

HIS STAR IN THE EAST

The birth of Jesus Christ was announced by a most unusual way to a most unusual group. The birth of Jesus Christ was announced by the celestial creation to a group of Gentile scholars of the East.

“Magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, ‘Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east, and have come to worship Him.’” (Matt.2:1b-2)

On day four of creation, when God was hanging lights in the expanse, He assigned a special star for the birth of His Son (Gen.1:14-19; Job 38:31-33; Ps.8:3-6).

“He counts the number of stars; He gives names to all of them.” (Ps.147:4)

Over the course of human history and in God’s perfect timing of redemptive history, God revealed this special star to the Magi and then revealed its prophetic purpose and then revealed the birth of the King of Jews to them.

Why do we doubt that God is able to guide our lives and to take care of all our needs every day?

“But when the time had fully come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive the full rights of sons.” (Gal.4:4)

This prophetic star has been called the Jacob’s star, King’s star, star of Bethlehem, and Jesus’ star. This star is the reason for the traditional star on top the Christmas tree.

This prophetic star is unique only to Matthew. The other three gospels do not mention it with the birth of Christ.

**This lesson will study Five aspects of His Star in the East.
This lesson will help us understand why this prophetic star is mentioned only in Matthew.**

1. Balaam’s fourth oracle prophesied the appearance of the King’s star in the east to announce the birth of the King of the Jews (Num.24:17; Matt.2:1-2) (4th of 7 oracles – Num.23:7-24)

“I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near; a star shall come forth from Jacob, and a scepter shall rise from Israel.” (Num.24:17) [Star, scepter, and Savior]

“Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east, and have come to worship Him.” (Matt.2:2)

Chinese records reveal that a comet appeared for about 70 days in the spring of 5BC. A British researcher named Calin Humphreys concluded that Jesus Christ was born in 5 BC, sometime between April 13-27. (Newsweek, Dec.30, 1991)

There will also be a supernatural phenomena associated with the Second Coming of Christ (Acts 2:19-20; Luke 21:25; Rev.6:12-17).

2. There are two biblical possibilities for the Magi to know about the King’s star.

Some scholars believe that Balaam could have been a member of this unique eastern fraternity (Medes, Persians, and Babylonians).

Other scholars believe that the exiles of the Assyrian and Babylonian captivities could have passed it on to them. We know that Daniel was a prominent member of this group (Dan.2:2, 14, 27, 48; 4:7; 5:7-17).

They were adept in the secret learning, which had its seat in Egypt and Chaldea. They were chemist, engineers, and seers. They build wonders in the ancient world, which are still show cased in parts of the world like Egypt. They were experts in calculating destinies by interpreting movements of conjunctions of heavenly bodies.

Daniel was considered to be ten times wiser than all the Magi (Dan.1:19-24; 2:27-28; 5:12).

Tradition says that the three groups that followed the King's star were called Gaspar, Belthazzar, and Melchior. Tradition also says that the gifts offered were from the treasures of the Fall of Ninevah.

3. The King's star appeared to them in the east and guided them to Jerusalem and to the exact house in Bethlehem where Jesus Christ resided (Matt.2:1-12).

The King's star prophecy identified the land but not the place or the person born King of the Jews.

With this visit by the Magi, the where and who of the birth of the King of the Jews was historically answered to the Gentile world – “On coming to the house, they saw the child with His mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped Him.” (Matt.2:11)

With this visit by the Magi, the where and who of the birth of the Christ child was also historically answered to the nation of Israel – “And gathering together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he began to inquire of them where the Christ was to be born. And they said to him, ‘In Bethlehem of Judea, for it is written by the prophet.’” (Matt.2:4-5)

4. The appearance of the King's star brings to fulfillment the prophecy that the birth of Jesus Christ was to be the light of Revelation to the Gentiles (Isa.42:6-7; Luke 2:11; 4:18).

“A light of revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Thy people Israel.” (Luke 2:32; Isa.9:2; 42:6)

It is ironic that the Gentile Magi worshipped the Christ child on the basis of faith in the promise of the King's star. However, the Jewish religious leaders who had the completed Old Testament teachings on the birth of Christ attempted to kill Him. This began the partial hardening of Israel toward Jesus Christ that still exists today (Rom.9-11).

5. The Magi brought gifts fit for a king and laid them at the feet of the Christ child (Matt.2:2, 10-11; Isa.60:6; Ps.72:15).

Gold	Unique king
Frankincense	Unique life
Myrrh	Unique death

The Gifts placed under the Christmas tree with a **special star on top** reminds us of the Gentile Magi who traveled a great distant to worship the Savior of the world. **These gifts were gifts of worship to Jesus Christ.**