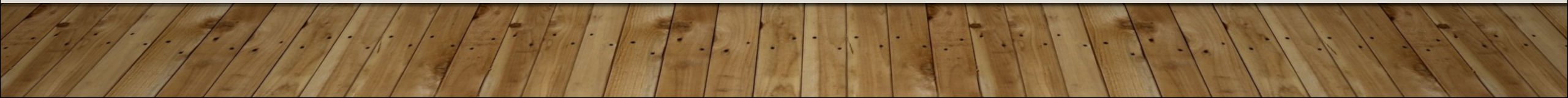






WHAT ARE YOU GETTING CHRIST FOR CHRISTMAS?

MATTHEW 2:1-12 BIBLE STUDY

DANNY SCOTTON, JR





MATTHEW 1:18-21 AT CONTEXT: THE GENESIS OF JESUS

- 18 The genesis of Jesus the Messiah went like this: His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, [but] before they came together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. 19 So her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and not wanting to disgrace her publicly, had in mind to divorce her privately. 20 But after these things were considered by him, behold: an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying: “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For [the Child] Who has been conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit 21 For she will give birth to a son, and you shall call Him by the name Jesus – because He will save His people from their sins. (Mt 1:18-21, AT)



MATTHEW 1:22-25
CONTEXT: LET THE CHRISTMAS
SPIRIT GET INTO YOU

- 22 Now all these things took place so that what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet would be fulfilled: 23 “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son and they shall call Him by the name, Immanuel” (which is translated, “God With Us”). 24 So after Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took [Mary] as his wife. 25 Yet he was not being sexually intimate with her until she bore a son. And, he called His Name Jesus. (Mt 1:22-25, AT)



MATTHEW 2:1
BIRTH OF THE KING

- Then, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold: Magi from the East arrived in Jerusalem (Mt 2:1, AT)



MATTHEW 2:1 MAGI(CIANS)

- In the second year of his reign, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; his mind was troubled and he could not sleep. 2 So the king summoned the magicians, **enchanters** [LXX: *magos*] sorcerers and astrologers to tell him what he had dreamed. (Dn 2:1-2, NIV)
- 10 The astrologers answered the king, “There is no one on earth who can do what the king asks! No king, however great and mighty, has ever asked such a thing of any magician or **enchanter** [LXX: *magos*] or astrologer. 11 What the king asks is too difficult. No one can reveal it to the king except the gods, and **they do not live among humans.**” 12 This made the king so angry and furious that he ordered the execution of all the **wise men of Babylon.** 13 So the decree was issued to put the **wise men** to death, and men were sent to look for Daniel and his friends to put them to death. (Dn 2:10-13, NIV)



MATTHEW 2:1 MAGIC – A CAPITAL CRIME

- “Whoever sheds **human** blood, by **humans** shall their blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made mankind. (Gen 9:6, NIV).
- 12 “Anyone who strikes a person with a **fatal blow** is to be **put to death**. 13 However, if it is **not done intentionally**, but God lets it happen, they are to flee to a place I will designate. 14 But if anyone schemes and kills someone **deliberately**, that person is to be taken from my altar and **put to death**. (Ex 21:12-14, NIV)
- “Do not allow a **sorceress to live**. (Ex 22:18, NIV)
- “ ‘A man or woman who is a **medium** or **spiritist** among you must be **put to death**. You are to **stone** them; their blood will be on their own heads.’ ” (Lev 20:27, NIV)



MATTHEW 2:1 SINFUL OT SORCERY

- 9 When you enter the land the LORD your God is giving you, do not learn to imitate the detestable ways of the nations there. 10 Let no one be found among you who sacrifices their son or daughter in the fire, who **practices divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft, 11 or casts spells, or who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead.** 12 Anyone who does these things is detestable to the LORD; because of these same detestable practices the LORD your God will drive out those nations before you. 13 You must be blameless before the LORD your God. (Dt 18:9-13, NIV; cf. 1 Sam 28:3, 7-9; 2 Ki 21:6, 23:24; cf. Lev 19:26,31; 2 Ch 33:6)
- You, LORD, have abandoned your people, the descendants of Jacob. They are full of superstitions **from the East**; they **practice divination** like the Philistines and embrace **pagan customs.** (Is 2:6, NIV)

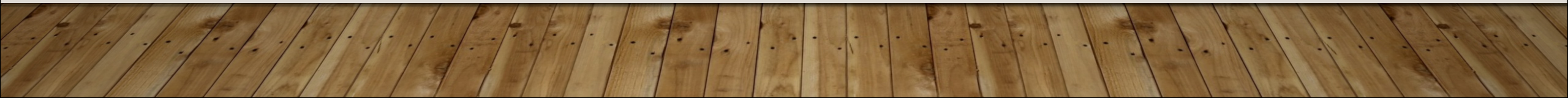


MATTHEW 2:1
SINFUL NT SORCERY

- 18 Many of those who believed now came and openly confessed what they had done. 19 A number who had **practiced sorcery** brought their **scrolls** together and **burned them publicly**. When they calculated the value of the scrolls, the total came to fifty thousand drachmas. (Ac 19:18-19, NIV)



MATTHEW 2:2 THE SAVIOR'S STAR

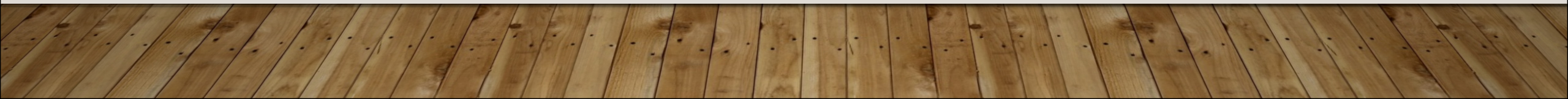
- saying, "Where is the One who was born King of the **Jews**? For we saw His **star** in the East [or at its rising] and we have come to worship Him." (Mt 2:2, AT)
 - Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the **Father of the heavenly lights**, who does not change like shifting shadows. (Jas 1:17, NIV).
 - "I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near. A **star** will come out of **Jacob**; a scepter will rise out of **Israel**. He will crush the foreheads of Moab, the skulls of all the people of Sheth. (Num 24:17, NIV)
 - "I, **Jesus**, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the **Root** and the **Offspring of David**, and the **bright Morning Star**." (Rev 22:16, NIV; cf. Rev 2:28; 2 Pet 1:9)
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MATTHEW 2:3
ALL SHOOK UP



- But when King Herod heard, he was unsettled – and all Jerusalem with him. (Mt 2:3, AT)
- He [Ezra] had begun his **journey** from **Babylon** on the **first** day of the **first** month, and he arrived in **Jerusalem** on the **first** day of the **fifth** month, for the gracious hand of his God was on him (Ez 7:9).



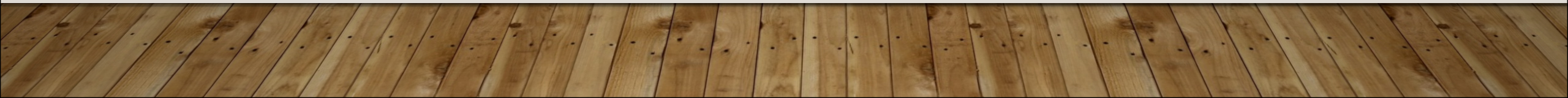


MATTHEW 2:4
EXPERT OPINION

- And having assembled all the people's **chief priests** and **teachers of the law**, he asked them where the Messiah [Christ] was to be born. (Mt 2:4, AT)
- 21 From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and **suffer** many things at the hands of the elders, the **chief priests** and the **teachers of the law**, and that he must be **killed** and on the third day be raised to life. (Mt 16:21, NIV;



MATTHEW 2:5-6 BETHLEHEM BOY

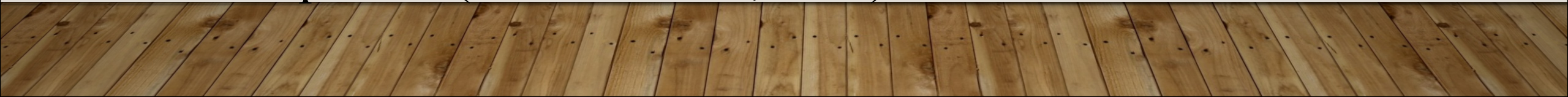
- 5 Then they said to him, "In **Bethlehem** of Judah. For so it has been written by the prophet: 6 And you, **Bethlehem**, [in the] land of Judah | are by no means least among the rulers of Judah | For out of you will come a ruler | Who will shepherd My people, Israel (Mt 2:5-6, AT)
 - “But you, **Bethlehem** Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose **origins are from of old**, from ancient times.” (Mic 5:2, NIV)
 - Does not Scripture say that the **Messiah** will come from **David’s descendants** and from **Bethlehem**, the town where **David** lived?” (Jn 7:42, NIV)
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MATTHEW 2:5-6 (THE GOOD) SHEPHERD-KING



- [To **David**] 2 In the past, while Saul was king over us, you were the one who led **Israel** on their military campaigns. And the LORD said to you, ‘You will **shepherd** my people **Israel**, and you will become their **ruler**. (2 Sam 5:2, NIV)
- 23 I will place over them one **shepherd**, my servant **David**, and he will tend them; he will tend them and be their **shepherd**. 24 I the LORD will be their God, and my servant **David** will be **prince** among them. I the LORD have spoken. (Eze 34:23-24, NIV)





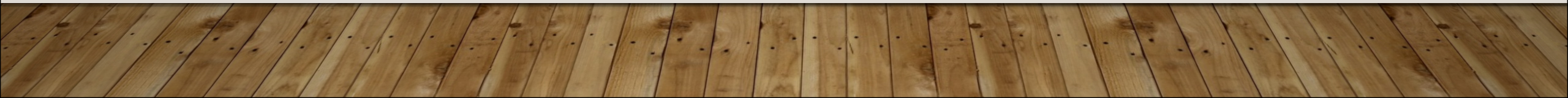
MATTHEW 2:7-8
SEARCH (AND DESTROY)

- 7 Then Herod, having secretly called the Magi, ascertained from them the precise time of the shining star. 8 And sending them into Bethlehem, he said, "Go, investigate precisely about the Child. Then, when you find [Him], report back to me, so that I too may come and worship Him. (Mt 2:7-8, AT)



MATTHEW 2:9 SHINING STAR



- Then they, having heard the King, went and behold: the **star** which they had seen in the East [or at its rising]! It went before them until it came to a standstill over [the place] where the Child was. (Mt 2:9, AT)
 - The mystery of the seven **stars** that you saw in my right hand and of the seven golden lampstands is this: The seven **stars** are the **angels** of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches. (Rev 1:20, NIV; cf. Rev. 1:16; 2:1; 3:1; cf. Job 38:7; Dan 8:10; Rev. 8:10, 11; 9:1.)
 - Then the **angel** of God, who had been **traveling in front of Israel's army**, withdrew and went behind them. **The pillar of cloud** also moved from in front and stood behind them, (Ex 14:19, NIV; cf. Ex 23:20)
 - By day the LORD **went ahead of them** in a pillar of cloud to **guide** them on their way and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so that they could travel by day or night. (Ex 13:21, NIV)
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MATTHEW 2:10 JOY, JOY, GOD'S GREAT JOY

- When they saw the star, they were overjoyed [χαίρω | *chairō*] with exceedingly great joy [χαρά | *chara*]. (Mt 2:10, AT)
- 39 Zadok the priest took the horn of oil from the sacred tent and anointed **Solomon**. Then they sounded the trumpet and all the people shouted, “Long live **King Solomon!**” 40 And all the people went up after him, playing pipes and **rejoicing greatly**, so that the ground shook with the sound. (1 Ki 1:39-40, NIV;
- “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his **joy** [χαρά | *chara*] went and sold all he had and bought that field. (Mt 13:44, NIV)
- 21 “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s **happiness!** [χαρά | *chara*].’ (Mt 25:21, NIV)
- 20 The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with **joy** [χαρά | *chara*]. 21 But since **they have no root, they last only a short time**. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. (Mt 13:20-21, NIV)



MATTHEW 2:11 GIFTS FIT FOR A KING

- And when they came into the house, they saw the Child with His mother Mary and, falling down [to their knees], they worshipped Him. And having opened their treasure chests, they presented Him with gifts – **gold, frankincense, and myrrh** (Mt 2:11, AT)
- Who is this coming up from the wilderness like a column of smoke, **perfumed** with **myrrh** and **incense** made from all the spices of the merchant? (Songs 3:6, NIV)
- 34 Then the LORD said to Moses, “Take **fragrant spices**—gum resin, onycha and galbanum—and **pure frankincense**, all in equal amounts, 35 and make a **fragrant blend of incense**, the work of a **perfumer**. It is to be salted and pure and **sacred**. 36 Grind some of it to powder and place it in front of the **ark of the covenant law** in the tent of meeting, where I will meet with you. It shall be most **holy** to you. 37 Do **not** make any incense with this formula **for yourselves**; consider it **holy to the LORD**. 38 Whoever makes incense like it to enjoy its fragrance must be cut off from their people.” (Ex 30:34-38, NIV; cf. Ex 30:9)

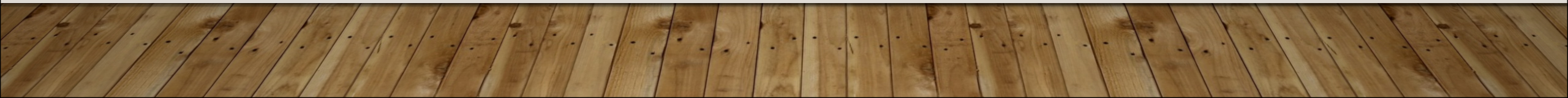


MATTHEW 2:11
GIFTS FIT FOR A KING

- Then they offered him wine mixed with **myrrh**, but he did not take it. (Mk 15:23, NIV)
- 39 He [Joseph of Arimathea] was accompanied by **Nicodemus**, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at **night**. Nicodemus brought a mixture of **myrrh** and aloes, about seventy-five pounds. 40 Taking Jesus' **body**, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen. This was in accordance with **Jewish burial customs**. (Jn 19:39-40, NIV)



MATTHEW 2:11 GIFTS FIT FOR A KING

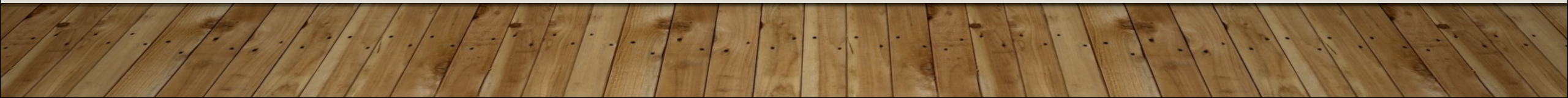
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 - Herds of camels will cover your land, young camels of Midian and Ephah. And all from **Sheba** will come, **bearing gold and incense** and proclaiming the praise of the LORD. (Is 60:6, NIV)
 - And she gave the king **120 talents of gold**, large quantities of spices, and precious stones. Never again were so many spices brought in as those the queen of **Sheba** gave to **King Solomon**. (1 Ki 10:10, NIV)
 - Surely the islands look to me; in the lead are the ships of **Tarshish**, bringing your children from afar, with their silver and **gold**, to the honor of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has endowed you with splendor. (Is 60:9, NIV)
 - 10 May the **kings of Tarshish** and of **distant shores bring tribute to him**. May the **kings of Sheba** and Seba present him **gifts**. 11 **May all kings bow down to him** and all nations serve him. (Ps 72:10-11, NIV)
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MATTHEW 2:11
GIFTS FIT FOR A KING



- 7 You love righteousness and hate wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy. 8 All your robes are fragrant with **myrrh** and aloes and cassia; from **palaces** adorned with ivory the music of the strings makes you glad. 9 Daughters of **kings** are among your honored women; at your right hand is the **royal bride** in **gold** of Ophir. (Ps 45:7-9, NIV)





MATTHEW 2:12
WARNING



- And having received a divine warning in a dream not to return to Herod, they withdrew to their land by a different way. (Mt 2:12, AT)

