

Where and When Did They See the Lord Jesus Christ? By Tim Chaffey, AIG

The traditional view presented in films, such as *The Nativity Story*, is that the wise men saw Jesus on the night of His birth, but this is highly unlikely. Matthew 2:1 reveals that the magi came to Jerusalem and subsequently visited with Herod after Jesus had been born.

The angelic announcement of Christ's birth to the shepherds was at night, which means that Jesus was born at night. In Luke 2:11 the angel told the shepherds, "For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." The Greek word translated as "this day" is *σήμερον* (*sēmeron*) and it means "the same day as the day of discourse" (i.e., today).⁴ Since the Jewish day began at sundown (roughly 6:00 pm), then the angelic use of *sēmeron* indicates that Christ was born at night since that day would have started at sundown.

So it is highly implausible that the wise men would arrive in Jerusalem at night and immediately obtain an audience with Herod. The king then gathered "all the chief priests and

scribes of the people" (Matthew 2:4) so he could determine where the Messiah was to be born. The experts told Herod that the Messiah needed to be born in Bethlehem, which was predicted in Micah 5:2. So, the wise men departed and made their approximately six-mile journey to Bethlehem. If we assume that the wise men met with Herod during the day after Jesus was born, then the earliest they could have visited Jesus would be the next night.

To learn more about the timing and location of the magi's visit in more detail, read our article, "Christmas Timeline of the Biblical Account." The article will also provide a plausible chronology of the other major events which followed Christ's birth, such as His circumcision and first visit to the Temple, Herod's slaughter of the children, the flight to Egypt, and the move to Nazareth.

As we study the Bible to gain an accurate understanding of these events, may we, like the wise men, worship the Savior Jesus Christ.

Events

Today
Christmas Music Program
5:30 PM
12/20 Men's/Women's &
Youth Prayer 7:15 PM
12/24 Christmas Eve
Potluck 1 PM
Save the Date! 7/24-27, 2018
Family Conference

Give



Upcoming Events



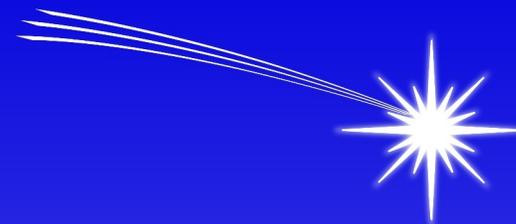
Pastors

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
919-563-9249 www.grbc.net

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



GRACE
REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH

December 17, 2017

