

Three Magis-wise men or kings from East to visit Baby Jesus- Reality or Myth?

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May 2007

Abstract

The term “Magi” as it appears in Mathew’s Gospel derives from the word plural Magus both in Latin and Old Persian languages, and appears in the scripture languages of the West as, Greek- “Magos”; English-“Magian. This term may have been included in the vocabulary of the west since Achaemenian’s conquest of Asia Minor, Egypt, Syria, and Greece and picked up by Jewish or Greek scribes. Although, three kings are classic figures in every Nativity set — one king on a camel, one kneeling at the manger and one standing ready to offer his gifts, there are considerable speculations as to where these Magis or magician came from with gifts ? Where they from Persian Parthia that was in war with Rome or some place in Asia minor or Jorden valley . Mathew’s gospel does not record them as kings or wise men or camel riding. Psalm 72:10-11 reads:

"May the kings of Tarshish and the islands bring tribute,
the kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts.
May all kings bow before him,
all nations serve him."

There are no indication or hints as to who they were.



Magi Mosaic at Basilica of Apollonius of Tyana at Ravenna in Italy with name engraved as “Balthazar, Melchior and Gasper (Casper)

Now, Isaiah, the Jewish prophet who lived nearly 700 years before Baby Jesus says in Isaiah 60 during the Epiphany feast:

"Arise! Shine, for your light has come,
the glory of the Lord has dawned upon you
. . . Nations shall walk by your light,
kings by the radiance of your dawning
Raise your eyes and look about.
they all gather and come to you —
Your sons from afar
. . . Then you shall see and be radiant
. . . For the riches of the sea shall be poured out before you,
the wealth of nations shall come to you.
Caravans of camels shall cover you,
dromedaries of Midian and Ephah.
All from Sheba shall come
bearing gold and frankincense
and heralding the praises of the Lord" (vv. 1-6).

This may suggest this source as the story of three Magis. We discussed thoroughly, why it was strategic necessity for Roman to reorient Jewish expectations on the arrival of Messiah to defeat Jewish rebellion, as there were larger stakes for Romans that involved their access to riches of Egypt and Anatolia. If Jewish rebellion were to succeed with Persian Parthian help, the Roman empire will be cutoff into half, loosing Asia and Africa , who once were part of Persian empire. See my paper on this link.

[https://www.academia.edu/24072206/Sol-Invictus Mithraism and early Christianity was derived from the ancient pagan ritual of Persian- Mithra and Indian- Mitra](https://www.academia.edu/24072206/Sol-Invictus_Mithraism_and_early_Christianity_was_derived_from_the_ancient_pagan_ritual_of_Persian-Mithra_and_Indian-Mitra)

The various Christian traditions of the world uses different words to describe them. Some refer these three men, or three “wise men”, or three kings some call them “Three Magis” . Some have names for these kings while others do not. This vague description mentioned in scriptures heightens the curiosity of the modern historians and biblical scholars to find out exactly who they were and if indeed they existed. They came all the way to Jerusalem and Bethlehem from some place in the east.

Gospel of Mathew, three Magis, and tradition of Jewish Prophecy

King Herod who was installed by Romans as a puppet never felt secure under Roman rule. Most of his subjects despised him and priests cursed him . Now, here is another passage from Bible:

“After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi[a] from the east came to Jerusalem, and asked: Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.

When King Herod heard this, he was disturbed, and all of Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

So, here, one can assume that they were stating the previous prophecy of Micah. According to the Hebrew Bible, Micah was a minor prophet in Judaism and is the author of the Book of Micah. He is considered one of the Twelve Minor Prophets of the Hebrew Bible and was a contemporary of the prophets Isaiah, Amos, and Hosea. Micah was from Moresheth-Gath, in southwest Judah. He prophesied during the reigns of kings Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah of Judah. Micah's messages were directed chiefly toward Jerusalem. He prophesied the future destruction of Judah and Samaria, the destruction and then future restoration of the Judean state, and he rebuked the people of Judah for dishonesty and idolatry. Micah 5:2 is interpreted in Christians Bible suggesting the Bethlehem, a small village just south of Jerusalem, would be the birthplace of the arrival of Messiah. Either magi knew it or was told of that by another priest in Herod's court recounting the prophecy.

"But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah.
for out of you will come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

The Escape to Egypt

When Magis had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him."

So, he got up, took the child and his mother during the night, and left for Egypt, where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: "Out of Egypt I called my son."

When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

"A voice is heard in Ramah,
weeping and great mourning,
Rachel weeping for her children
and refusing to be comforted,
because they are no more."

The Return to Nazareth

After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child’s life are dead.”

So, he got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning in Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Having been warned in a dream, he withdrew to the district of Galilee, and he went and lived in a town called Nazareth. So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets, that he would be called a Nazarene.

Matthew states that three Magis did not know where Baby Jesus was but may or may not have known Micah’s prophesy. So, they went to inquire with King Herod. King Herod then orders all male babies in Bethlehem killed after recanting earlier prophesy that was 700 years old . Under the Biblical literatures they use various terms to define these Magis who brought the gifts to Baby Jesus. It is obvious that two-year time limit was suggested by Magis because it took them that much time to come from distance to see the baby Jesus. The star itself had been seen earlier and two year is an estimate. We have no details on actual birth. That becomes a chronological issue.



Magis visiting baby Jesus



Magis warned by Angle not to go to Herod-Canterbury cathedral

Mathew’s Gospel was written in Greek and Greek was the common language of writing both in Egypt and Asia Minor during Roman period. Mathew’s Gospel was one of first four canonical gospels of Christianity. It was also one of the three synoptic gospels, and the first book of the New Testament. The narrative tells how the Messiah, Jesus, rejected in Judah finally sends the disciples to preach his Gospel to the outside world. The Gospel of Matthew and the other Gospels survived in scribal copies and propagated over time. In the process of recopying, variations slipped in, different regional manuscript traditions emerged with multiple streams of transmission, and corrections and adjustments were made, for theological reasons or to iron out incongruencies between copies or different translations into numerous languages. The editions of biblical and other ancient texts that we read today

are established by collating all major surviving manuscripts.

Mathew was publican and collected taxes for the Roman Empire and assumed to be Roman citizen. He was one of the Twelve Holy Apostle and Evangelist was also named Levi (Mark 2:14; Luke 5:27); he was brother of the Apostle James Alpheus (Mark 2:14, Mark 3:18; Luke 6:45; Acts 1:13). He lived in the Galilean city of Capernaum where he preached. When Matthew heard the voice of Jesus Christ: "Come, follow Me" (Mt. 9:9), left everything and followed the Savior.

Some scholars think that the Gospel of Mark was the epitome (summary) of Mathew but contemporary scholars reject that stipulation as Mark was the companion of Peter and regard that as an unknown source. Mark tells us of Jesus' baptism by John the Baptist to his death and burial and the discovery of Jesus' empty tomb, there is no genealogy or birth narrative or any post-resurrection appearances. Mark portrays Jesus as a heroic man of action. He also says he was an exorcist- healer and miracle worker. Jesus is also the son of God, but Jesus keeps his identity secret, concealing it in parables so that even the disciples fail to understand. All this is in keeping with prophecy, which foretold the fate of the messiah as Suffering Servant. The gospel ends with the discovery of the empty tomb and a promise to meet again in Galilee.

The Gospel of Matthew was written by an anonymous author and is not named within the text, and the superscription "[according to Matthew](#)" was added later in 3rd or 4th century AD. The tradition assumes that the unknown author was the disciple of Matthew and is suspected to be early Christian bishop Papias of Hierapolis (100-140 AD). Constantine's historian Eusebius's (260-340 AD) recollection on Mathew as follows:

"Matthew collected the oracles or statements about Jesus in the Hebrew language and each one were "translated" as best he could. This implies that Matthew's Gospel itself was written in Hebrew or Aramaic by the apostle Matthew and later translated into Greek, but nowhere does the author claim to give any eyewitness accounts of the events, and Matthew's Greek "reveals none of the telltale marks of a translation." Some biblical Scholars have put forward several apologetic theories to explain that perhaps Matthew wrote two gospels, one, now lost that was in Hebrew, the other is our Greek version; or perhaps the logia was a collection of sayings rather than the gospel. The consensus is that Papias does not describe the Gospel of Matthew as we know it, and it is generally accepted that Matthew's gospel was written in Greek by unknown scribe using unnamed sources. "

Again, this is not unique to Christianity, but it is quite common in other religions as well where ancients did not consider the documentation as an important task to preserve the tradition in a timely manner and least of their concern was the judgment of the future historians. The belief in faith always trumps the priority and concerns of the future historians.

So, here they are described as wise men. This is because the original language of the Gospel was Greek that called them "Magoi"; it was translated in English in New King James Version of Bible as "wise men"-a scribal error who did not know the Persian word Magus. The English

standard version was based on James version, so the mistake was repeated and English being the official language of most of the world, the history books are contaminated by poor translation. There has been no historical basis or under pinning to call them kings. The kings in those time never travelled alone and not on the camel back for such a distance. If indeed those were the kings they will represent three large armies on the outskirts of Jerusalem and someone would have recorded those events besides being threatened. During Roman time, we had enough Roman, Arabic and Jewish historians. Only interpretation that can be made for the use of the world king was that three gift of offering came from three different countries. Unless, kings allowed the export after collection of due taxes, the items cannot be exported. Other reason was if Jesus is to be described in the biblical text as king of king, all mortals including the kings and emperor would have to bow to him, the divine son of God, and the savior of all. We must note that Parthia where most of Magis resided were at war with Romans over Asia minor that the previous Persian kings ruled.

The Economist in its lead article paints this mythology with humor and dubs this story in the category of “rule of three” when it is related to three king’s theory

“For those who deprived of mystical significance of the kings, however there is a more profound dimension to the rule of three to ponder. For three encompasses everything: past, present and future; here, there, and everywhere; earth, sea, and air; positive, negative and neutral; this, that, and others. Through these trinities the kings, who might be Tom, Dick and Harry, wonder in search of answers (yes, no, maybe) to mysteries even older than that of Father, son and Holy Ghost: the birth of light, the dawn of light and primacy of love.”

Now, let us go back to what the Gospel says: Mathew 2.1-2

“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.”

Mathew 2.11

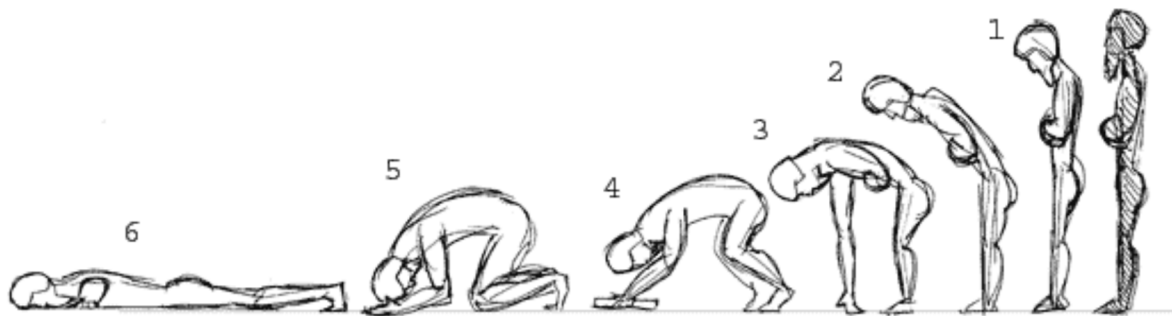
“And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold, and frankincense and myrrh.”

Since there were only three gifts involved, the presumption of the scribe may be that each carried one gift so the number can be three. The Persian tradition implies that the Magis never travelled together in less than number of 20, while offering the gifts to Kings.

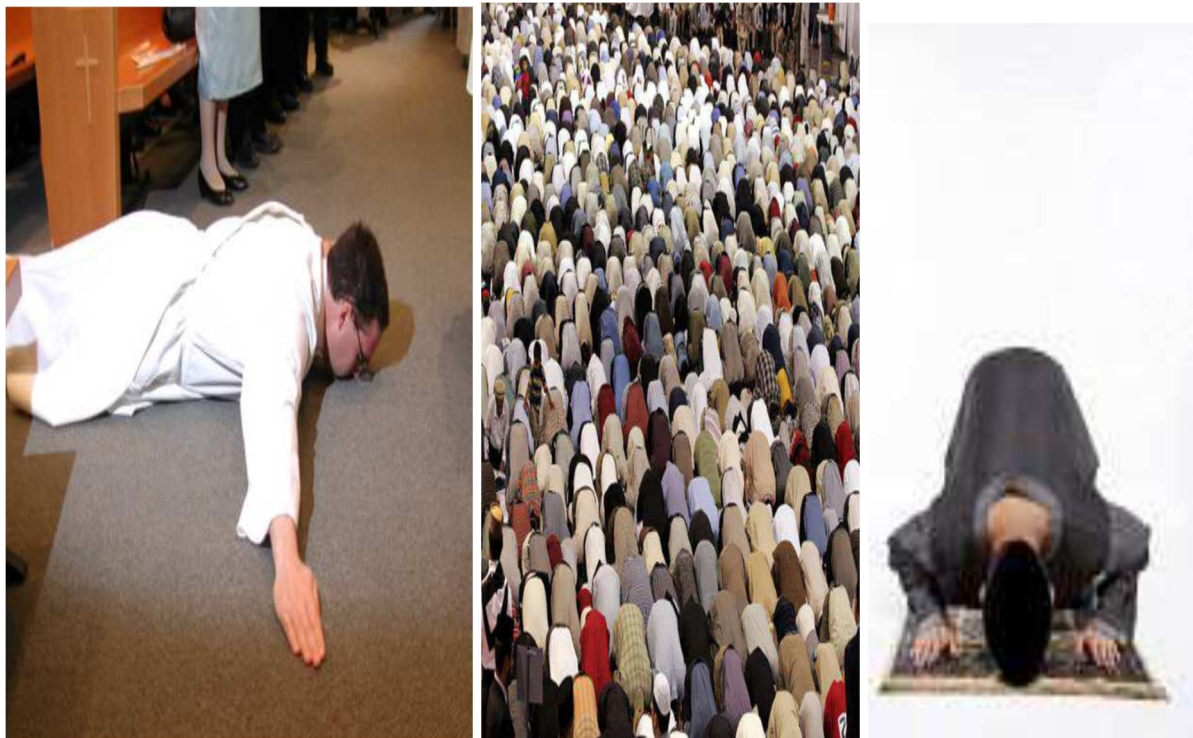
Mathew 2.11 also does not say that there were three wise men who presented gifts to baby Jesus. It only uses the word “**wise men**”.

“And going into the house they saw the child with Mary, his mother and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, Gold, and frankincense and myrrh.”

The above statement implies that the child was already born. The gifts mentioned were three important commodities of the Roman word. Now falling like Prostrating in front of the divinity is the famous Indian tradition and the Persian may have followed it as well but there is no confirmation. Buddhist and Jaina texts are filled with Prostration position of kneeling to divinities. It has also appeared in Abrahamic faiths as well. This position of kneeling is done at least three times. Again, the rule of divine number three is applied.



Prostrations is repeated three times in Jainism and Buddhism



All Abrahamic faiths-Christianity, Judaism and Islam derives this worshipping tradition from Indo-Iranians based on dating chronology of the religions as to when they began the practice. So, it is safe to assume the visitors followed the same tradition.

The references of these Magis are found at various places in the Gospel of Mathew. the modern historian claims that Mathew's gospel is the only that narrates the story of the birth and Jacob's star while other Gospels says nothing. To counter this argument, some scholars have suggested that all the gospels are pieces of one Gospel that describes in total Jesus' life and teaching. Still it raises some additional question while creating the doubts among many biblical scholars.

Tradition of eastern religions-Dream interpretations, astrology, and prophesy

Jewish captivity in Babylon and testing of Prophet David

When King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon besieged Jerusalem again, resulting from tribute not being routinely paid by King Jehoiakim of Judah and Sumeria. This led to massacre, captivities of Jews and priests to be taken away to Babylon. The date of these accounts vary . Nebuchadnezzar was superstitious king under the influence of court dream interpreters and astrologers (Magis). Every time, he had weird dreams , he needed an answer. The story of David, another Jewish prophet under captivity is well known who interpreted one of his dream under the threat of the lion.

It seems that this must be a common things in antiquity, where every story of importance either heard or written regarding a royal or a prophet that were accompanied by the dreams, miracles or magics had an implied divinities. This tradition was handled by special groups of people. In middle east, they were Magis and in India they were Brahmin. Similarly, in ancient Judah, they were prophets.

The Messiah as prophesized was sent to spread God's message and three Magis known to Bible were just following "Jacob's star" to find the new Messiah sent by God as per previous prophesy.

Jacob Star Prophesy

AMP and KJV # 24-17 relates to Jacob's star.

"I see Him, but not now; I behold Him, but not near. A star shall come forth from [the descendants of] Jacob, A scepter shall rise out of [the descendants of] Israel and shall crush the forehead of Moab and destroy all the sons of Sheth."

The star of prophecy was repeatedly applied during the troubled years of Roman rules and other despots of Jewish history . During Roman period , Harrod's tyrannical rule led up to the Jewish Revolt, the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem by Titus and the suicidal last stand of the Sicarii at Masada. The Star Prophecy appears in the Qumran texts called the Dead Sea scrolls. This was the prophecy that was of great importance to all resistance groups in that period of waiting, including Essene Jews responsible for the dead sea scrolls at Qumran and the revolutionaries who triggered the war against Rome, not to mention the early Christians.

I have speculated in my earlier paper (link provided above) that the Romanized Jewish historian Josephus, applied this prophecy to Vespasian, who was campaigning against the Jewish Zealots in Judah and Sumeria and "who was to come out of Judah and rule the world." According to Robert Karl Gnuse, it is not certain that Josephus was referring to the Star Prophecy. "In his history Josephus observes that Vespasian was destined to be the world ruler who would come out of Judea, and not a Jewish messiah, as the revolutionaries had erroneously anticipated (War 6.312-314). ... Josephus may have drawn upon the texts in Daniel 9:25-26, primarily and Genesis 49:10, Numbers 24:17, and Daniel 7:13-14 secondarily. He may have used an Essenic understanding of a messianic world ruler in addition. Same thing applied to Persian Xerxes who freed Jews and helped build second temple"

The modern astrologer have determined that Sirius star called the "dog star" could be the star of Bethlehem. SIRIUS can be seen from any part of the world. When seen from the east , Sirius rises in mid-evening in December. By mid-April, Sirius is setting in the southwest in mid-evening. Most people in the Northern Hemisphere will notice Sirius in the southeast – south – or southwest on evenings from winter to mid-spring. During the month of February, it carries the greatest illumination , so February evenings are a good time to see it. One can see Sirius during ascendancy to the east before dawn on late summer mornings. As the star passes through, it appears to change the color prompting people to imagine it as UFO. The star lies in the constellation of Canis Major.

In ancient Egypt, the name Sirius signified the sparkling. The star was believed to be associated with the Egyptian gods Osiris. Ancient Egyptians observed that Sirius rose just before the sun each year immediately prior to the annual flooding of the Nile River.

In India, Sirius was known as "Svana", the dog of Pandva Prince Yudhishtira of Mahabharata, the prince and his four brother collectively called Pandavas, along with Svana, set out on a long and arduous journey to find the kingdom of heaven. However, one by one the brothers all abandoned the search until only Yudhishtira and his dog, Svana, were left. At long last they came to the gates of heaven. The story continues further, and it falls in mythical category.

Our ancestors studied the night sky and saw shapes and patterns among the stars. They often made up stories to explain what they saw. The same star constellation was seen very differently by people from different countries, or even different parts of the same country. When looking at the constellation Capricornus, for example, the ancient Aztecs saw Cipactli, the Whale. In India, "Makaram", an antelope, was seen in the same constellation. The Assyrians thought the constellation looked more like a "goatfish", while the ancient Greeks thought it appeared to be a gate for the Gods to pass through. Every civilization attach different myths.



Star of Bethlehem was star SIRIUS



Sirius in Canis Major

When did the Gospels written?

This is as interesting and intriguing question due to recent discovery of the Gospel of Judas and Mary Magdalen and along with other papyrus documents discovered in Nag Hammadi library of Egypt. There is a general belief that all ancient documents related to early Christianity from Alexandria, Egypt were relocated to Nag Hammadi. Constantine on advice of Eusebius ordered them to be destroyed. Obviously, some scrolls were saved and preserved at Nag Hammadi in Egypt. Most of the experts give dates of around 100 AD plus minus 50 years for most of the discovered documents. However, this can be also dated to later period, as some of them could have been revised or altered during 4th century AD and labelled as “heretical” or “heresy” documents but some of narratives were borrowed and inserted in new testament.

Nag Hammadi library has a collection of early Christian and Gnostic texts. The library is located near the Upper Egyptian town of Nag Hammadi and documents were discovered in 1945. The documents found over here covers early Christianity that were brought to Egypt to escape Roman surveillance. When Constantine proclaimed Christianity as a state religion to unite the empire under one religion that was marred by dissensions and rebellions, the emperor and early church fathers ordered them destroyed, so they can promote their own official version.

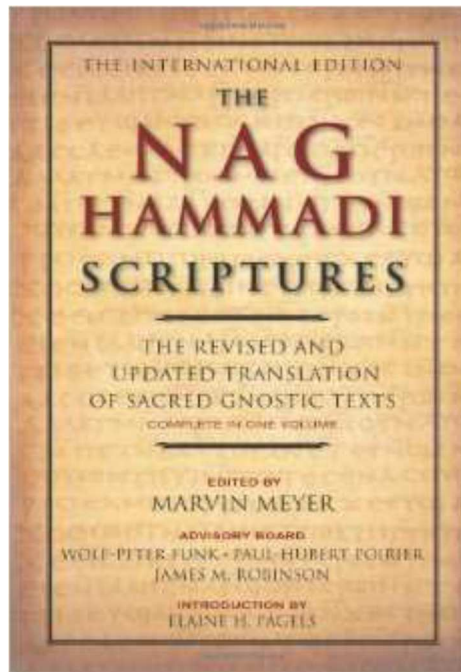
During the Roman period ,Egypt enjoyed certain degree of autonomy due to its importance to Roman empire and at one time many prosecuted Jews, Christians and Greeks fled to Egypt for sanctuary and it became relatively safer place for religious freedom. The early form of Christianity was protected here due to the large diaspora of Greek and Jewish population of Alexandria. The manuscript deposited at an obscure place like Nag Hammadi will be an ideal space out of the Roman reach.

There is an official version of Christ’s history from the Vatican and then there are other views that create the doubts on various events and “Magi-kings” story is one of that mysteries that lingers on in the minds of the modern scholars and historians. The dating of various documents can vary by 200 to 400 years from the date of the Crucifixion of Christ.

For first two hundred years after Crucifixion date, the Christianity was officially banned from Roman Empire. A Roman commander Vespasian was chosen as Emperor, after the demise of Julio-Claudian dynasty. Vespasian was based in Egypt and his wife was a Greek woman of Syria from Agrippa family, sympathetic to Jews and Christians. Both have lived in Asia and had a different political and religious perspective of the empire than the previous emperors who were based in Rome.



Mathew's Gospel



Gnostic Library at Nag Hamadi-Egypt



Nag Hamadi's location

The Initial religious culture of Roman Empire was Greco-Roman and was confined to Rome and Italy and involved pagan worship. It worshipped Greco-Roman Gods. Up on acquisition of Asia Minor, the Persian and Egyptian Gods and Goddesses were included. However, they were all pagan Gods and Goddesses. Jews were not allowed to worship their Gods, after the destruction of their temple by Romans. Jewish historian Josephus Flavius was a close adviser to Emperor Vespasian and his son Titus and often accompanied them. He wrote three books and except for vague reference that **“Cristo was killed”** and **“there was vice man names Jesus, who lived in Judah”**, there are no additional reference to the history and life of Jesus or story of three Magis or wise men that came to see King Herod. So, if these events did occur, they were officially banned for writing and never showed up in any of his books or the events never occurred during his life.

We also know from the history that true prophets are never recognized in their own lifetime, until they are martyred or died. Such was the case with many prophets and messengers, who are now recognized as divine messengers from the God. The Jews believed in prophecies and its importance. Their religious heritage of prophecy is unique to their religious beliefs, but one can argue that Hindu's reincarnation belief, Jaina and Buddhist's belief on arrival of next Tirthankara or Buddha are remarkably similar. We know the Greek's journey to ancient Delphi to hear the oracles and other countries like Persia and China used astrological alignment to forecast the future events for a person, entity, or a nation.

Babylonian captivity and how it influenced the Prophecy of Arrival of Jewish Messiah

Nebuchadnezzar, the king of the Neo-Assyrian (Chaldean) empire at Babylon deported the most prominent citizens of Israel (Judah) that included aristocrats, scribes, professionals, priests, craftsmen, and the wealthy merchants after the conquest and fall of Jerusalem. The "people of the land" (farmers) could stay behind but the above captured were taken to Babylon to serve his nation. So, the Jewish nation was split up during this imposed exile.

1. Jews of Babylon

2. Jews of Judah.

We have no recorded knowledge of the Jews in Judah, who stayed behind after 586 BC, when Jerusalem fell and how they lived or worshipped.

Only thing we know from other Jewish Torah that Judah was racked up by famine due to pillage and looting by Neo-Assyrians-Chaldean troops and running away of the farmers in deserts and countryside as per textual lamentations written in Jerusalem during the exile. The entire situation seemed to be of deep despair.

Nebuchadnezzar captured and enslaved the wealthy landowners, he redistributed the land among the poor who were left behind. So, they indirectly benefitted. These undoubtedly developed rivalries between two groups and the Jews of Babylon started considering themselves as true Jewish people. The important feature of this exile was Jewish people were only settled in a single place at Babylon and were not scattered around. **As per Jeremiah, the numbers of exiles were slightly less than 4,000 but only men were counted in ancient time. Total Jewish Diaspora may have grown over period to 10,000 to 20,000 including women and children. Some of them were sold as slaves along the silk caravan and their presence in Afghanistan and Uyghur province of china testifies that fact. While earlier deportation of the Jews by the Assyrian ruler Tiglath-Pileser-III in 722 BC and nearly wiped out Jewish presence in Judah. This in a way describes the story of lost tribes of children of Judah.**

The deported Jews of Babylon formed their own community and retained their religion and became more orthodox. They practiced the religion and developed philosophies. Some Jews mixed with the Chaldeans and adapted the Chaldean religion that was highly influenced by Mesopotamian traditions and Shramana culture of east particularly Persia and India. Some sources claimed that they named their offspring after Chaldean Gods but for the most part, the community remained united in its common faith of **"Yahweh"**. They called themselves **"Bene Gola"** (Israel people in exile) and within their despair and imposed slavery, they fortified their strong national identity and underlying these despairs was the hope and

inspiration given by Jewish intellectuals and prophets like Daniel, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel who reminded the rest, the promise given to Abraham and Moses by their God Yahweh. These intellectuals supplemented the idea of God's promise by explaining that their suffering is caused by their own impurities and disobeying of God's laws. They also reminded them that the promised arrival of messiah, who will come to earth to liberate them.

Jeremiah was the one who risked his life to plead with the Jewish king to change his ways. before, it would be too late. For his trouble, the prophet was eventually thrown into prison without food or hope of rescue. He was the one who wrote a scroll **(that would eventually become the book of Lamentations)** predicting the terror of the destruction - only to have it torn up and thrown into a fire. And he was the one who, after having been saved from prison by the king of Babylonia, Nebuchadnezzar found the courage to face his patron with prophecies of the coming end of that nation. That also took place, when Achaemenians overrun Chaldean Babylonian empire. Ezekiel was 30 years old when he was called to his prophetic ministry, five years after he was taken as an exile to Babylon **(Ezekiel 1:1–2)**. He was a priest, the son of Buzi **(verse 1:3)**. Ezekiel had a stylized, educated, and well - informed writing style having a great familiarity with the processes, vocabulary, and symbols of the priesthood and the Temple.

Daniel was the youngest of all three and came as youngster to Babylonian captivity and displayed unfathomable fortitude and courage when he was thrown into Lion's den for whole night only to be emerged unscathed and untouched by lions.

Many rabbinic Jewish scholars acknowledge that much of the Hebrew Bible is written as if it were autobiographical sketch. Jeremiah's story seems too truthful and painful not to be true. The Talmud suggests he is the only prophet to have written his own biography. Some Jewish scholars have raised questions regarding Ezekiel story, but he appeared to be more precise in forecasting events. Jeremiah and Ezekiel (both of whom were also priests) lived and were active as prophets during a time of great catastrophe for the people of Israel, the conquest of Judah and the destruction of their First Temple. They devised different theologies to respond to the destruction of the Temple. Jeremiah blames the people for ethical misbehavior. Ezekiel blames the people for ritual misbehavior. Not much difference. The Book of Ezekiel has precise dating beginning in the 5th year until the 27th year of the 70 years of captivity. During this early period of exile Ezekiel continued to prophesize to the people of Jerusalem. It is interesting that the prophecies of Jeremiah and Ezekiel intersected with each other. Fortunately for the Jewish captives, Babylon fell to Achaemenians king of Persia and the Jews were freed and allowed to return home. Most of the Jewish texts dealing with prophesy, despair and story of exodus were written after their freedom from exile. This is not a unique phenomenon to any religion.

In Jainism, the canonical texts were written 700 to 900 years after the death of Mahvira. The Buddhist canonical texts were written after 1000 to 1200 years after Buddha's death. The

Rigveda and Avesta were written at different times with various sections. The Hindu Puranas were written around common eras. This should produce some varying degree of inaccuracies of the events and introduction of mythical components that were regarded more as poetic imagination of time but anathema to modern historians as the scriptures guarantee no precision of accuracy of the history.

Jewish texts such as Lamentations, which was probably written in Jerusalem before the exile, and Job written after the exile, as well as many of the Psalms of the Hebrew literature takes on a despairing quality but gives higher degree of accuracy of the events than Christian texts. The subject of Job is centered on the human suffering. At the end, the only answer that is given is that humans should not question God's will. A remarkably similar mentality exhibited in the Hindu culture that

“It was predestined and cannot be altered or changed”.

The author's personal view is that, everything is subject to change and it all depends on the human efforts applied for a change and the change of mindset becomes a necessity to alter the outcomes.

Various psalms written in this period exhibits extreme despairs and hopelessness. It is most likely that the Torah took its final shape during this period or shortly afterward, and that it became the central text of the Jewish faith.

Cyrus who freed Jews never acquired the status of Jewish messiah, but he was professionally written up in Jewish text. It is easy to forget that noble acts of Persian Cyrus that freed Jews. “Cyrus sent them home specifically to worship Yahweh—what was once only a kingdom would become a nation of Yahweh.

The story of Daniel (third Jewish prophet) in the city of Babylon is well known. While in the captivity, he was well respected by Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar. He became his trusted adviser and became an administrator at Babylon. He certainly was wise, and he was involved in prophesy and he must have influenced the Magis and Shramana culture of Babylon after the **“Lions in Daniel's Den”** episode so well described in various texts.
Prophecy of Daniel 9:24–27

“Seventy weeks are decreed about your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to put an end to sin, land to atone for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal both vision and prophet, and to anoint a most holy place. Know therefore and understand that from the going out of the word to restore and rebuild Jerusalem to the coming of an anointed one, a prince, there shall be seven weeks. Then for sixty-two weeks it shall be built again, with squares and moat, but in a troubled time. And after the sixty-two weeks, an anointed one shall be cut off and shall have nothing. And the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. With end shall come with a flood, and to the end there shall be war. Desolations are decreed. And he shall make a strong covenant with

many for one week, and for half of the week he shall put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall come one who makes desolate, until at the decreed end is poured out on the desolator.”

Prophecy of Balaam -Numbers 24:17-Jacob's star

I see him, but not now.
I behold him, but not near:
the star shall come out of Jacob,
and a scepter shall rise out of Israel.
it shall crush the forehead of Moab
and break down all the sons of Sheth.

Balaam's prophecy specifically mentions a “star coming out of Jacob.” As seen from above. The Magus were clearly stargazer Shramana-astrologers and were guided by the spectacular astronomical events that they show that was later was called as “star of Bethlehem”. They must know prophecy of Daniel during Babylonian exile.

Prophecy in Micah 5:2, The Coming of Messiah

“But you, Bethlehem, Ephrathah,
Though you are little among the thousands of Judah,
Yet out of you shall come forth to me
The One to be Ruler in Israel,
Whose goings forth is from of old, from everlasting?”

The first mention of Ephrath occurs in Genesis, about where Rachel died giving birth to Benjamin and is buried on the road from Bethel. An incredibly old tradition is that Ephrath refers to Bethlehem, and thus that she died on the way there, reflected by the ancient Tomb of Rachel at the city's entrance. **If it is not a strange coincidence that the ages of three kings described in bible nearly matches the ages of the Jewish prophets who presented the gift in the story.**

Presents to Baby Jesus

The gift described in three wise men-magi-king story are the most desired and expensive gifts of the roman world. The reasons and origin of these gifts are given below.

1. “Myrrh”

It is the aromatic resin of several small, thorny tree species of the Genus Commiphora which was considered an essential oil from “oleoresin” group. Myrrh resin is a natural gum. It has been used throughout history as a perfume, incense, and medicine. It can

also be ingested by mixing it with wine. Myrrh gum is such a resin. Myrrh gum is waxy, and coagulates quickly. After the harvest, the gum becomes hard and glossy. The gum is yellowish, and may be either clear or opaque. It darkens deeply as it ages. This plant and other species of the same family are native to Yemen, Somalia, Ethiopia, and India. Danielle Ryman describes additional use of Myrrh by the ancient as follows:

Myrrh as a plant Gum resin after extraction Distilled extract as a spirit.

“It was an ingredient of incense used for religious ceremonies and fumigations by the Ancient Egyptians. Called ‘punt’ or ‘phun’, it was an ingredient of a famous Egyptian perfume ‘kyphi’. It was prescribed to counter during the ancient period to counter allergies and hay fever, and was an important ingredient in embalming the dead bodies as well. Moses was enjoined to take myrrh with him from Egypt his Children of Israel.

In the New Testament, Nicodemus is said to have ordered 100 lb. of myrrh and aloe to anoint the body of Jesus (as was the custom among Jews at that time). The Hebrews would mix myrrh in their wine and drink it to raise their state of consciousness before participating in religious ritual. The same mixture was given to criminals a few hours before execution to ease their mental suffering. There are many mentions of myrrh’s therapeutic properties in the Old and New Testaments, in the Koran, and in Greek and Roman texts. Herodotus, Theophrastus and Plutarch sang its praises, and Dioscorides and Pliny classified it as a Healer and cured

Many illnesses like all-purpose medicines of today’s world (like Aspirin, Tylenol, Penicillin or Amoxicillin and Cipro). Its anti-bacterial properties for healing wounds and embalming the body made this commodity precious and important. The essence was extracted and distilled during 16th century AD, and Valerius Cordius and Conrad Gesner described the procedure as to prepare the ointments from the plant resin. They classified it for external usage, as a vulnerary (wound healing). Later remedies – called in France ‘l’ elixir de Carus’, ‘baume de Fioraventi’, ‘baume du commandeur’ or ‘baume du samaritain’ – were all based on myrrh. These healed cuts, burns and wounds, and were used as an expectorant for catarrhal discharge and bronchitis, and in fumigation. Cartheuser in Matiere Medicale in 1765 AD confirmed the above properties but also claimed myrrh’s properties in treating skin ulcers and other skin diseases, mixed with sage it could fortify the gums and was a good antiseptic for rotten teeth .”

American Indians used similar plants for same purpose. In Ayurvedic medicine in India, myrrh is still used for this purpose, in parallel with conventional medicine.

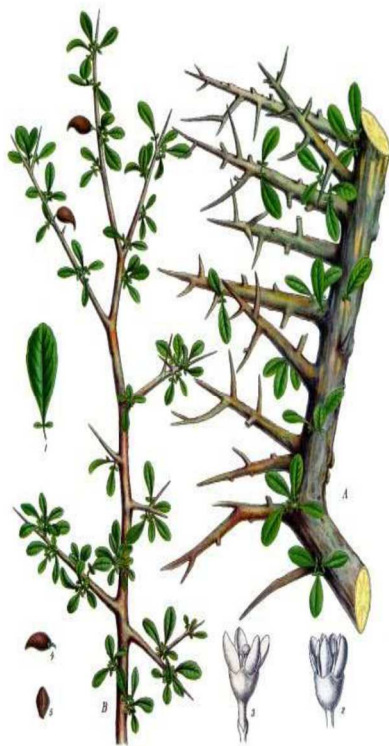
2. Frankincense

Frankincense, also called “*olibanum*”, is an aromatic resin used in incense and perfumes, obtained from trees of the “*Genus Boswellia*” in the tree family of Burseraceae, particularly *Boswellia sacra*. *Boswellia serrata* is native to India (Indian frankincense). The word Frankincense is derived from French language that means high quality essence. Frankincense has been traded on the Arabian Peninsula and in North Africa for more than 5000 years. A mural depicting sacks of frankincense traded from the Land of Punt adorns the walls of the temple of ancient Egyptian Queen Hatshepsut, who died circa 1458 BC. (See below)

Frankincense was one of the consecrated incenses described in the Hebrew Bible and Talmud

used in Ketoret ceremonies. The frankincense of the Jews, as well as of the Greeks and Romans is also called Olibanum (Arabic al-lubbān). The Greek historian Herodotus was familiar with frankincense and knew it was harvested from trees in southern Arabia. He reported that the gum was dangerous to harvest because of venomous snakes that lived in the trees.

Old Testament references report it in trade from Sheba (Isaiah 60:6; Jeremiah 6:20). Frankincense is mentioned in the Song of Solomon (Song of Solomon 4:14). It was offered on a specialized incense altar in the time when the Tabernacle was in the First and Second Jerusalem Temples. The ketoret was an important component of the Temple service in Jerusalem. It is mentioned in the Hebrew Bible book of Exodus 30:34, where it is named levonah. It was one of the ingredients in the perfume of the sanctuary (Exodus 30:34), and was used as an accompaniment of the meal-offering (Leviticus 2:1, 2:16, 6:15, 24:7). When burnt it emitted a fragrant odor, and the incense was a symbol of the Divine name (Malachi 1:11; Song of Solomon 1:3) and an emblem of prayer (Psalm 141:2; Luke 1:10; Revelation 5:8, 8:3). It was often associated with myrrh (Song of Solomon 3:6, 4:6).



Frankincense from Yemen



and flowers from Boswellia sacra Tree



and converted to Resin form



Indian Incense called “Agarabattis”



Frankincense from Yemen and flowers from Boswellia sacra Tree and converted to Resin form

India has a rich tradition of using incense in many social and religious occasions since time immemorial. Incense sticks, also known as Aagarbathi (or Aagarbatti derived from Sanskrit word Agaravarthi, Gara = odor, Agar = aroma, Varthi = wound) and joss sticks, in which an incense paste is rolled or molded around a bamboo stick, is one of the main forms of incense in India and usually utilized as a purifying agents on solemn occasion of death, prayer and temple worship. Its resin has also the medicinal properties and used for healing the wounds as the smell kept the insects and other microbes away due to its odor and chemical

properties.

While burning incense was accepted as a practice in the later Roman Catholic church, the early church during Roman times forbade the use of incense in services resulting in a rapid decline in the incense trade due to Roman-Parthian war and Naval and land embargo. The lost city of "Ubar" sometimes identified with "Irem" in what the town of "Shisr" in is now ancient Magan (Oman) is believed to have been a center of the frankincense trade along the recently rediscovered "Incense Road". The site of Ubar was rediscovered in the early 1990s and is now under archaeological excavation. One can assume that Frankincense and Myrrh both could have been exported from Arabia as well as India during the ancient time. Roman-Parthian war placed a temporary halt to meet western demand but maritime trade continued.

Gold

The gold is dispersed widely throughout the geologic world, its discovery occurred to many different groups in many different locales and nearly everyone who discovered it was impressed with its shine, and so was the developing culture in which they lived. The use of gold in jewelries', Icons for religious worship of idols was quite common in the ancient world as well as numismatic coins for trade exchanges. Homer in his epics "Iliad" and "Odyssey," makes mention of gold as the glory of the immortals and a sign of wealth among mortal humans. In Genesis 2:10-12, we learn of the river Pison out of Eden, and **"the land of Havilah, where there is gold: and the gold of that land is good?"**

As far back as 3100 B.C., we have evidence of a gold/silver value ratio in the code of Menes, the founder of the first Egyptian dynasty. In this code it is stated that **"one part of gold is equal to two- and one-half parts of silver in value."** This is our earliest of a value relationship between gold and silver. In ancient Egypt, around the time of Seti I (1320 B.C.), we find the creation of the first gold treasure map now known to us. Today, in the Turin Museum is a papyrus and fragments known as the "Carte des mines d'or." It pictures gold mines, miners' quarters, road leading to the mines and gold-bearing mountains, and so on. The first use of gold as money occurred around 700 B.C., when Lydian merchants produced the first coins. These were simply stamped lumps of a 63% gold and 27% silver mixture known as 'electrum.' This standardized unit of value no doubt helped Lydian traders in their wide-ranging successes, for by the time of Croesus of Mermnadae, the last King of Lydia (570 -546 B.C.), Lydia had amassed a huge hoard of gold. Today, we still speak of the ultra-wealthy as being 'rich as Croesus.' The general belief is that the gold was everywhere but in ancient history central Asia and other places had regular gold mines. Indians, Chinese and Asians hordes gold in large quantity partly due to its cultural value for wedding ceremonies but also as currency of last resort. The frequent changes in regimes made their local currencies worthless so passion of gold gave them security of non-depreciating wealth. The mentions of three important commodities usually reserved for a king may have given the later scribes an idea of three kings bringing the gifts.

So why there were only three Magis or Wise men?

If prophesy is fulfilled and the son of God is born, one would expect throng of the visitors to pay homage and get blessing. How and why this secret was kept among three? Generally, Magis travelled in larger contingent of 20 or more according to Persian tradition. This is the question for myth makers to answer.

The traditional view that three wise men journeyed to see Christ is likely based on the fact that three gifts were given. However, since the Bible does not tell us the number of Magis, we can only speculate. We know there were at least two or more magi, and there may have been many more or if it is not tied to three gifts or assumption that each carrying only one.

The king and his retinue can carry all the gifts. Casper or Jasper features in Act of Thomas and some scholars have identified him as Gonophores- I, who belonged to the House of Suren established in Siestan-Baluchistan. Gondophares-1 was an Indian-Saka-Yovanna satrap. He ruled from Taxila the Northern India, an area covering Kabul, Swat Punjab valley and upper Sindh. The date of his rule roughly coincides with the date of Jesus' Crucifixion and resurrection and the rise of Vikramaditya-2, who gave India his calendar. According to the act of Thomas, he would have met Thomas and Jesus both in Taxila, obviously after resurrection. "Journey of the Magi," the first in a series of poems, Sir Eliot penned was published in August of 1927 AD, shortly after his baptism. Lindale Gordon suggested that the, "Journey of the Magi" is one part of Eliot's conversion story in that it tells about his being "ill-at-ease" in the 'old dispensation' after his conversion". It has been reported that Vivienne was against his conversion and this added to their marital problems. In 1933 AD, Eliot separated from Vivienne and then, in 1949 AD, while working for Faber and Faber, Eliot met Valerie Fletcher, whom he would later marry.

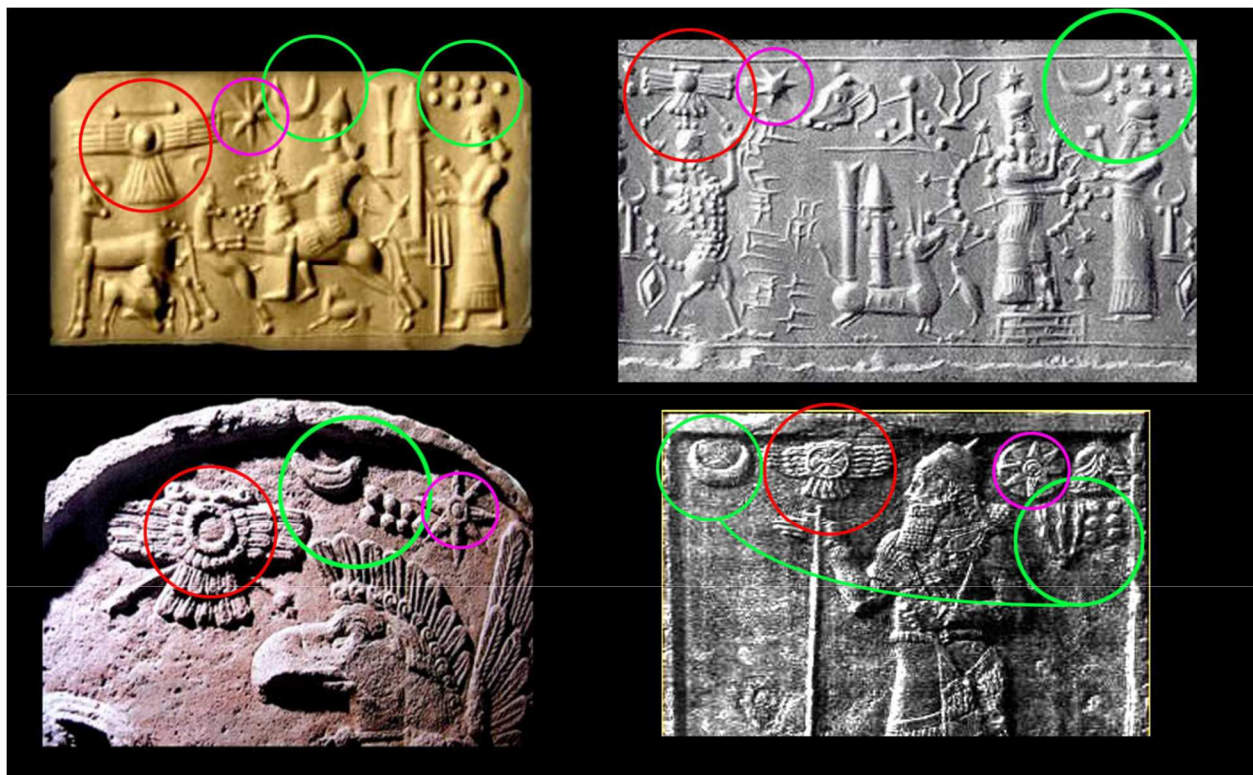
The Economist, holiday double issue has a lead story on the same subject dated to December 2014. The Economist is very reputable magazine published in London. The economist raised the same issue that is depicted in Elliot's poems:

"If these travelers were magi, the most circumstantial source-the book of Seth attributed to St. John Chrysostom in the fourth century AD, said there were 12 of them and they were watching the star from mythical mountain of Vauls, vaguely placed somewhere in Persia, for generation after generation, ever since Adam in old age had taken there. With him, he already had the gifts of Gold, frankincense, and myrrh, pinched from Garden of Eden. Since the gifts were three (symbolizing respectively king, God and mortal").

The modern historians have spent countless hours deliberating where these Magis were originated and by majority point to the border between ancient India and ancient Persia, if the event ever took place. As we see that ancient mythologies has traditions of being reborn in another religion with different spin, where actors changes, but the theme of story remains the same.

Barbara Walker opines on Jesus' birth story as: **"Magi-the "Magicians", Three Wise Men inserted into the Christian birth-story because Persian-Essene sages taught that the Magi were the only seers able to read the coming of the Messiah's star and so identify the right Divine Child. This teaching stemmed ultimately from Egypt, where the Three Wise Men were the three stars in the Belt of Orion, pointing to Osiris's star Sothis (Sirius), which "rose in the east" to announce the coming of the Savior at the season of the Nile flood. These three Belt stars were still called Magi in the middle Ages."**

Acharya and Murdock echo the same theme after exhaustive research: **"In Roman world, Magi were understood as the priests of Mithra or astrologers, healers, and miracle-workers; it was a term for magicians in general. Roman Christians were hostile to the Magi but were forced to retain the three Magi of the Gospel story because their presence was emphasized as evidence of Jesus' divinity. Many ancient gods, kings and heroes were said to have been born under a "bright star" or some other sort of celestial sign, indicating their greatness and role as "savior" as well. Despite protests to the contrary, this heavenly theme is obviously astrological and astral-theological in nature, dating back centuries to millennia prior to the Common Era. Indeed, like so many other religious and mythological correspondences, the "bright star" and the "three kings" represent motifs that long predate Christianity and are found within Egyptian religion, symbolizing the star Sirius as well as those of the constellation called Orion, along with their relationship to the Egyptian deities Osiris, Isis and Horus."**



Celestial objects in ancient seals of Mesopotamia

It is strange that in Gospel's story of three wise men, kings or Magis however you want to

describe them, while tracking a bright star and its obvious brilliantness in the gospel story, the tracking becomes exceedingly difficult for these three men as described in the testament as they were hopelessly getting lost in the desert as per the New Testament and must ask Christ's enemy King Herod for baby Jesus' whereabouts.


Dr. James Orr remarks, "It may...be inferred from Mathew 2.10 that in some way or other the wise men had for a time lost sight of the star. Until they found it again as Matthew 2:10 states:

"When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy." As the article in the economics point out that it is hard to say what they show. "Was it a heavenly phenomenon or astrological events of falling stars, asteroid, supernova or lining up of the planets? The comets usually precede the death or disaster in Greco-Roman world not birth. In truth, magi story never got traction in middle ages because the people knew who the kings were, Magis they were unsure of, except that they were pagans."

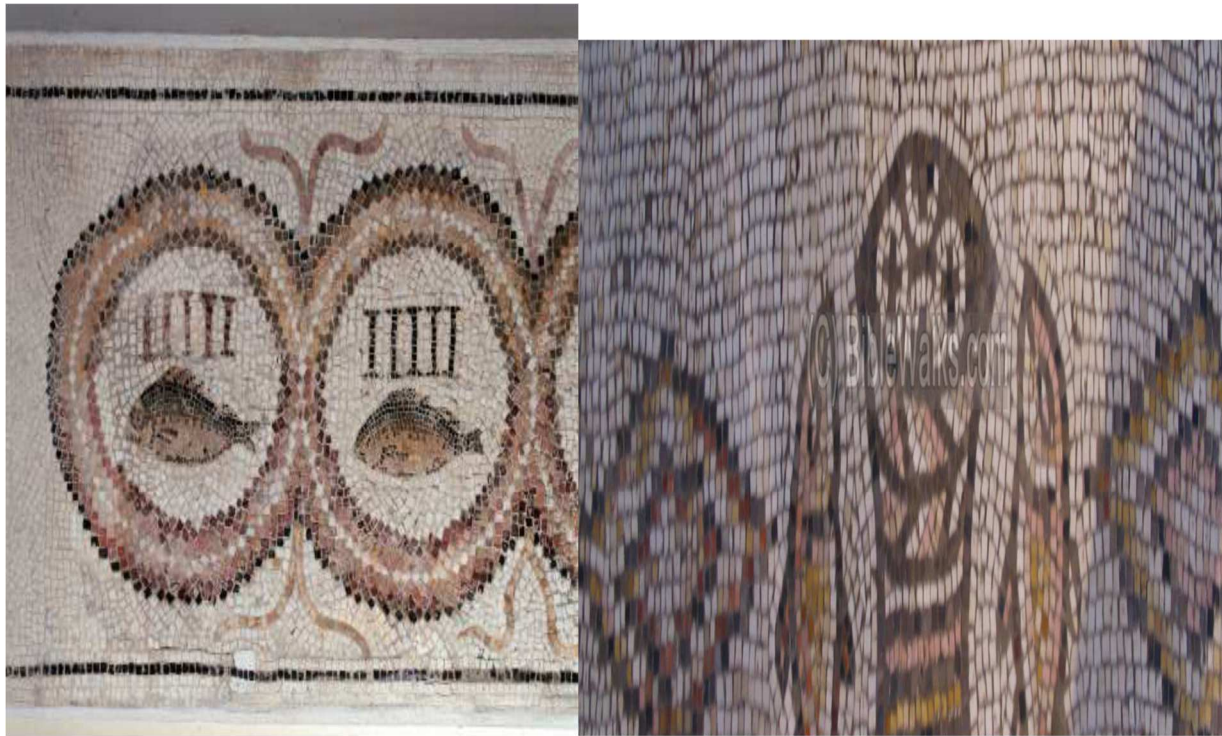
In the case of the New Testament, the oldest exemplars of relatively complete manuscripts are the Codex Vaticanus and the Codex Sinaiticus. Most scholars agree, following what is known as the "Marcan hypothesis", that the authors of Matthew and Luke used Mark as a source when writing their gospels after the Gospel of Mark was completed assumed to be the original document assumed to be dated to 1st or 2nd century AD. This is an optimistic date, but it can be dated to later time.

Fish first symbol of Christianity

As explained earlier, the Christianity remained "a hidden form of worship" in Roman Empire, where a fish symbol will be painted or marked in an isolated room inside of a house. The author visited such places in Pompeii-Herculaneum ruins near port city of Naples, Italy. The famous Christian symbols are the cross and the fish.

When threatened by Romans in the first centuries AD after Christ's death, Christians used the fish mark at meeting places and tombs, or to distinguish friends from foes. According to one ancient story, when a Christian met a stranger in the road, the Christian sometimes drew one arc of the simple fish outline in the dirt. If the stranger drew the other arc, both believers knew they were in  good company.

It is so happened that Greeks, Romans, and many other pagans also used the fish symbol before Christians. Hence the fish, unlike, the Christian Cross, attracted little suspicion, making it a perfect secret symbol for persecuted believers. Therefore, we find them in many mosaics. So, the early Christians made practical use of this symbol for practical convenience. This resembles our use of bumper-sticker and business-card practice to be recognized by fellow like-minded person. During Roman period there was no public display anywhere until Emperor Constantine made Christianity an official religion.



Fish symbols in Mosaic in remote places outside Rome in Asia Minor and Italy,

The fish has plenty of other theological overtones as well, for Christ fed the 5,000 with 2 fishes and 5 loaves (a meal recapitulated in Christian love-feasts) and called his disciples "fishers of men." So that was an easy association: "fishers of men" and the acronym for the word fish in Greek, and thus the symbol resembling a fish.

In pagan beliefs, "**Ichthys**" was the offspring of the ancient Sea goddess Atargatis, and was known in various mythic systems as Tirgata, Aphrodite, Pelagia, or Delphine. The fish is also a central element in other stories, including the Goddess of Ephesus, as well as the tale of the fish of the Nile that swallowed part of Osiris' body (the penis), and was also considered a

symbol of the sexuality of Isis for she had sexual intercourse with Osiris after his death which resulted in the conception and birth of his posthumous son, Harpocrates, Horus-the-child. So, in pagan beliefs, the fish is a symbol of birth and fertility.

Constantine the Great

The emperor Constantine was the son of Flavius Valerius Constantius, a Roman army officer, and his Greek wife Helena. He was an Illyrian coming from Balkan province where early Greek colonies were established. His father became Roman Caesar, the deputy emperor in the west in 293 AD. The early followers of Christianity were Greeks, Armenians, and later Balkans. The first seven church of Christianity were in Asia Minor.

The young Constantine was given eastern command, where he rose through the ranks to become a military tribune under the emperors Diocletian and Galerius. In 305 AD, Constantius was raised to the rank of Augustus, senior western emperor, and Constantine was recalled west to campaign under his father in Britannia. Acclaimed as emperor by the army at Eboracum (ancient Britain) after his father's death in 306 AD, Constantine emerged victorious in a series of civil wars against the emperors Maxentius and Licinius to become sole ruler of both western and eastern empire by 324 AD. This is well explained in the "Rise and fall of the Roman Empire."

Constantine was the first Christian emperor and was a significant figure in the history of Christianity. The Church of the Holy Sepulcher, built on his orders at the purported site of Jesus' tomb in Jerusalem, became the holiest place in Christendom. He is venerated as a saint by Eastern Orthodox Christians, Byzantine Catholics, and Anglicans. He also founded his capital at Constantinople.

Edicts of Milan

Constantine was the first emperor to stop Christian persecutions and to legalize Christianity along with all other religions and cults throughout the Roman Empire but he gave significant lift to Christianity through donation and financial support and converted himself to Christianity but not until he reached the end of life "at the death bed". That does not make you the willing convert of Christianity. However, his acts and his successors influenced pagans' aristocrats and military commanders to follow suit. Emperor Justinian who followed later was a true Christian believer and emperor and he rebuilt famous Hagias Sophia in Istanbul (Constantinople). In February 313 AD, Constantine met with Licinius of Milan, where they developed the Edict of Milan. The edict stated that Christians should be allowed to follow the faith without persecution. This removed penalties for professing Christianity, under which many had been martyred previously and returned confiscated Church property. The edict protected from religious persecution not only Christians but all religions, allowing anyone to worship whichever deity they chose.



Church of holy sepulture in Jerusalem- outside and inside view

A similar edict had been issued in 311 AD by Galerius, then senior emperor of the Tetrarchs; Galerius' edict granted Christians the right to practice their religion but did not restore any property to them. The Edict of Milan included several clauses which stated that all confiscated churches would be returned as well as other provisions for previously persecuted Christians.

Eusebio and codex Sinaiticus

The first fifty copies of Bibles were produced under the order of the emperor in Greek language and were commissioned in 331 AD by Constantine I himself under religious supervision of Eusebius of Caesarea. Eusebius wrote to the emperor:

"I have thought it is expedient to instruct your Prudence to order fifty copies of the sacred Scriptures, the provision and use of which you know to be most needful for the instruction of the Church, to be written on prepared parchment in a legible manner, and in a convenient, portable form, by professional transcribers thoroughly practiced in their art."

They were made for the use of the Bishop of Constantinople and the growing number of orthodox churches in Asia minor. Eusebius quoted the letter of commission and it is the only surviving source from which, we know of the existence of the Bibles. It is stipulated that this commission may have provided motivation for the development of the canon lists and that Codex Sinaiticus and Codex Vaticanus that later became surviving examples of these Bibles. In Sinaiticus, the text of the Gospels is divided according to the Ammonian Sections with references to the Eusebian Canons, but Vaticanus used the older system of division. Vaticanus was prepared in a format of 5 folios in one quire, but Sinaiticus had 8 folios. A biblical scholar, Scrivener stated that the Eusebian version was unclear and should not be used for a doubtful theory. Other scholars have opined that Eusebius have manipulated certain gospels to fit the narratives that by logic it becomes difficult to prove.

There is no evidence among the records of the First Council of Nicaea of any determination on the canon, however, Jerome, in his Prologue to Judith, makes the claim that the Book of Judith was

"judged to be an authentic scripture by the Nicene Council to have been counted among the number of the Sacred Scriptures".

Constantine on the other hand could care less about the canonical texts as he was hoping that the rising popularity of Christianity will provide him the binding glue to develop the commonality of Roman citizenship. Under this assumption, the loyalty will be shifted and vested to the divine Christian emperor. Roman Empire ruled nearly half of the world and had various nationalities and ethnicities and threat of rebellion was rampant. His desire was to see unification of his entire empire under one rule and he thought that the spread of Christianity will help him attain this objective. In that regard, he had the convergence of interest with Eusebius.

Eusebius ordered that any differences that existed with official version of bible sanctioned by the state (himself) will be the final authority and other sources like Gnostic documents of Egypt at Nag Hamadi will be suppressed and declared hearsay.

Looking back into the history, both champions of early Christianity achieved their goals and objectives. The eastern Roman Empire continued for several centuries less western part and Christianity spread throughout the world and paganism of old Roman Empire was eliminated and purged.

As far as the three Kings-Magi or prophesies of the arrival of Messiah is concerned, the doubt among modern scholars and historian will persists as the manuscripts have been worked over many times, by unnamed authors and similar myths existed during the ancient period of the history.



Codex Vaticanus



Codex Sinaiticus



Constantine the Great



seven churches of Christianity-all in Asia



Portrait of Eusebius and first council of Nicaea

After all, the belief and faith in God is more important for humans than name of the God or the form it assumes. If there is a faith, then there is a will and if there is a will then there is a future for the humanity. The faith in God, the supreme creator of the universe is between him and humans irrespective of the history or modern reevaluation to the accuracy of the Events. The traditions are important and have values in the human life. This will not stop the historians to do their work in learning from the history.

One cannot escape the notice of the formation of seven churches were in Asia and then churches in Europe were converted from old Mithrium.

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