

MATTHEW

— Chapter Two —

*Who are the wise men from the East?
Why was he called a Nazarene?*

Matthew 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.”*

“wise men” – Gr. **Μάγοι**

Same Greek word found in Daniel 1:20 and 2:2.

“And in all matters of wisdom and understanding about which the king examined them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians (LXX Greek: plural of **Μάγοι**)) and astrologers who were in all his realm.”

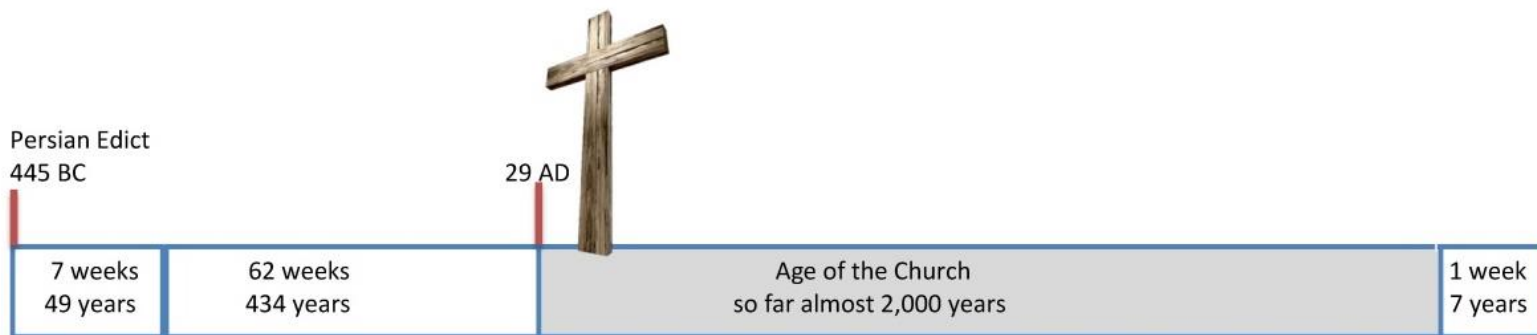
“Then the king gave the command to call the magicians (LXX Greek: plural of **Μάγοι**), the astrologers, the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans...”

The “wise men” knew about the coming king because they were descendants of those who knew the prophet Daniel in Babylon and his prophecies about the coming Messiah.

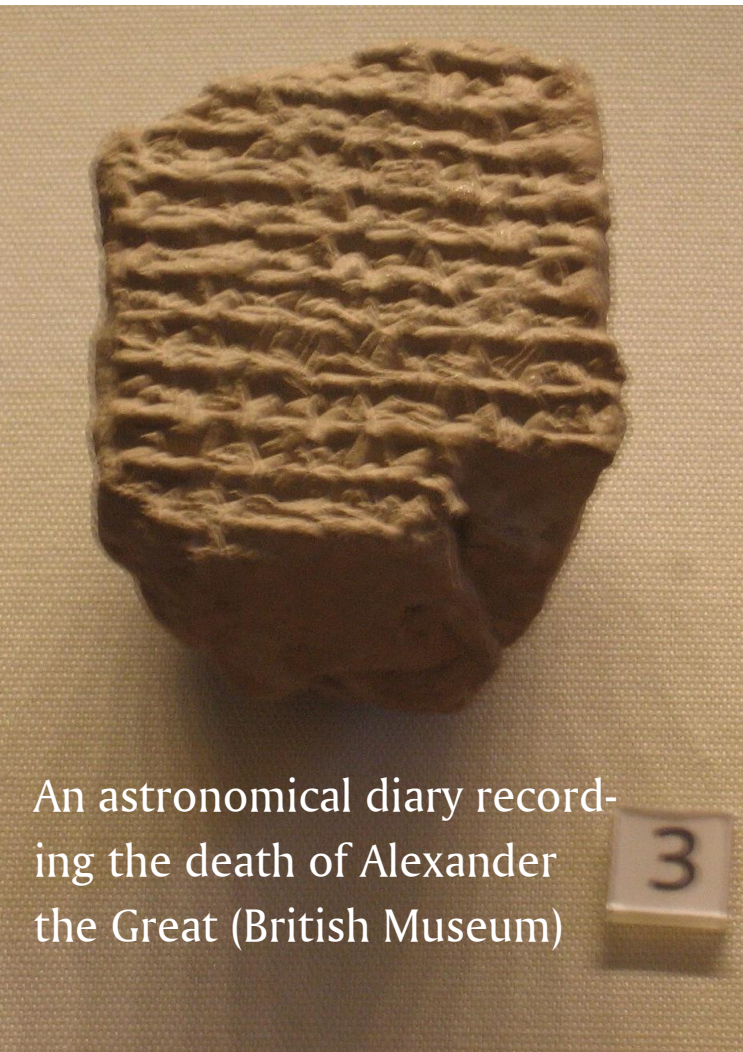
Using the Seventy Weeks accuracy in giving the year when the Messiah would be born, as they were used to do, they associated the event to the passing of a Comet.

THE SEVENTY WEEKS OF DANIEL

(DANIEL CHAPTER 9)



“Know therefore and understand,
That from the going forth of the command
To restore and build Jerusalem
Until Messiah the Prince,
There shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks;”



An astronomical diary recording the death of Alexander the Great (British Museum)

The Babylonian astronomical diaries are a collection of Babylonian cuneiform texts written in Akkadian language that contain systematic records of astronomical observations and political events, predictions based on astronomical observations, weather reports, and commodity prices, kept for about 600 years, from around 652 BC to 61 BC...Currently, most of the surviving several hundred clay tablets are stored in the British Museum.” (Source Wikipedia).

3 When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. 4 And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 5 So they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet: 6 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.' "

The prophecy is found in Micah 5:2. Probably you heard this before, but it is worth repeating.

The Bible contains predictions of future events, many of which are about the person of the Messiah. About 300 of them have already come true, some speak of his second coming.

Professor Peter W. Stoner, a mathematician, discussing about only eight - 8 - Old Testament prophecies: “We find that the chance that any man might have lived down to the present time and fulfilled all eight prophecies is 1 in 10^{17} (1 in 100,000,000,000,000,000).

7 Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared. 8 And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found Him, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also." 9 When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. 10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. 11 And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, *and fell down and worshiped Him.*

And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. 12 Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way. 13 Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him." 14 When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, 15 and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was

spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, "Out of Egypt I called My Son." (Hosea 11:1)

16 Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men. 17 Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying: 18 "A voice was heard in Ramah, Lamentation, weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, Refusing to be comforted, Because they are no more." (Jeremiah 31:15)

19 Now when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, 20 saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the young Child's life are dead." 21 Then he arose, took the young Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel. 22 But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea instead of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being warned by God in a dream, he turned aside into the region of Galilee. 23 And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

The root of the word Nazarene in Hebrew is:

נצר

Isaiah 11:1, *“There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, and a Branch (נצר) shall grow out of his roots.”*

See also Jeremiah 23:5, 33:14-16