

Sunday, December 26, 2021  
"Jesus Christ, Our Hope"  
Summary of Finding Christ  
Matthew 2:1-12  
Wayne Shelton

Surprising visitors get your attention. At the start of Matthew's second chapter we are introduced to 'wise men from the east' who create a stir in the corridors of power in Jerusalem. Who were they and why did they show up? The Magi were highly educated priest-sages from somewhere east of Israel. They could have had Babylonian connections, traveled in from Arabia, or have been Persian. Some of the early church fathers identify them as Arabian. But one thing is certain: they were all Gentiles. The Magi, like all their pagan contemporaries, believed that cosmic forces and events governed, or at least influenced and were related to, human life and history. Despite all this, Matthew understood that God is well able to fulfil his own designs through the limited understanding and even intellectual misapprehensions of men and women. Thankfully, he still is.

