

Matt 2:1 Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, 2 "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east, and have come to worship Him."

Mic 5:2 "But as for you,
Bethlehem Ephrathah, *Too* little to
be among the clans of Judah,
From you One will go forth for Me
to be ruler in Israel. His goings
forth are from long ago, From the
days of eternity."

Josephus, the Jewish Historian, tells us that Herod the great died near an eclipse which occurred Mar 13, 4 BC. Jesus would have been born at least two years earlier.

Mat 2:3-10 When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. (4)

Gathering together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. (5) They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for this is what has been written by the prophet: (6) 'AND YOU, BETHLEHEM, LAND OF JUDAH, ARE BY NO MEANS LEAST AMONG THE LEADERS OF JUDAH; FOR OUT OF YOU SHALL COME FORTH A RULER WHO WILL SHEPHERD MY PEOPLE ISRAEL.'"

(7) Then Herod secretly called the magi and determined from them the exact time the star appeared. (8) And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the Child; and when you have found Him, report to me, so that I too may come and worship Him." (9) After hearing the king, they went their way; and the star, which they had seen in the east, went on before them until it came and stood over the place where the Child was. (10) When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.

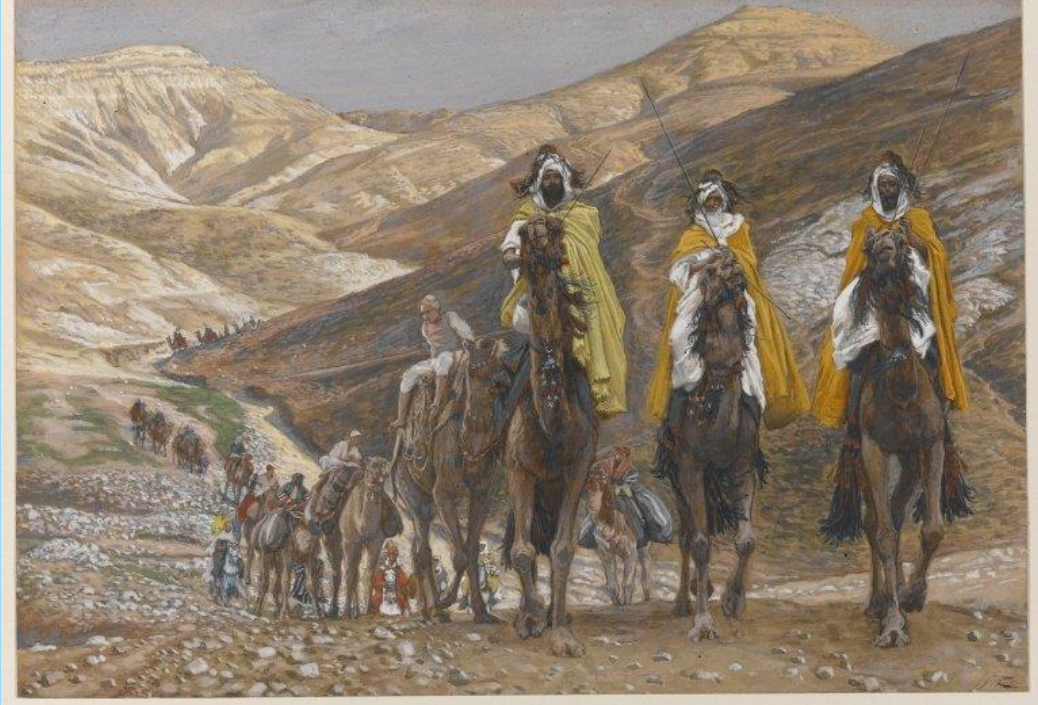
Michael Molnar, an astrophysicist at Rutgers theorized, “The star which the magi saw may have been an occultation (a hiding or supposed touching) of Jupiter by the moon on Mar 20, 6 BC at 1 minute after sunset. The magi would have known about this but the occurrence would not have been visible in Palestine. A second occultation occurred on April 17, 6 BC when Jupiter rose ‘in the east’ in the dawn sky; a possibility for the star of Bethlehem”

General Lew Wallace, governor of New Mexico from 1878-81, wrote “Ben Hur, A Tale of the Christ” and popularized the number as three magi, Balthasar, Caspar and Melchior. This tale was the best selling book of all time every year until “Gone with the Wind” in 1936.



The number of magi (wise men; probably Zoroastrian astrologers) is unknown and is probably based on the gifts brought. Possibly up to 2 years later, the magi come to worship Jesus.

Mat 2:11 After coming into the house they saw the Child with Mary His mother; and they fell to the ground and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they presented to Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. (12) And having been warned by God in a dream not to return to Herod, the magi left for their own country by another way.



Notice also that Jesus is not worshiped at the manger (the feeding trough) but at “the house”. This evidences the time lag between the visit by the shepherds and that of the wise men. The common manger scenes are all wrong since the Magi were not at the manger!

Mat 2:13 Now when they had gone, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up!

Take the Child and His mother and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is going to search for the Child to destroy Him." (14) So Joseph got up and took the Child and His mother while it was still night, and left for Egypt. (15) He remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "OUT OF EGYPT I CALLED MY SON." (16) Then when Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he became very enraged, and sent and slew all the male children who were in Bethlehem and all its vicinity, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the magi.

Some have suggested that Joseph was married earlier and had children by his first wife, but this is not so.

Joseph got up and took the Child and His mother while it was still night, and left for Egypt.

Mat 13:55-56 "Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not His mother called Mary, and His brothers, James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? (56) "And His sisters, are they not all with us? Where then did this man get all these things?"

Mat 2:17 Then what had been spoken through Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled: 18 "A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children; and she refused to be comforted, because they were no more."

Mat 2:19-20 But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, and said, (20) "Get up, take the Child and His mother, and go into the land of Israel; for those who sought the Child's life are dead."

Herod, 73 BCE – 4 BCE), also known as Herod the Great and Herod I, was a Roman client king of Judea



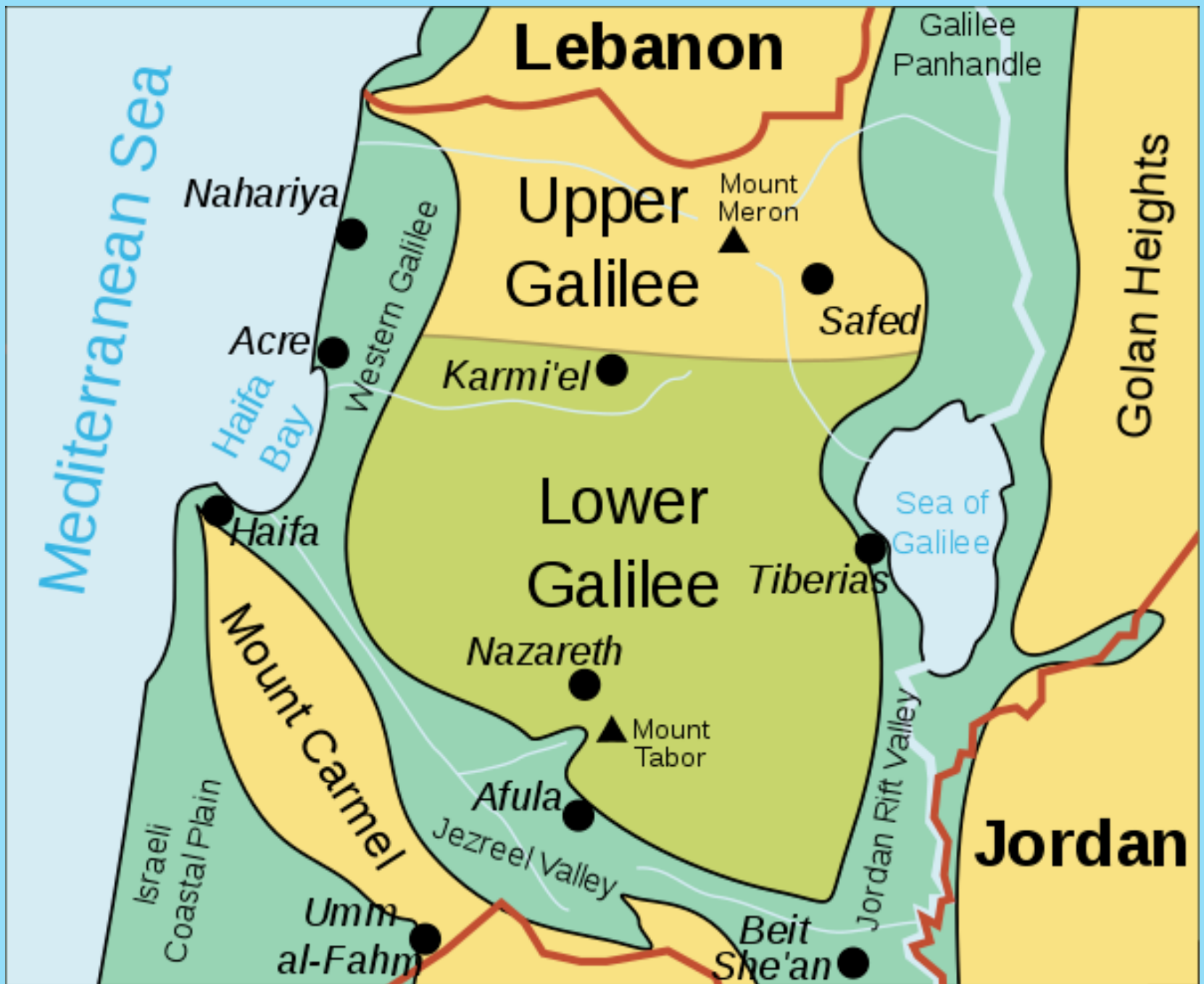
Mat 2:21 So Joseph got up, took the Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel. (22) But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there.

Herod Archelaus (born 23 BC, ruled 4 BC—AD 6, died c. AD 18), ethnarch of Samaria, Judea, and Idumea



Mt 2. 22 ... Then after being warned by God in a dream, he left for the regions of Galilee, (23) and came and lived in a city called Nazareth. This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophets: "He shall be called a Nazarene."

Nazareth is about 68 miles from Jerusalem but would take over 3 hours by bus today.
Bethlehem is about 5 miles further south.



“Prophets” is the plural and no single prophecy exists which says that the Messiah was to be called a Nazarene. It may be that this term of contempt (Joh 1:46; Joh 7:52) is what is meant, and that several prophecies are to be combined like Psa 22:6, Psa 22:8; Psa 69:11, Psa 69:19; Isa 53:2, Isa 53:3, Isa 53:4.

- Robertson Word Pictures

Joh 1:45-46 Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the Law and also the Prophets wrote; Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." (46) Nathanael said to him, "Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see."

Isa 53:3 He was despised and forsaken of men, A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; And like one from whom men hide their face He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.

Act 2:36-38 "Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ; this Jesus whom you crucified."

(37) Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?" (38) Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.