

# Matthew 2:1-12

## Christmas According to Matthew The Jewish Messiah is the Savior of the World

### **12/3 Christmas According to Luke: Jesus is Immanuel/God with Us**

Events the Evening of the Birth of Jesus

### **12/10 Christmas According to Matthew: The Jewish Messiah is the Savior of the World**

Events about a Year After the Birth of Jesus

### **12/17 Christmas According to John: Jesus is the God-Man-Savior**

Truths That Directly Relate to the Birth of Jesus

## The Context of Matthew 2:1-12

### **The Incarnation of the Messiah of the Jews/Savior of the World 1:1–2:23**

His Messianic Genealogy 1:1-17

His Miraculous Conception/Birth 1:18-25

His Reception of Worship from Babylonian/Iraqi (Gentile) Wise Men 2:1-12

His Murder Averted by Divine Intervention and Human Intuitive 2:13-23

### **The Key Events Leading to the Ministry of the Messiah/Savior of the World 3:1–4:11**

The Ministry of the King's Forerunner-John the Baptist 3:1-12

The Inauguration of the King's Ministry-John's Baptism of Jesus 3:13-17

The Supremacy of the King over the Ultimate Spiritual Foe 4:1-11

## The Content of Matthew 2:1-12

### **Godly Wise Men from Babylon (Iraq)**

### **Come to Jerusalem to Worship Jesus v1-2**

KEY Statement "Now AFTER Jesus was born in Bethlehem (as recorded in Luke 2:1-20)...

Magi from "the East" = astronomers from Babylon (modern Iraq), who had seen "His star (while they were) in the east and have come to worship Him."

The Greek word here ( $\alpha\sigma\tau\eta\rho$ ) refers to "a bright object in the sky" and IMHO it was not a planet, or a comet or an asteroid or a conjunction of planets-put a supernatural light source similar to "the pillar of fire" that led Moses/the Jews after the Exodus from Egypt

## **Ungodly Wise Men Who Quote Bible Prophecy about the Messiah But Have No Desire to Worship Jesus v3-6**

Even though He was only six miles (downhill from Jerusalem) away

## **The Godly Wise Men from Babylon (Iraq)**

### **Travel from Jerusalem to Bethlehem to Find Jesus “Encouraged” by Herod v7-10**

There are lies/falsehoods in the Bible-accurately recorded lies/falsehoods. King Herod’s claim that He wanted to know the location of the infant Messiah so that he could worship Him was a lie.....that the Babylonian Wise Men did not recognize.

The reappearance of the “star” and the fact that it led the Magi directly to the house (not the stable) where the infant Jesus was located....is not consistent with attempts to explain it (the star) as the providential timing of planets/comets or asteroids.

## **The Godly Wise Men from Babylon (Iraq)**

### **Arrive in Bethlehem and Immediately Worship Jesus v11-12**

Christmas carols and most Internet images ASSUME there were three Magi...the origin of this assumption is the fact that they gave three kinds of gifts to the infant Jesus. But don’t be surprised if there were only two....or maybe twenty-two Magi. The text does not tell us the exact number. The use of the plural form *Μαγοι* only affirms there were two or more of them.

The three gifts of the Magi-gold, frankincense and myrrh would have come in very “handy” (groceries, diapers, housing, Netflix) when Joseph, Mary and the infant Jesus traveled to Egypt and lived there for a period of time until after the death of King Herod. This is a nice example of the principle: where God guides...God provides.

# **Take This To Heart**

## ***The Jewish Messiah is the Savior of the World***

“...(the Gospel) is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes to the Jew first and also to the Gentile.” Romans 1:16

## ***The Real “Real Meaning” of Christmas***

The Babe in That Manger Was/Is the God-Man-Savior

## The Two Key "Christmas" Passages Correlated

### Matthew 1:1-2:23

Begins the 1<sup>st</sup> section of his Gospel (1:1-17) with the LEGAL genealogy thru His LEGAL father-Joseph starting with Abraham: validating He is t/Jewish Messiah

### Luke 1:5-2:40

Ends the 1<sup>st</sup> section of his Gospel (3:23-3:38) with the PHYSICAL genealogy of our Lord through his PHYSICAL mother-Mary starting validating that Jesus is the perfect person.

1:5-25 The angel Gabriel appears to the priest Zacharias in Jerusalem announcing the soon to be natural conception of his son who is to be named "John" and who will be the Messianic forerunner (ala Isaiah and Malachi) and born to his previously barren/aging wife-Elizabeth.

1:26-38 Several months later, Gabriel comes to Mary in Nazareth and announces her soon to be supernatural conception/pregnancy of a Son-the Messiah who is to be named "Jesus".

1:39-55 Mary travels south and visits her relative Elizabeth who is then six months pregnant with John. Mary remains for three months-until just before John's birth.

1:56 Mary returns to Nazareth-visibly pregnant.

1:18 Mary is found to be pregnant after having been out of town for over three months.

1:19 Joseph assumes the obvious and plans to quietly dissolve the engagement.

1:20-25 An angel appears to Joseph and announces that Mary's pregnancy is the result of a supernatural conception-that the son she is carrying is the Messiah, and is to be named "Jesus".

### The Night of the Birth

2:1-20 Joseph and Mary are forced to travel to Bethlehem in Judea to conform to Roman census regulations and Jesus is born there in a stable. Immediately after the birth, angels appear to local shepherds outside the city who quickly go to investigate.

### 8 Days after the Birth

2:21 The baby is circumcised and formally named "Jesus" when He is eight days old.

### 40 Days after the Birth

2:22-38 Jesus, is presented in the Temple (according to the OT Law concerning firstborn sons-Exodus 13:2) and while there He is worshipped by Simeon and Anna.

**Approximately 12 Months After the Birth**

2:1-12 Jesus is worshipped in Bethlehem by the "Wise Men/Magi" who arrive there via Jerusalem following the light of the Shekinah glory to the house (not a stable) where the family is now living.

2:13-18 Joseph is warned by an angel in a dream to leave Bethlehem immediately and to go into Egypt to avoid the wrath of the paranoid King Herod.

2:19-23 After Herod's death, an angel tells Joseph that he is to take the Child and His mother back to Israel/Nazareth.

2:39-40 Joseph, Mary, and Jesus return to the parents' home town of Nazareth.

**Correlating Matthew 1-2 and Luke 1-2 Biblically Briefs on Christmas and Being Biblically Briefed on Christmas Equips Us to Do Two Things**

1: to untangle the common confusion about shepherds and Magi bumping into one another...realizing they interacted with the Christ Child at different times!?!

2: to untangle the too common obsession with Santa > the Savior

**The Theology of Christmas (Real Real Meaning of Christmas)**

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us and we beheld His glory, as of the unique One from the Father full of grace and truth...For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world should be saved through Him.

# Matthew 2:1-12



# **Christmas According to Luke**

Events the Evening of the Birth of Jesus

# **Christmas According to Matthew**

Events about a Year after the Birth of Jesus

# **Christmas According to John**

Truths That Directly Related to the Birth of Jesus



# Christmas Comedy

What's the first thing elves learn in school...

...the **Elf-abet!**

Santa Claus is not allowed to go down chimneys anymore!?!

...It was declared too dangerous by the **Elf and Safety** Commission!

Two snowmen were talking and then one turned to the other and said "I don't know about you but...

...I can smell **carrots!**"



# Christmas Comedy

A man asked his wife what she wanted for Christmas. She said, "**Nothing** would make me happier than a big diamond ring!" So that year he...  
...bought her **nothing!**

Last week, Christian Counselor Doug Strange had to tell a woman who was afraid of Santa Claus that she was...  
...**Claus-trophobic!**

Because we spent so much last Christmas, this year Debbie set a **limit** on how much we could spend on each other, so she decided...  
...she can spend no more than **\$50 on me**  
...and I can spend no more than **\$5000 on her**

# Luke 2

## The Night of the Birth

1: Incarnation in a Manger

2: Heavenly Signal to  
Humble Shepherds

# Matthew 2

## After the Birth

1: Babylonian Big-Shots

Come in Devotion

2: King Herod Plots

To Destroy Baby Jesus

# Christmas According to Matthew

## Godly Wise Men

Come to Jerusalem to Worship Jesus v1-2

## Ungodly Wise Men

Quote OT-No Desire to Worship Jesus v3-6

## The Godly Wise Men

Travel from J to Bethlehem to Find Jesus v7-10

## The Godly Wise Men

Arrive in Bethlehem and Worship Jesus v11-12

*Bethlehem = “House of Bread”*

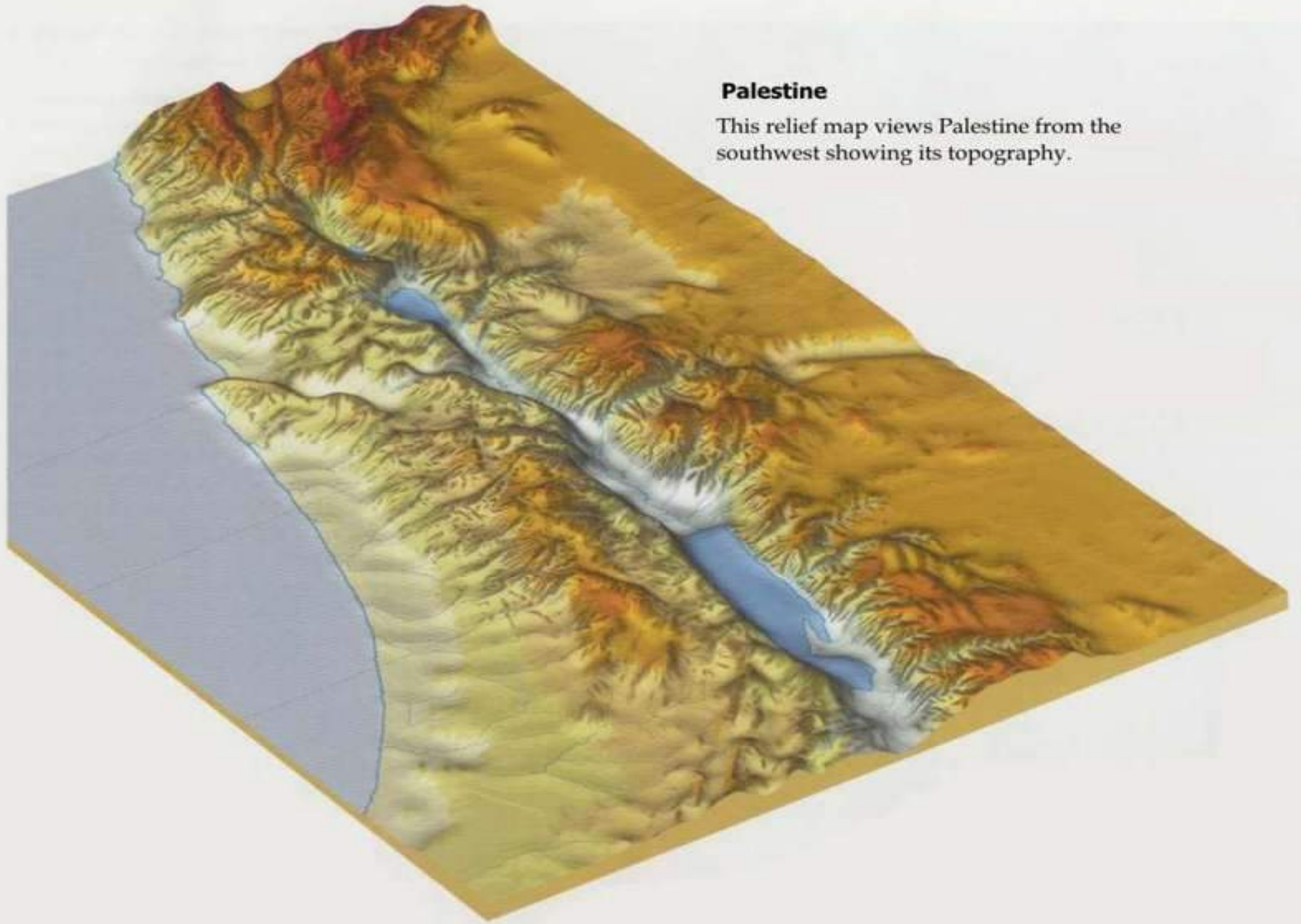


O Little town of Bethlehem





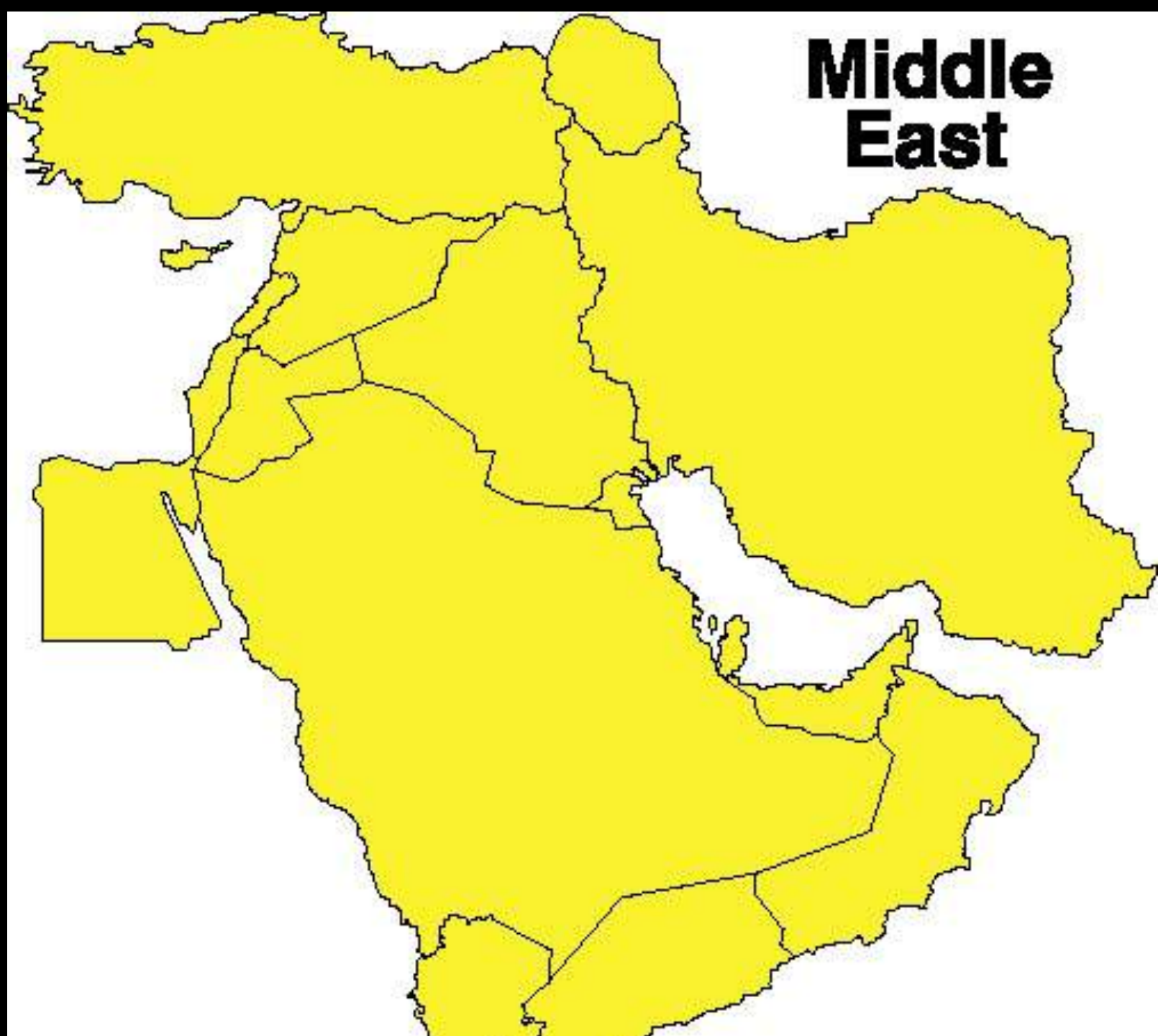




### **Palestine**

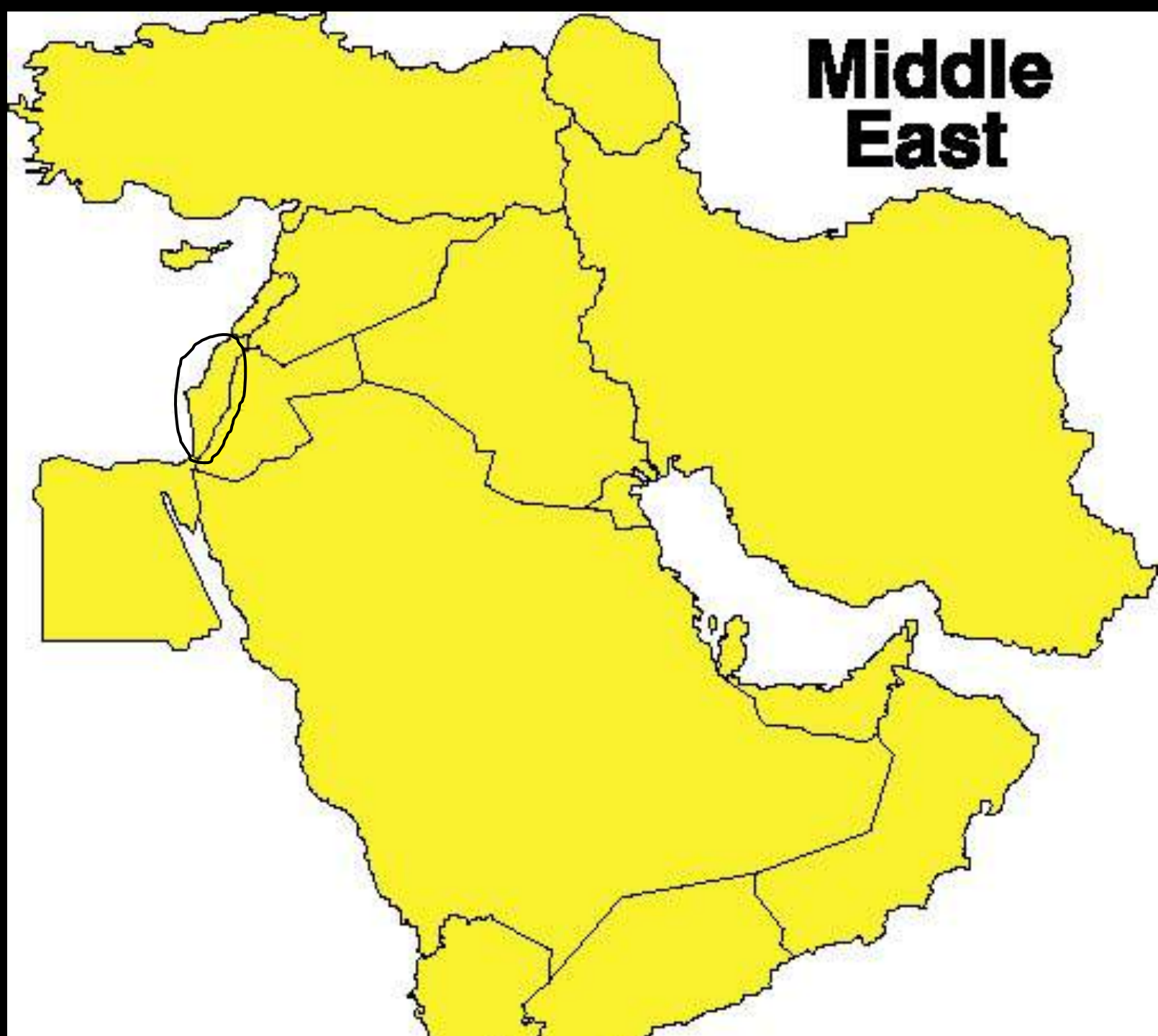
This relief map views Palestine from the southwest showing its topography.

# Middle East





# Middle East



# ISRAEL and...

## The United States



*Maps drawn to same scale.  
Israel shown in blue.*





MEDITERRANEAN SEA

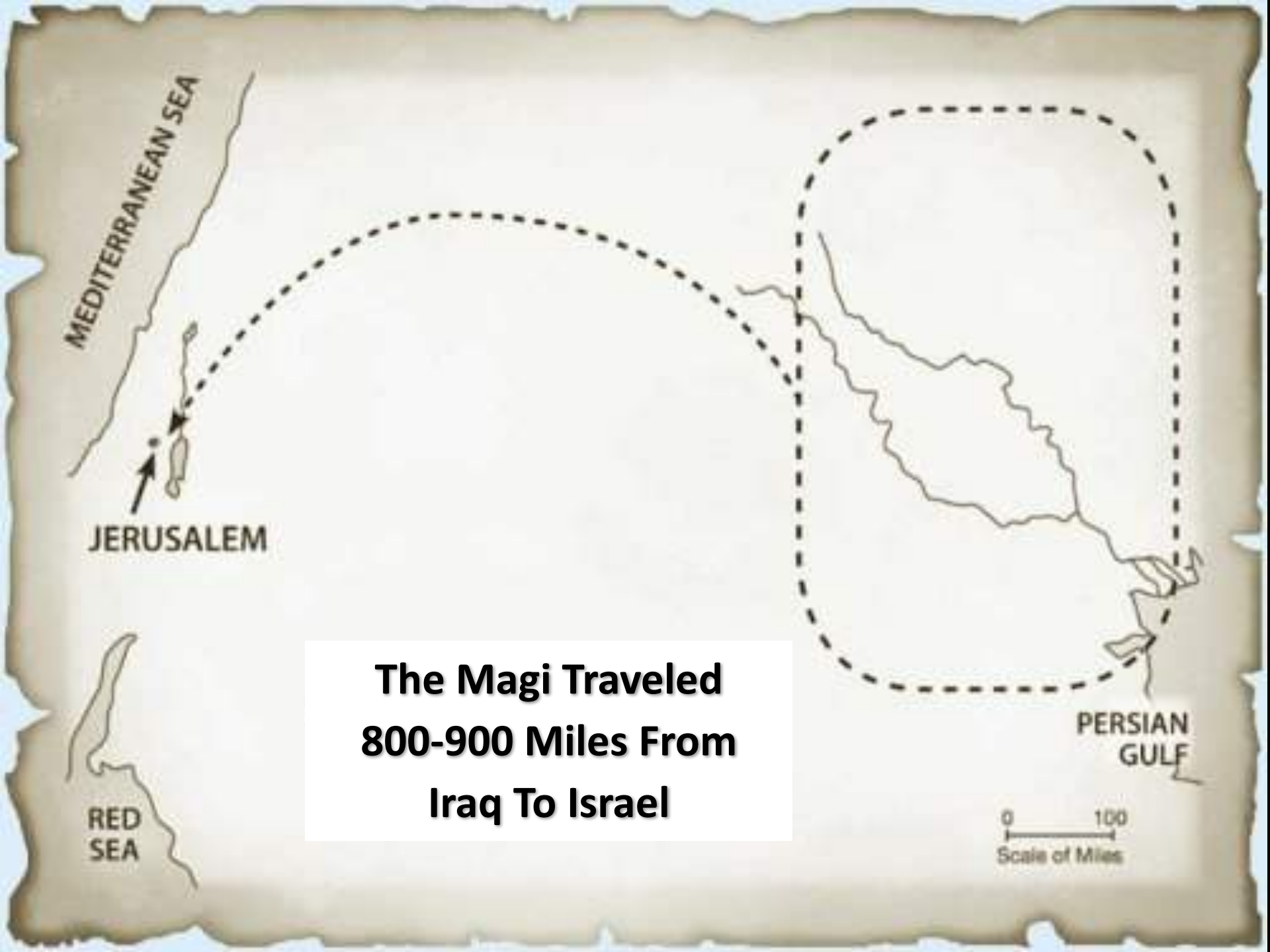
JERUSALEM

RED SEA

PERSIAN GULF

**The Magi Traveled  
800-900 Miles From  
Iraq To Israel**

0 100  
Scale of Miles



# The Bible

## A SYNTHETIC OVERVIEW



**ONE MAJOR PREMISE:**

All Humans are Sinners/Die...

**ONE MAJOR PROMISE:**

...the Savior is Coming!

**ONE MAJOR PREMISE:**

Jesus of Nazareth is the Savior/Alive...

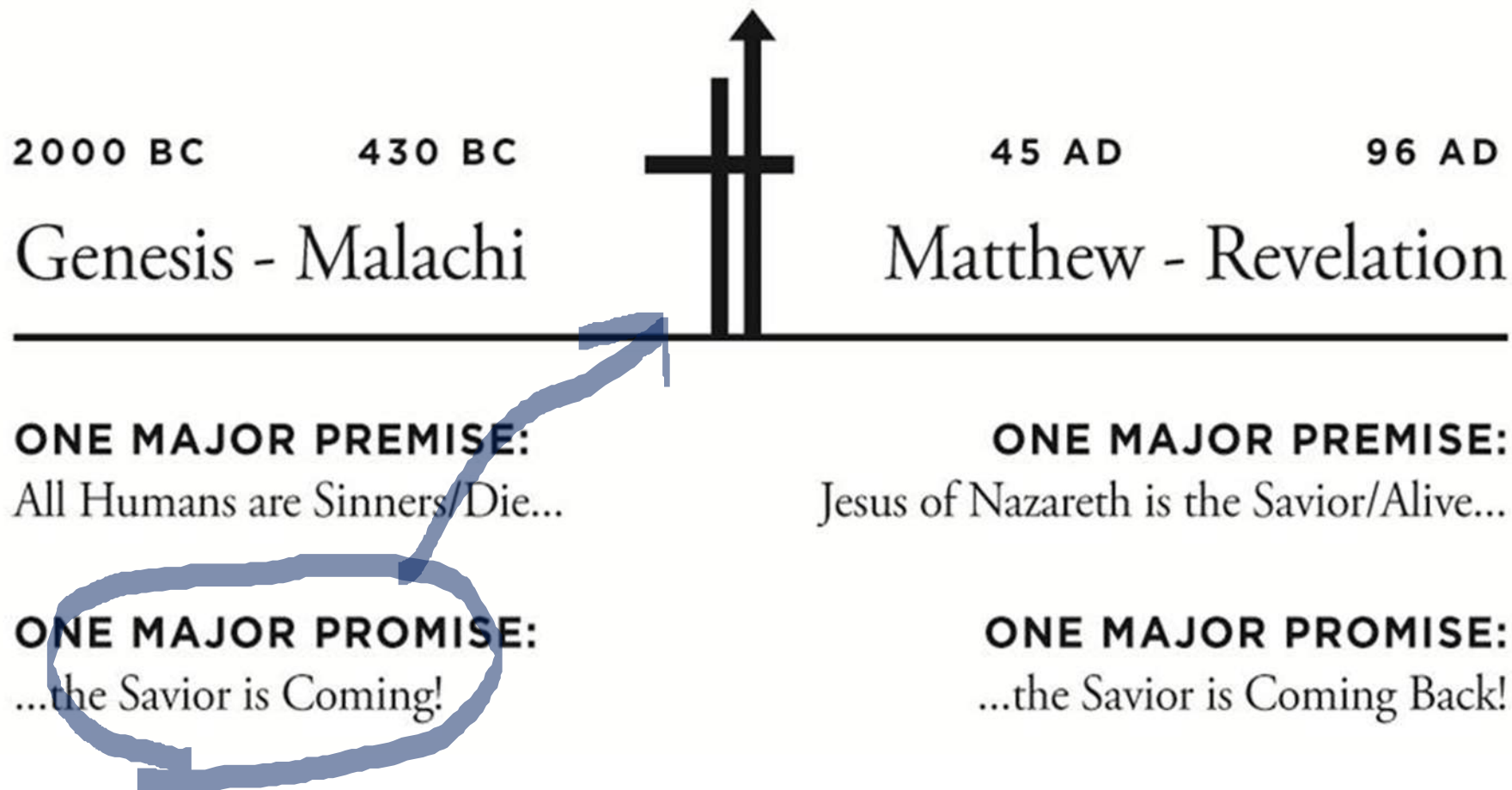
**ONE MAJOR PROMISE:**

...the Savior is Coming Back!



# The Bible

## A SYNTHETIC OVERVIEW



# Exodus 13:21

**New International Version**

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.



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# Micah 5:2

Prophesied the Messiah Would  
Be Born in Bethlehem (700 BC)

Luke 2/Matthew 2  
Confirm Jesus Was Born  
In That “Little Town”

Bethlehem!?!

Why Not Jerusalem?

Why Not Athens?!?

Why Not Rome?!?

Gen 3:15  
Gen 3:15  
Gen 9:25-27  
Gen 12:1-3  
Gen 49: 10  
2S 7:12-13  
Isa 7:14

Who?  
Human Being  
Male  
Semite  
Abraham-Isaac-Jacob  
Tribe of Judah  
Family of David  
Son of a Virgin

Where?  
Specific Birthplace

Micah 5:2

Jesus of  
Nazareth

When?  
Specific TimeFrame

Dan 9:25-26

What?  
He Will be Killed  
and Later Est the Kingdom  
He Will be Crucified  
Why?  
His Death Will be a  
Substitutionary Atonement

Dan 9:26

Psa 22:1-18

Isa 53:4-11

MEDITERRANEAN SEA

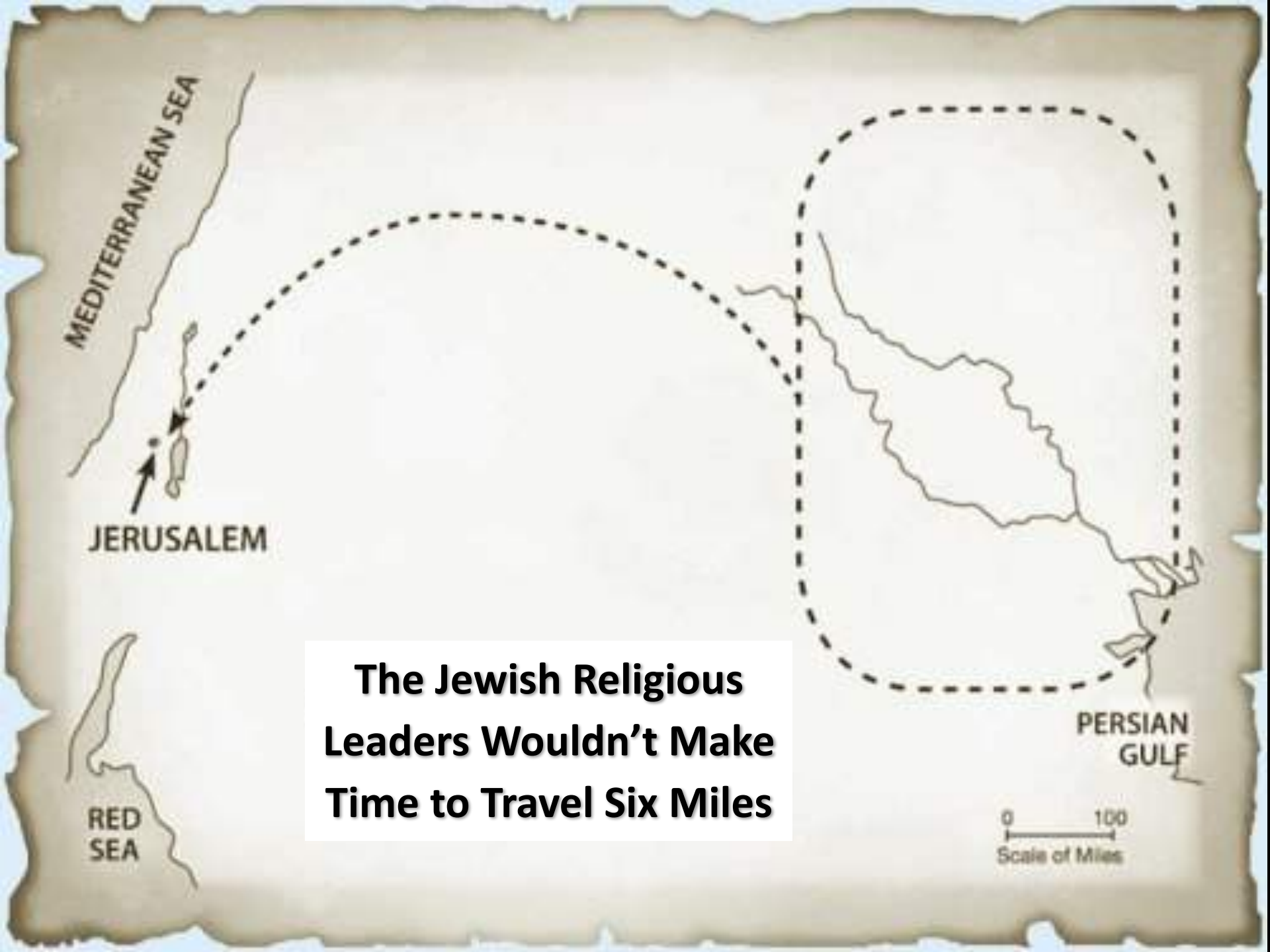
JERUSALEM

PERSIAN GULF

RED SEA

**The Jewish Religious Leaders Wouldn't Make Time to Travel Six Miles**

0 100  
Scale of Miles



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Come to Jerusalem to Worship Jesus v1-2

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Quote OT-No Desire to Worship Jesus v3-6

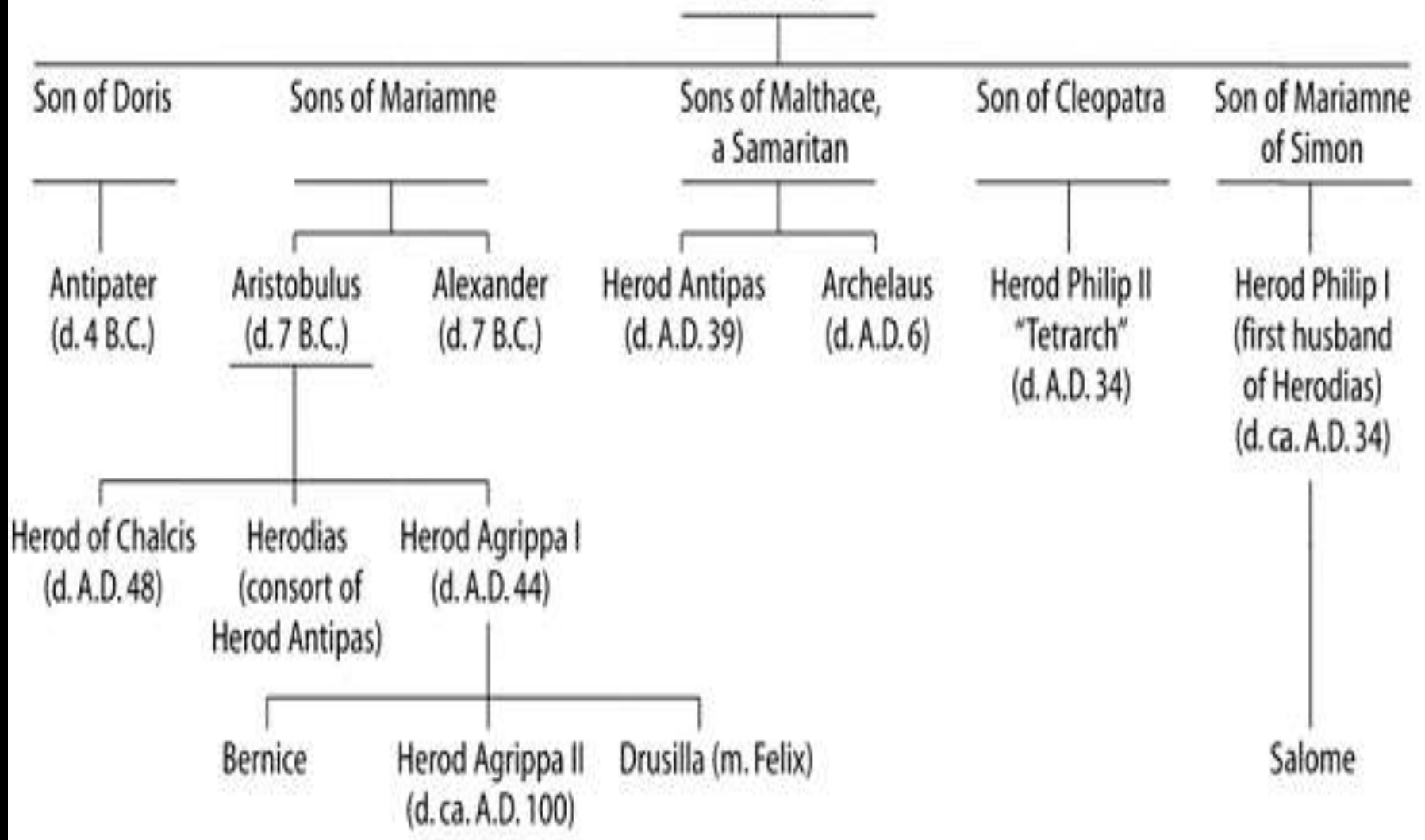
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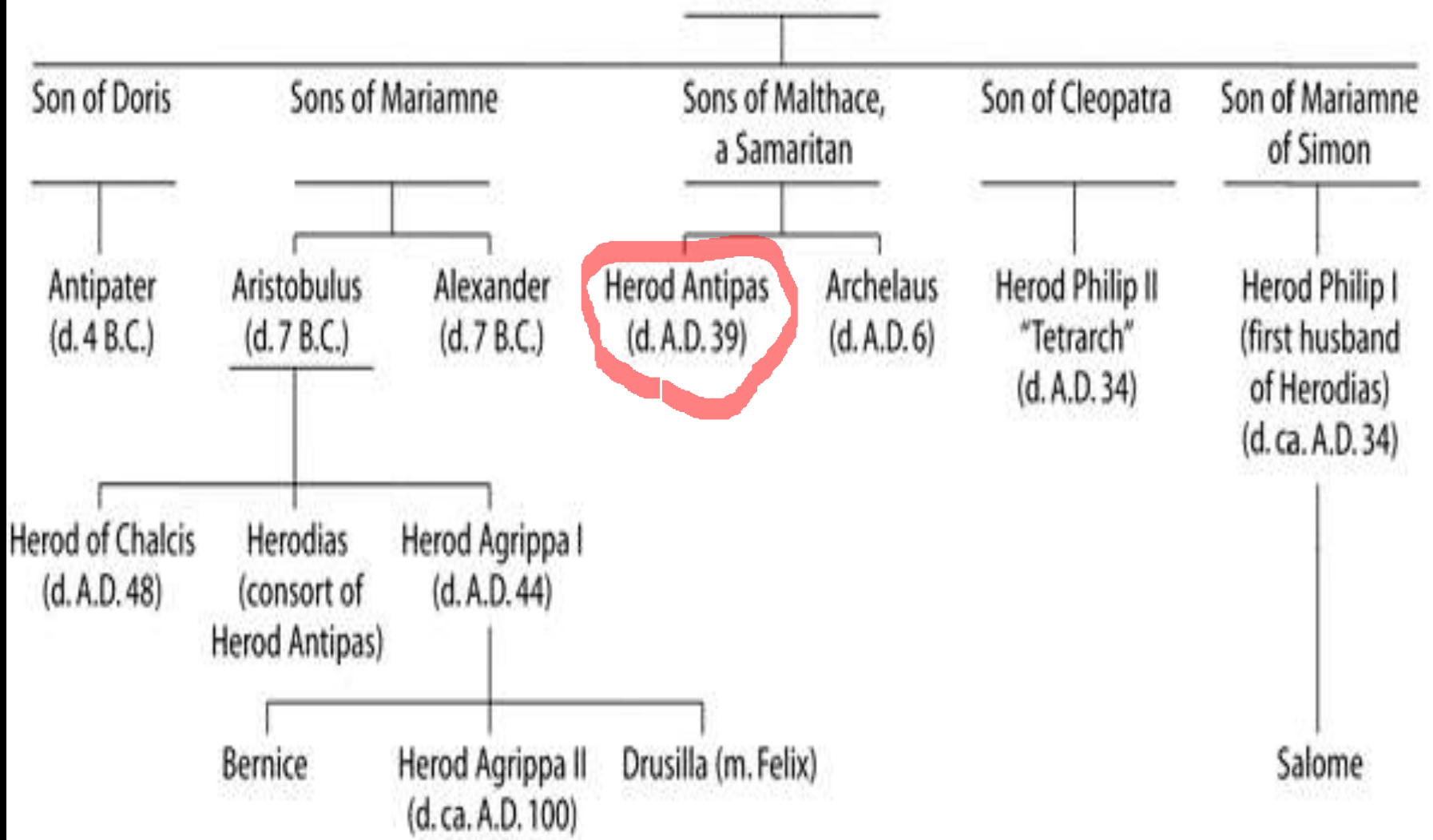
## The Godly Wise Men

Arrive in Bethlehem and Worship Jesus v11-12

**Herod the Great**  
(d. 4 B.C.)

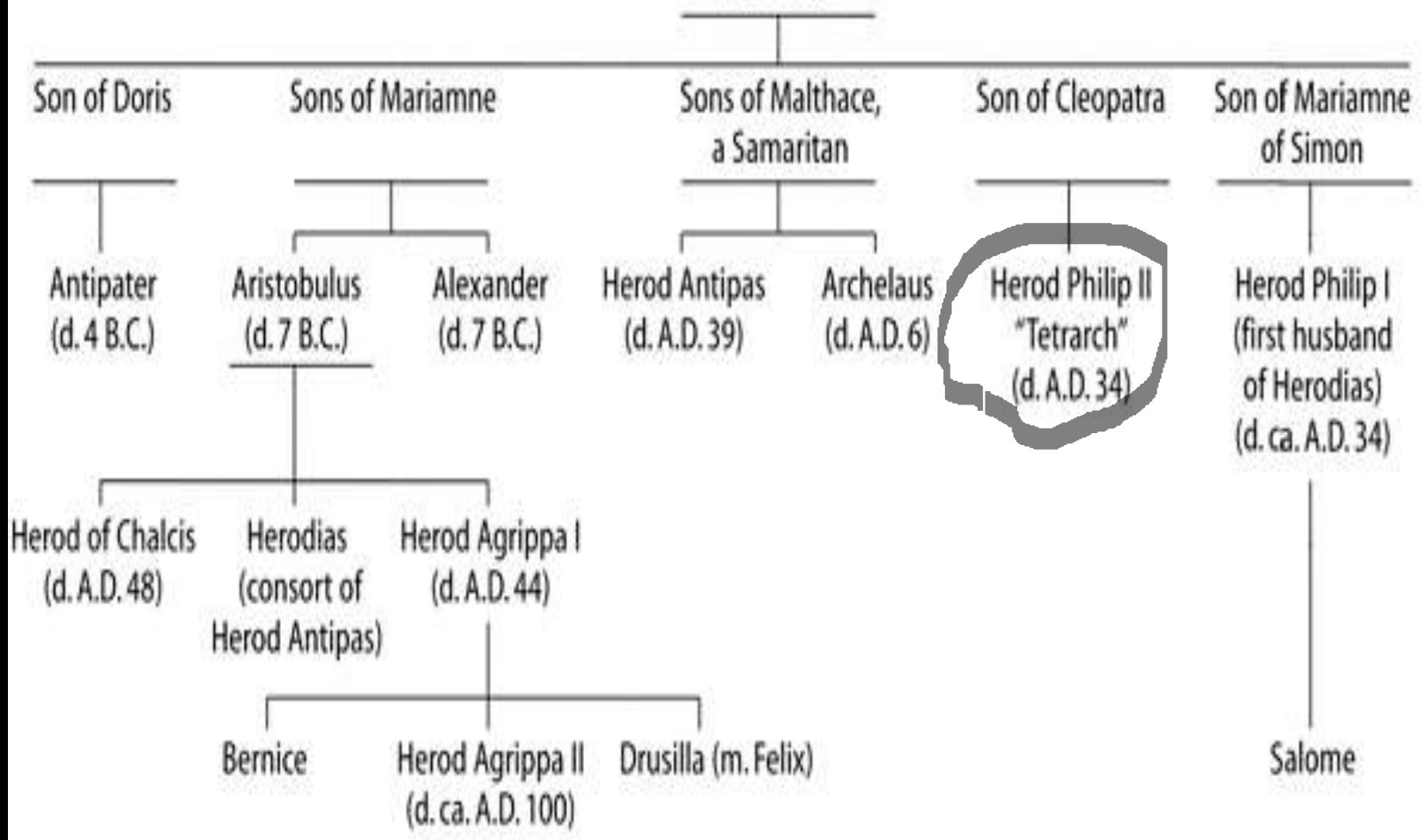


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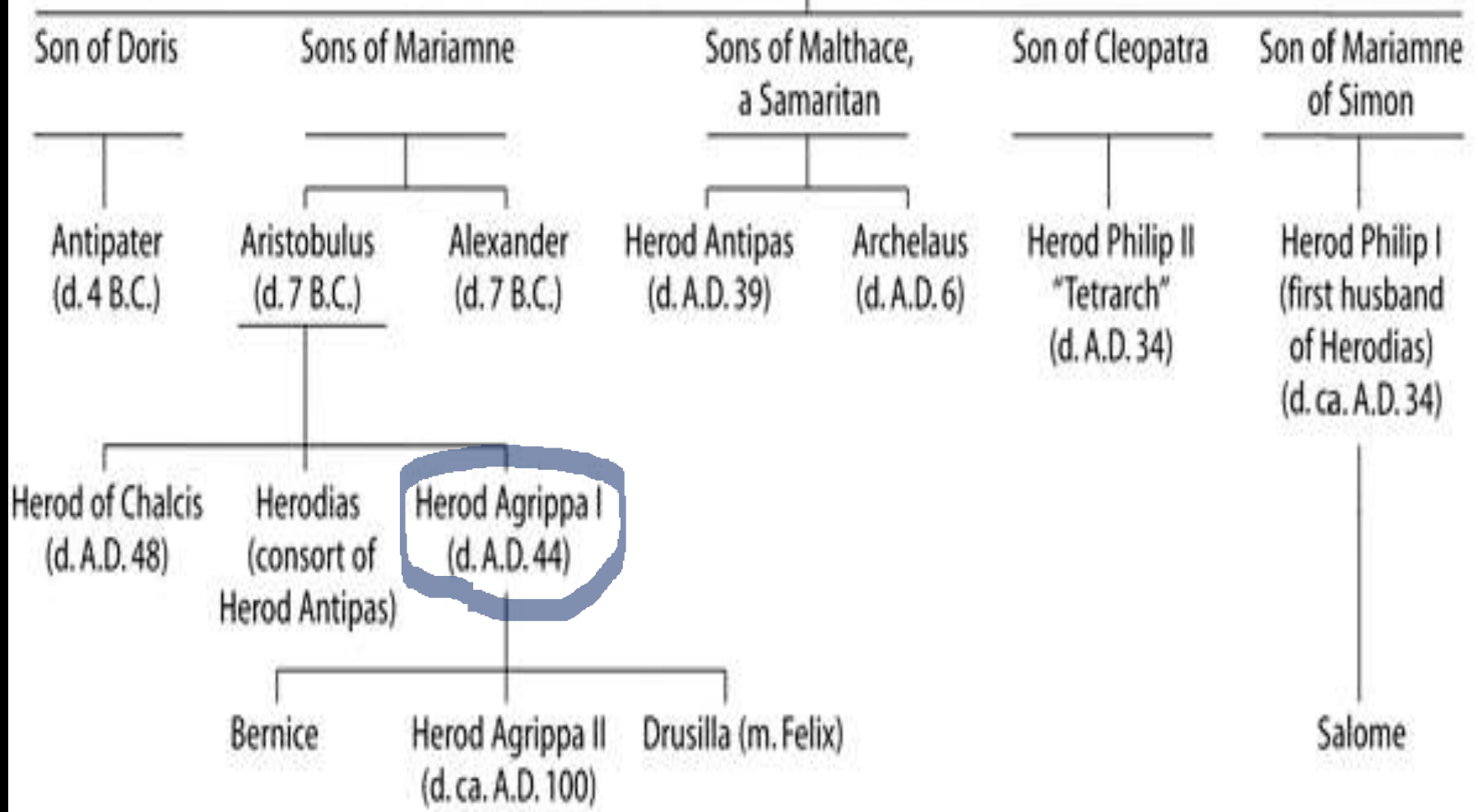




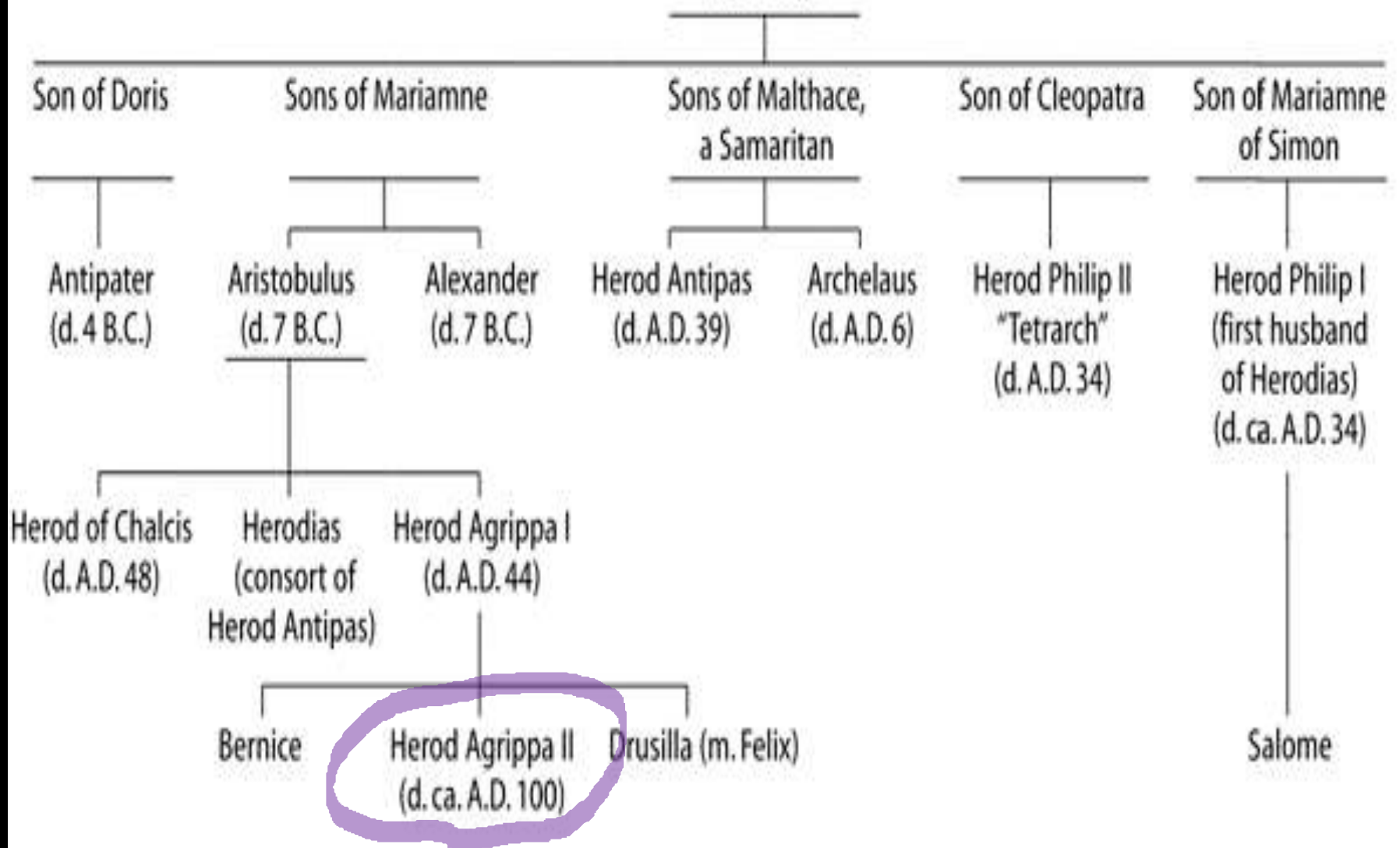
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# GOLD, FRANKINCENSE & MYRRH

These three substances are brought as gifts by the Three Wise Men in the Christmas story - in this graphic, we examine the uses and chemistry behind them.



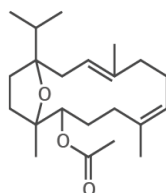
## Gold



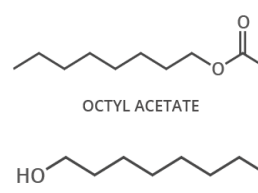
**Electron Configuration:**  $[\text{Xe}]4f^{14}5d^{10}6s^1$

Gold's structure consists of a lattice of cations with a 'sea' of delocalised electrons. Its golden colour is due to it having the correct energy difference between its 5d and 6s electron subshells to absorb photons of blue light.

## Frankincense



INCENSOLE ACETATE



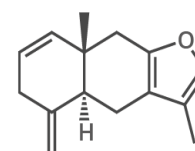
OCTYL ACETATE



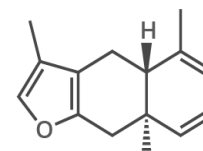
OCTANOL

Frankincense resin is used as incense, with its smell the result of various compounds produced when it is burned. These include those shown above, as well as several terpenoid compounds. Research suggests that the compound incensole acetate could help alleviate anxiety & depression.

## Myrrh



LINDESTRENE



FURANOEUDESMA-1,3-DIENE

Myrrh resin, like frankincense, can be used in incense & perfumes, though it also has medicinal applications. Its aroma comes from a family of compounds called furanosesquiterpenes. Animal studies have suggested some compounds in myrrh can have an analgesic effect.





# In Christianity:

Myrrh  
represents  
Mortal Death

Frankincense  
denotes the  
Holy Priest

Gold signifies  
Royalty



MEDITERRANEAN SEA

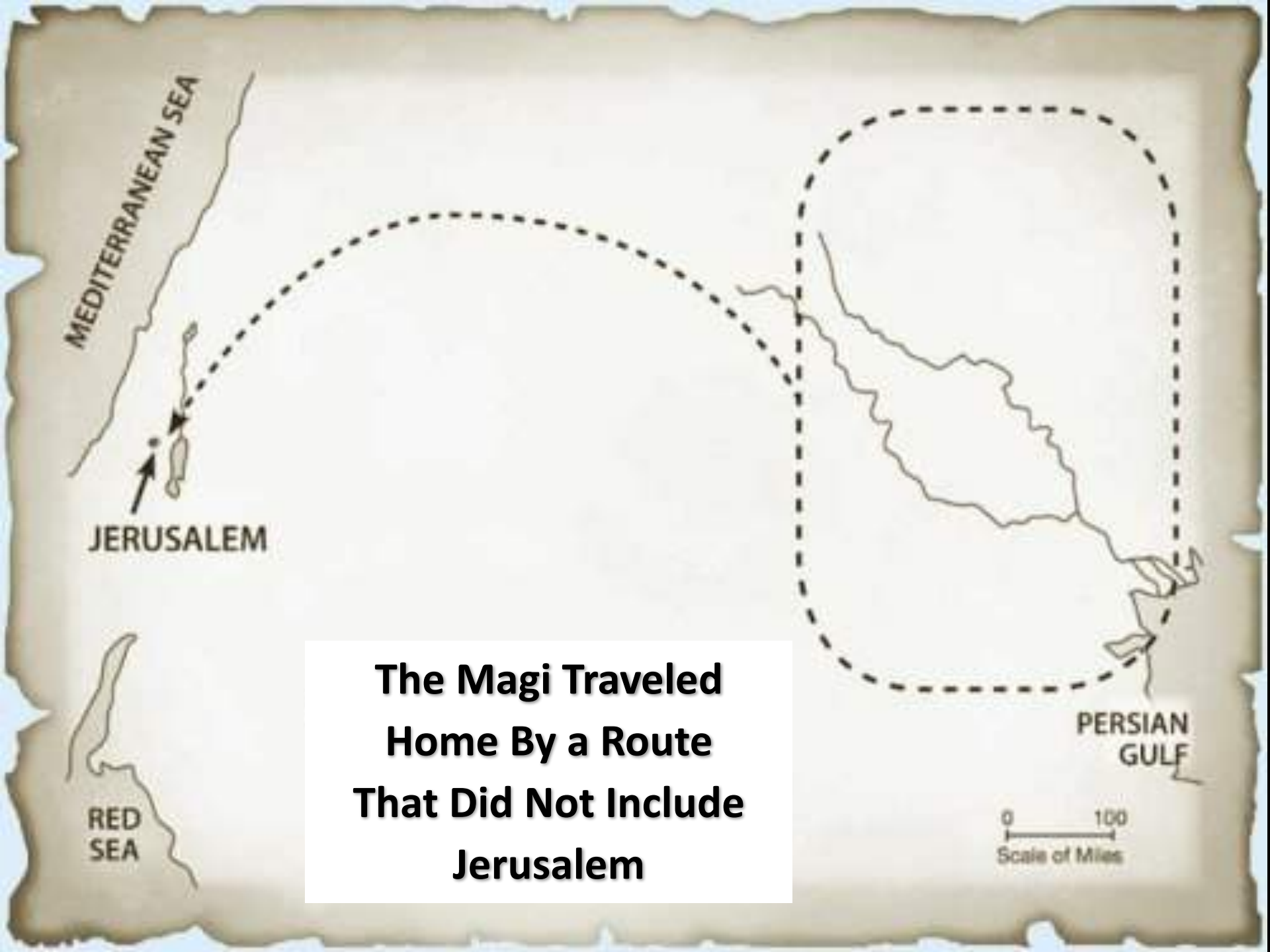
JERUSALEM

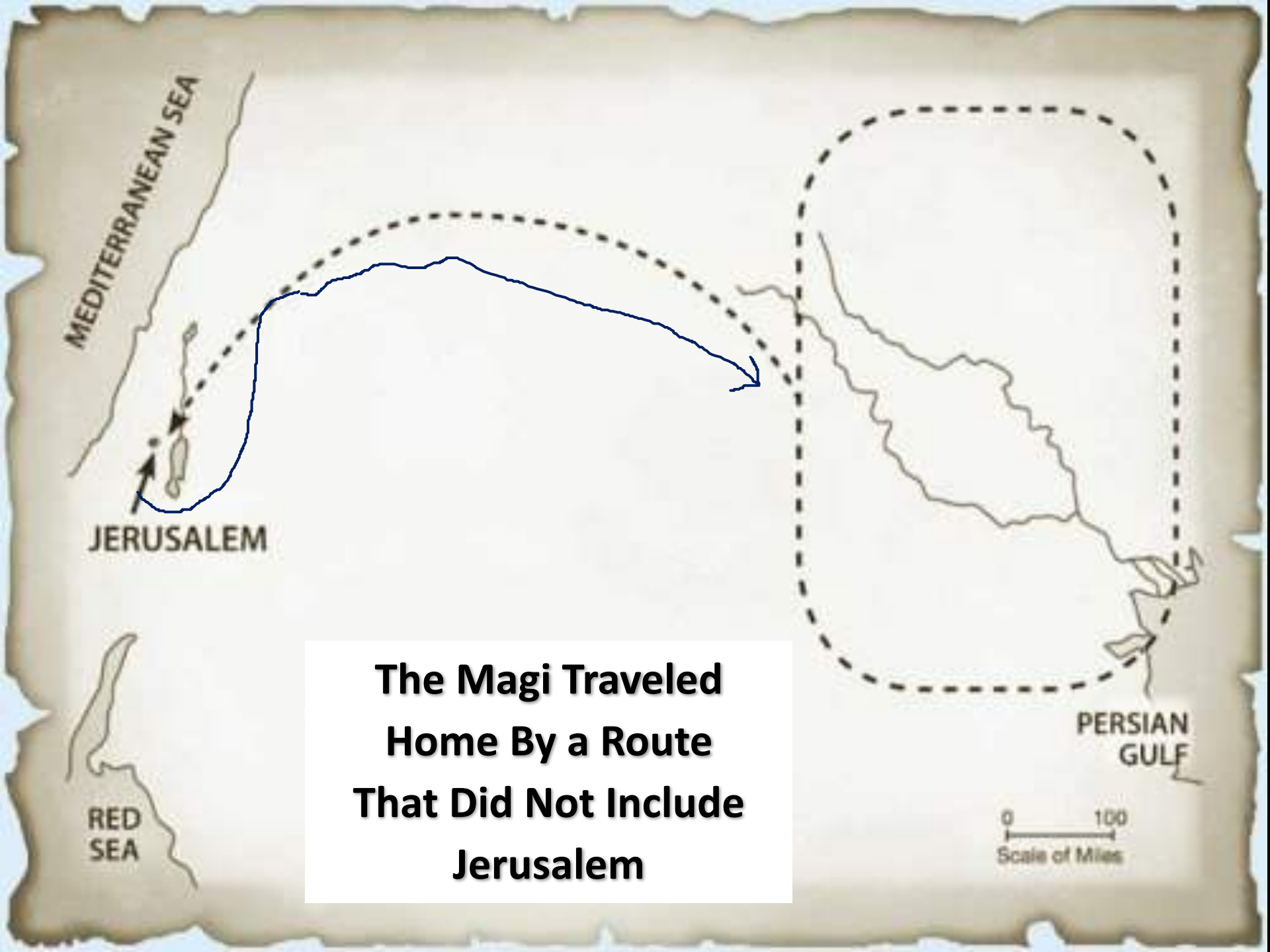
RED SEA

PERSIAN GULF

**The Magi Traveled Home By a Route That Did Not Include Jerusalem**

0 100  
Scale of Miles





MEDITERRANEAN SEA

JERUSALEM

RED SEA

PERSIAN GULF

**The Magi Traveled Home By a Route That Did Not Include Jerusalem**

0 100  
Scale of Miles



The Babe in the  
Manger Was the  
God-Man-Savior

Instead of Giving

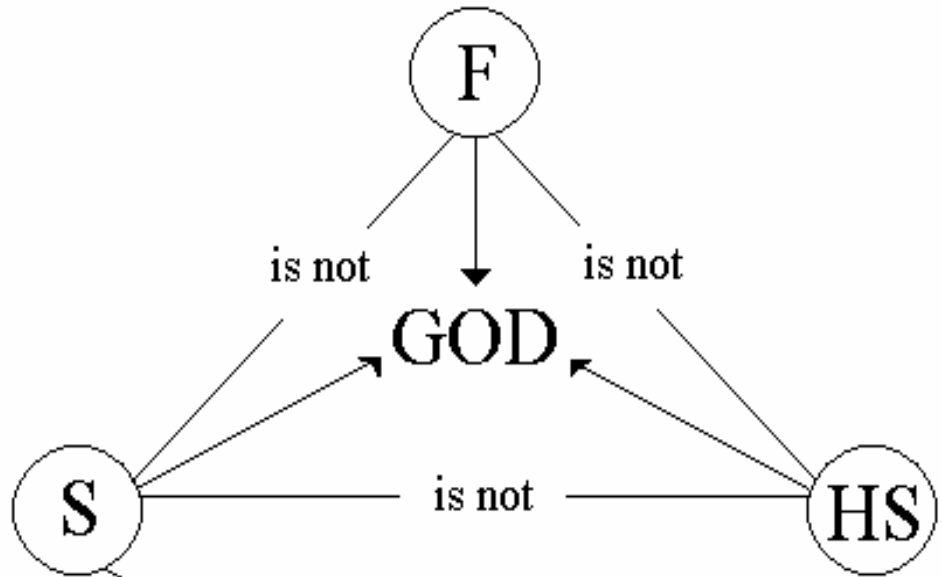
Us Stuff

God Gave Us

Himself

# The Incarnation

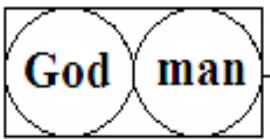
“The Word Became Flesh”



Psalm 2  
Psalm 110  
Acts 2

John 1:14

The Word became flesh...  
"The Incarnation"



1 Person  
with 2 Natures

