

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

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking “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.” ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶And 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’.”

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise man and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then 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.” ⁹When they had heard the King, they set out; and **there** [ἰδοῦ, **idoù**] ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On 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. ¹²And 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** 2nd pers pl from ἐξετάζω

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

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

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

2:9

ἰδοῦ, **idoù**, *vb*: 2nd aor mid **imperative** 2nd pers pl from ὁράω

translations: **there** [NRSV89], also **behold** [ESV, NAB, NGEINT, NKJV], **he aqui** [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.”

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