



Dear Brother Faull,

I'm looking for an answer to the question of where the wise men

arrived to see Jesus. I had quickly mentioned this last Sunday and said most likely that they were in Egypt.

It was questioned and I told the person I would look it up. Well, I've been sick all week and cannot find my Gospels book by R. C. Foster. Which I think is where I obtained the information. I'm starting to think I'm not thinking correctly about the issue.

Any help would be appreciated.

ANSWER:

The wise men were not at the stable or manger when Joseph and Mary were there. They were specifically told He was born at Bethlehem. **Matthew 2**

The child was circumcised on the eighth day. Then at Jerusalem at the end of the forty days of purification that had to be accomplished, Mary and Joseph had to offer up the two turtledoves because they were so poor. If the wise men had already given them the gold and frankincense and myrrh they would have been rich! They would not have lied. So no doubt the wise men saw the infant in Bethlehem in a house after the forty days, and after being warned of God, the wise men departed home another way. They saw Jesus in a house (**Matthew 2:11**)

The Holy family then was forced to flee to Egypt in obedience to the dream and to fulfill the prophecy that God would call His Son out of Egypt. This would make Jesus about 6 to 7 weeks old when the wise men saw King Jesus in Bethlehem. Then, after a few years in Egypt, Joseph and Mary came back to Joseph's hometown of Nazareth in Galilee where Jesus was raised.

The gift of the kings of the orient no doubt sustained the family while they were in Egypt, and then Joseph, the

carpenter, was able to return to his trade where he had met Mary in the first place.

If it be objected that **Luke 2:39** says that after the things were fulfilled of the Law concerning His circumcision and Mary's purification they returned to Nazareth, we would point out Matthew does not deny what Luke affirms. Luke just omitted that part of the story about Egypt.

We see a similar case in Paul's conversion. It is said that after his conversion he went up to Jerusalem (**Acts 9:26**) however, **Galatians 1:17-18** points out that there was a three year interval before he went up to Jerusalem.

So here in the harmony of the gospels, we have Jesus born in a manger. Then the purification process and Simeon blessing the child occurs while they were still poor.

They lived in a house in Bethlehem where the wise men visited with gifts after being told the King of the Jews was to be born in Bethlehem. Then the wise men went home another way. Joseph and Mary took the child to Egypt for safety. Herod waited for the wise men to return and when they did not, since he had diligently inquired when they had first seen the star, he ordered the death of the infants in the area of Bethlehem.

Many believe that is when Herod killed his own son, for some say he had a nurse caring for his son in Bethlehem. This is possible since the two cities are so close together.

Regardless, the male babies two years old and under died in that area. It seems to me the idea that they went back to Galilee before going to Egypt is not feasible. It seems to me that when the orders came to kill those in Bethlehem area, if they had already left and gone to Galilee, it would not been necessary for them to go to Egypt.

I hope this is helpful. Another brother called me today with the same question so I am sending this on to him as well.

God bless.