

The Magi: A Reminder that Jesus Came for All Nations

Studying the Magi may seem like an odd place to start reflecting on the Christmas story. It's true, the Magi weren't even present at the birth of Jesus—even though they are commonly included in most nativity displays and church Christmas pageants. But the inclusion of the Magi in the Gospel of Matthew is no mistake. In fact, it's strategic and intentional. Looking at the story of the Magi reveals a valuable theme in the Gospel of Matthew: that Jesus Christ came to be Savior for all. Contemplating what the presence of the Magi means and examining our hearts in the light of this truth is fitting for Advent and prepares our hearts well to once again celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- What do you know or remember about the Magi?
- Why do you think Matthew includes the Magi in his account of the Christmas story?



LISTEN TO THE EPISODE: [*The Magi: A Reminder that Jesus Came for All Nations*](#)

READ [Matthew 2:1-12](#)

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- Think about what you already knew about the Magi before you listened to this episode. What was biblical? What was tradition? What new or interesting thing (or things) did you learn about the Magi in segment 1? Were you surprised by anything you heard?
- Do you think the church today understands Matthew's message that Jesus Christ came to be the Savior for all people? Does your church make room for all people in God's kingdom? Why or why not?
- In segment 3, host Scott Hoezee asks, "Who are the Magi today? Who are the people who when we see God bringing them into the church, we sort of say: Ooh, well, now, you know, they are pretty different from us. Do they really belong here? Who are today's Magi? Who is God working in that we didn't expect?" How would you answer Scott's questions?
- How might Matthew's reminder that Jesus came for all nations help us prepare our hearts to celebrate Christ's birth this year?

RELATED PASSAGES for further study

[Micah 5:2-4](#), [Leviticus 19:26b](#), [Genesis 12:1-3](#), [Isaiah 56:6-8](#), [Mark 11:15-17](#), [Acts 2:36-39](#), [Galatians 3:26-29](#)

CONCLUSION

Intentionally spend a few minutes reflecting on the Magi and Matthew's intentional inclusion of their story in his Gospel. Then consider and pray over these questions:

- How can our churches be more like the nativity scenes we see at Christmas—shepherds, angels, and Magi all mixed together... "a whole bunch of different people under one roof"?
- How or with whom is the Holy Spirit prompting you to show the "welcome of grace" Scott talks about in segment 3?

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