

## For the Love of an Imperative Verb Matthew 2:1-12

*The Epiphany of Our Lord, Year A, RCL*

<sup>1</sup>In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>asking “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” <sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup>“And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who is to shepherd my people Israel’.”

<sup>7</sup>Then Herod secretly called for the wise man and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and **search** [ἐξετάσατε, **exetásate**] diligently for the child; and when you have found him, **bring** [ἀπαγγείλατε, **apangeílate**] me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” <sup>9</sup>When they had heard the King, they set out; and **there** [ἰδοὺ, **idoù**] ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup>On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. <sup>12</sup>And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road. [NRSV89]

2:8

ἐξετάσατε, **exetásate**; *vb: aor act imperative 2<sup>nd</sup> pers pl* from ἐξετάζω:

translations: **search** [NRSV89, ESV, NAB, NIV11, NKJV, NRSVue], also **averigued** [IAdNT], **find out** [NJB], **inquire** [NGEINT]

ἀπαγγείλατε, **apangeílate**; *vb: aor act imperative 2<sup>nd</sup> pers pl* from ἀπαγγέλλω:

translations: **bring** [NRSV89, ESV, NAB, NKJV, NRSVue], also **informad** [IAdNT], **let . . . know** [NJB], **report** [NGEINT, NIV11]

2:9

ἰδοὺ, **idou**, vb: 2<sup>nd</sup> aor mid **imperative** 2<sup>nd</sup> pers pl from ὁράω:

translations: **there** [NRSV89, NRSVue], also **behold** [ESV, NAB, NGEINT, NKJV], **he**  
**alui** [IAdNT], **suddenly** [NJB], not translated in NIV11

Crossett: This one is deceptive: usually this Greek word is translated in English as “see” or “behold,” occasionally “look.”

*Scripture quotations are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.*

*Gene Crossett, Jr.  
December 1, 2022*