

MESSIANIC MILESTONES

THE CHILDHOOD OF THE MESSIAH

I. HE WAS WORSHIPED BY MAGI

A. **Matthew 2:1-12**

Most versions describe them as “*wise men*,” but two (NASB, NIV) correctly call them “*magi*.” These were not merely enlightened and intelligent men, but practitioners of magic.

B. **Acts 13:6-8**

They were from the same category as Elymas Bar-Jesus, who was a sorcerer, a false prophet. It is staggering to think that foreigners who practiced the dark arts would know the arrival of the Christ-Child before the Jews of Judea or even the proselytized Idumean king.

C. **Daniel 2:45-48, 2, 24**

Upon rightly interpreting the dream of Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, the prophet Daniel was promoted to govern the province and, specifically, to administrate Babylon’s “*wise men*” – including magicians and astrologers. These wise men would have been slaughtered by Nebuchadnezzar but for Daniel’s intercession. Thus, Daniel not only ruled over them, but they owed him their very lives! Whatever he taught probably stuck!

D. **Daniel 5:11-12; 4:37; 6:25-28**

By Daniel’s influence, kings of Babylon and its conqueror Persia came to believe in the one true God of heaven.

E. **Daniel 2:44; 9:25**

Daniel was a prophet who foretold not only the coming of the eternal kingdom, but the historical era during which it would be established. He prophesied not only Messiah’s coming, but also when He would come! The prophet who caused pagan kings to tremble before Jehovah, who ruled over

the magi of the East, and who foretold when Christ would come surely caused the magi to vigilantly look for the signs of Christ's entrance into the world.

F. **Genesis 1:14; Revelation 22:16**

Stars are for signs in the primary sense that they can be used for navigation, but at times they signified something much greater! Inasmuch as Jesus is the Bright Morning Star, this is quite fitting.

G. **Ezra 7:8-9**

The distance from Babylon to Jerusalem, 900 miles, took Ezra four months to traverse. The magi would have traveled a similar course to Bethlehem. That is some serious dedication to bring gifts to a toddler.

II. HE WAS THE TARGET OF AN INFANTICIDAL MASSACRE

A. **Matthew 2:13-18**

Jesus was a refugee in Egypt under the guardianship of His mother and her husband while a king massacred infants in an attempt to destroy Him.

B. **Exodus 1:22-2:10**

Moses was spared alive during an infanticide perpetrated by the king in Egypt against the Hebrew population and was subsequently raised by people who were not his actual parents.

C. **Deuteronomy 18:15; Acts 3:22; 7:37**

According to both Peter and Stephen, Jesus is the antitype to the Prophet typified by Moses. It figures there would be other similarities between them.

D. **Hosea 11:1; Jeremiah 31:15**

Both the massacre and the repatriation fulfill prophecy.

III. HE WAS RAISED WORSHIPING

A. **Luke 2:41; Deuteronomy 16:16**

Joseph and Mary brought the family to Jerusalem for worship just as the Law of Moses required.

B. Proverbs 22:6; Ephesians 6:4

Parents are beholden to God to raise their children according to His will.

None of us will bring up another Christ, but we will not go wrong training our children as Christ was raised.

IV. HE DEMONSTRATED EARLY SPIRITUAL AWARENESS

A. Luke 2:42-50

At the age of 12, Jesus was holding forth with the rabbis at the temple. Too many adolescents now cannot even have a conversation with an adult, much less a spiritually ponderous dialogue, but Jesus knew what His Father's business was from His youth.

B. Proverbs 20:11

A person need not be all grown-up physically to be spiritually mature.

V. HE SUBMITTED TO HIS PARENTS

A. Luke 2:51-52; 3:23

In the latter half of childhood, many kids think they know better than their parents what is good for them. In Jesus' case, this was actually true.

Nonetheless, He remained under their subjection – not merely for the next 6 years, but, very likely, the next 18!

B. Ephesians 6:1-3

As it is the duty of parents to train children in the right ways of the Lord, so it is the duty of children to obey their parents in these ways. Not even Jesus was exempt from this solemn responsibility.

C. Hebrews 5:5-8

As He obeyed His earthly parents, so He obeyed His heavenly Father.