

PROLOGUE

It is night. Three men have gathered in a simple room in ancient Babylon. They are learned and cultured; they are not poor, but neither are they rich or ostentatious. Balthazar stands by an open window. Melchior is sitting on a stool in the corner, reading from a scroll. Gaspar sits at a rude table, calculating, surrounded by several ancient astronomical books and instruments.

BALTHAZAR The stars are full tonight,
The air is clear and light.
What say you, brothers?
Perhaps this is the night
of the sign!

My heart hears the desert call to me:
Quietly, peacefully it sighs!

MELCHIOR Behold, a virgin shall conceive
And shall bear a son.

BALTHAZAR And deep from within its breast, my heart
Yearningly, longingly replies!

GASPAR Searching the prophecies we gaze nightly on the stars
Watching for the coming of the promised one:
David's Son,

GASPAR &
MELCHIOR Who shall reign in justice and pow'r;

ALL Waiting in patience for the hour.

BALTHAZAR Each night I am drawn ponder in
Solitude: marveling, serene.

MELCHIOR For unto us a child is born,
A son is given.

BALTHAZAR To look on this great creation and
Contemplate what it all can mean.

GASPAR Ye planets through all your motions
Are following Eloheim's will,

MELCHIOR There shall come a Star out of Jacob
and a scepter shall rise from Israel.

GASPAR Proving your glory and magnificence,
Proving his pow'r by your obedience.

ALL Near is the time your King shall arise.
Give us the sign: God's finger is in the skies!

[a blinding flash is followed by a slowly dissipating glow: a new star has appeared]

BALTHAZAR Such splendid beauty now delights my eye!

MELCHIOR But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah...

GASPAR My soul is quivering like this fiery sky.

MELCHIOR ... out of thee shall He come forth!
There's but one thing this can signify.

ALL The Prince of Truth and Light
Is born this night!

MELCHIOR But thou, Bethlehem...

ALL Some treasure rare
Would now I bear
To offer there...

EXEUNT

End of Scene