus)**

3. I long to be where the praise is never ending; Yearn to dwell where the glory  
never fades, Where countless worshipers will share one song, and cries of  
'Worthy' will honor the Lamb! **(Chorus)**

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Scripture Reading

Matthew 26:17-35, page 832

Pastoral Prayer

Offertory

**#31 My God, How Wonderful Thou Art**

Preparatory

**The Love of Christ is Rich and Free**

The love of Christ is rich and free fixed on His own eternally

Nor earth, nor hell, can it remove long as He lives, His own He'll love

His loving heart engaged to be their everlasting Surety

Twas love that took their cause in hand

And love maintains it to the end

**(Chorus) Love cannot from its post withdraw**

**Nor death, nor hell, nor sin, nor law**

**Can turn the Surety's heart away**

**He'll love His own to endless day**

Love has redeemed His sheep with blood

And love will bring them safe to God

Love calls them all from death to life

And love will finish all their strife

He loves through every changing scene

Nor aught from Him can Zion wean

Not all the wanderings of her heart

Can make His love for her depart

**(Chorus)**

At death, beyond the grave, He'll love

In endless bliss, His own shall prove

The blazing glory of that love

Which never could from them remove

Which never could from them remove

Words: William Gadsby Music: Sandra McCracken

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Sermon

Pastor Andy Dunkerton

## Evening Worship

Call to Worship  
Opening Hymn  
Scripture Reading

Pastor Charles Fortner  
**#173 All Glory Laud and Honor**  
**Ephesians 5:15-21; 6:10-20,**  
**page 978**

Pastoral Prayer

Offertory

**Jesus Sinners Does Receive**

"Jesus sinners does receive:" word of surest consolation;

Word all sorrow to relieve, word of pardon, peace, salvation!

Naught like this can comfort give:

"Jesus sinners does receive," naught like this can comfort give!

On God's grace we have no claim, yet to us His pledge is given;

He hath sworn by His own name, open are the gates of heaven.

Take to heart this word and live:

"Jesus sinners does receive," take to heart this word and live!

When a helpless lamb doth stray, after it, the Shepherd pressing  
thro' each dark and dangerous way, brings it back, His own possessing.

Jesus seeks thee, O believe: "Jesus sinners does receive,"

Jesus seeks thee, O believe! Jesus seeks thee, O believe!

Oh, how blest it is to know: were as scarlet my transgression,

It shall be as white as snow, by Thy blood and bitter passion;

For these words I now believe: "Jesus sinners does receive,"

For these words I now believe!

Now my conscience is at peace, from the Law I stand acquitted;

Christ hath purchased my release, and my every sin remitted.

Naught remains my soul to grieve: "Jesus sinners does receive,"

Naught remains my soul to grieve! Naught remains my soul to grieve!

"Jesus sinners does receive:" word of surest consolation;

Word all sorrow to relieve, word of pardon, peace, salvation!

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Preparatory

**I Boast No More**

No more my God, I boast no more of all the duties I have done

I quit the hopes I held before to trust the merits of Thy Son.

**(Chorus) No more my God, no more my God, no more my God, I boast no  
more.**

Now, for the loss I bear His name, what was my gain I count my loss;

My former pride I call my shame, and nail my glory to His cross. **(Chorus)**

Yes, and I must and will esteem all things but loss for Jesus' sake;

O may my soul be found in Him, and of His righteousness partake! **(Chorus)**

The best obedience of my hands dares not appear before Thy throne;

But faith can answer Thy demands, by pleading what my Lord has done.

**(Chorus)**

**(repeat chorus)**

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Sermon

Nick Gaines