

# Kids' Chronicle

## Star leads astrologers to the baby Jesus

By JOE SARNICOLA

The astrologers stood before Herod the king, and said, "Your majesty, we have traveled many miles through cold nights and storms. We come before you to ask you where the child is."

"What child?" asked Herod.

"Why, he who is the newborn king of the Jews. We have seen the star that has declared this to be true."

As he rubbed his chin with his hand, Herod said, "I must consult with my advisers. My servants will take care of your camels, and they will prepare a meal for you. I will send for you later." The servants led the astrologers out of the king's chamber.

Herod called his chief priests and scribes before him, and he was angry. "Why did you not tell me that a new king had been born? Where is he?"

One of the scribes spoke. "According to one of the prophets, a ruler of Israel will come out of Bethlehem."

Herod dismissed the priests and scribes and called the astrologers back. When they entered his chamber, he told them, "Go and look for the child, and when you find him let me know. I want to worship him, too."

The astrologers left and went to search for Jesus. When the sun went down, the light of the star led them to Jesus. They knelt before Jesus, and they said to Mary, "We have come to see the king who has been born."

Mary, the mother of Jesus, was amazed. The astrologers wore expensive clothes and jewelry, yet here they were

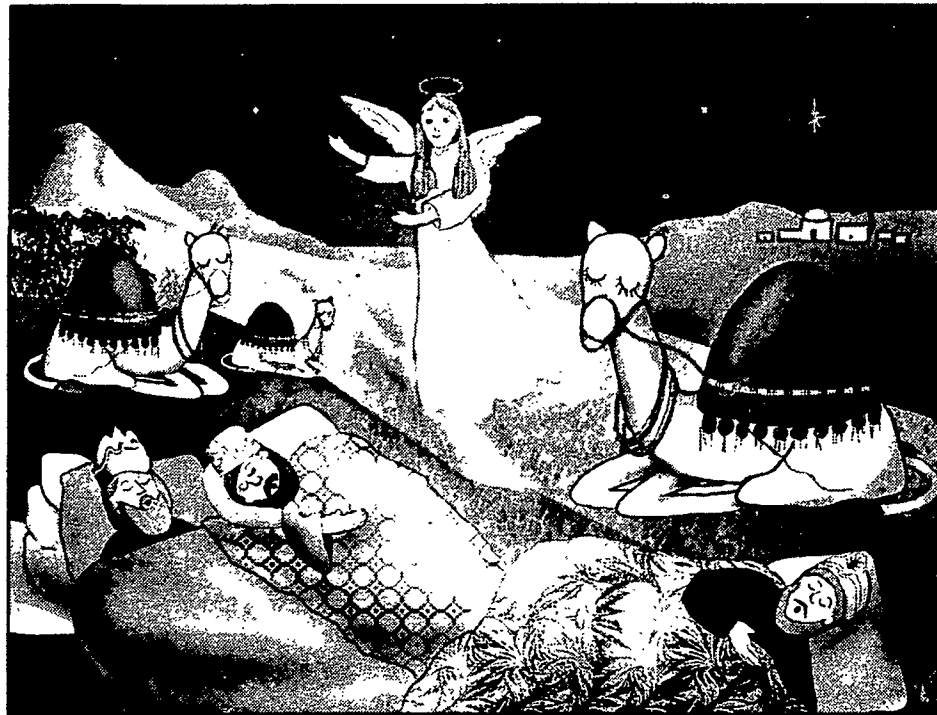


Illustration by Linda Jeanne Rivers

bowing down in her presence honoring her son. The astrologers rose and produced gifts that they had brought with them. Gold, frankincense, myrrh. Such things that Mary never thought she would see in her life.

"We hope our gifts are acceptable," they said. Mary could only nod and say, "Your gifts are acceptable. You are too generous. May the Lord bless you."

The astrologers bowed again and rode off to make camp for the night. They immediately fell into a deep sleep. While they were sleeping, they all had the same

dream. An angel of the Lord appeared in a cloud surrounded by a bright light.

"Beware of Herod," the angel said. "He is jealous. His only desire is to bring harm to the child. Do not return to the palace or tell Herod that you have seen Jesus. Take the path through the hills and return to your homes in safety."

**READ MORE ABOUT IT:**

Matthew 2

### Q&A

1. What showed the astrologers the way to Jesus?
2. Why did the astrologers take a different route home?

### Bible Accent

The three astrologers who visited the baby Jesus believed the positions of the stars and the planets had an effect on the events that happened on earth. When the men saw the bright star in the East, they knew something very important was about to happen.

They traveled to the birth site of Jesus and brought gifts that they felt would be appropriate for a newborn king. Gold, a valuable and beautifully shiny metal, often adorned royal crowns, jewelry and other objects. Frankincense, an expensive perfume, was the only incense allowed for use on the altar during religious services in the Old Testament days. Myrrh was another perfume that was used to freshen clothing or to anoint the bodies of people who died and were about to be buried.

### St. Basil

St. Basil the Great was born into a wealthy family in the year 329, at Caesarea of Cappadocia (Turkey). His parents and several of his brothers and a sister also are honored as saints. He was an excellent student, and he studied academics and religion with equal enthusiasm.

He became a monk and wrote many letters about important religious issues of his time, and a famous monastic rule. Huge crowds of people would come to hear his speeches. St. Basil became bishop of Caesarea. He was loved and respected by both Christians and non-Christians because of his compassion and generosity. We honor him on Jan. 2.

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### Puzzle

Matthew 2 tells the story of Jesus as a baby, but there are stories about other babies in the Bible. Match the names with the correct stories from the list below. *Answers on page 9.*

- a. Jacob b. Isaac c. Moses d. Benjamin  
e. Solomon f. John the Baptist

1. He was hidden in a basket (Exodus 2). \_\_\_\_\_
2. His father was 100 years old (Genesis 21). \_\_\_\_\_
3. He was born holding his twin brother's heel (Genesis 25). \_\_\_\_\_
4. His wisdom saved a baby's life (1 Kings 3). \_\_\_\_\_
5. His mother was related to Mary (Luke 1). \_\_\_\_\_
6. His mother named him Ben-oni (Genesis 35). \_\_\_\_\_

### Bible Trivia

What popular Christmas song is based on the visit of the astrologers to Jesus? Send Answer to: Catholic Courier Bible Trivia, P.O. Box 24379, Rochester, N.Y. 14624. Please include your name, address and school name. All entries must be received by Dec. 30, 1999. A winner will be selected at random from all the correct entries submitted. Maya Rajamani of St. Joseph School, Penfield, was the winner of last month's question, Who was the mother of John the Baptist? Her answer was Elizabeth.