

Outline**1 Open with Matt 2:1-11 = the wise men saw and followed the star which led them to Christ**

~ Who were the magi?

- Tradition says there were three and we even know their names. It's also been said their skulls have been found
- They were a group of men who were educated, philosophers, men who studied the stars, who probably had some religious enlightenment through Daniel. Also, those who had been deported to Babylon would have brought with them the OT scriptures. MacArthur says these men were powerful king makers
- These Magi were seeking a king and God's star was the means to find the true king of Israel = Jesus

~ What was the star (Matt 2:2,7,9)?

- Theories about the star – Barclay.... We do not know what brilliant star those ancient Magi saw. Many suggestions have been made. About 11 B.C. Halley's comet was visible shooting brilliantly across the skies. About 7 B.C. there was a brilliant conjunction of Saturn and Jupiter. In the years 5 to 2 B.C. there was an unusual astronomical phenomenon. In those years, on the first day of the Egyptian month, Messori, Sirius, the dog star, rose helically, that is at sunrise, and shone with extraordinary brilliance. Now the name Messori means the birth of a prince, and to those ancient astrologers such a star would undoubtedly mean the birth of some great king. We cannot tell what star the Magi saw; but it was their profession to watch the heavens, and some heavenly brilliance spoke to them of the entry of a king into the world.
- "Could it be that 'the star' which the Magi saw and which led them to a specific house was the Shekinah glory of God? That same glory had led the children of Israel through the wilderness for 40 years as a pillar of fire and cloud. Perhaps this was what they saw in the East, and for want of a better term they called it a 'star.'" [Note: Barbieri, p. 22. Cf. Walvoord, p. 23.]
- Did they see glory of the Lord that shone around the shepherds when angel of the Lord appeared (Lk 2:9)
- The star didn't continually appear and guide them because when they got to Jerusalem they had to ask where Christ should be born. The star must have disappeared for a while. Then the star appears when they leave for Bethlehem

~ How did these wise men come to an understanding of this star?

1 OT scriptures, the book of Daniel (written in Hebrew and Aramaic) and the Septuagint written in the 300's bc

2 Numbers 24:17

3 They would've had an OT understanding from Jews like Daniel and those deported from Jerusalem to Babylon.

2 Number 24:17 – Christ is the star out of Jacob foretold by Balaam

~ The occasion for this prophecy – Balak the king of Moab tried to hire Balaam to curse Israel because he's afraid of Israel. Balaam at the guidance of God won't curse Israel but only says what the Lord tells him to say. Actually Balaam pronounces blessing on Israel and this makes Balak mad. After that since Balaam won't pronounce a curse on Israel Balak get daughters of Moab to commit fornication with the Israelites and this becomes a sinful snare to the children of Israel.

~ Balaam speaks a prophecy concerning Israel in Number 24:17 that speaks of Christ

~ *Number 24:15-17 And he took up his parable, and said, Balaam the son of Beor hath said, and the man whose eyes are open hath said: 16 He hath said, which heard the words of God, and knew the knowledge of the most High, which saw the vision of the Almighty, falling into a trance, but having his eyes open: 17 I shall see him, but not now: I shall behold him, but not nigh: there shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel, and shall smite the corners of Moab, and destroy all the children of Sheth.*

~ The timing of this prophecy - 1450-1410 bc by Moses. After they left Egypt and before entering Promised land

~ We see the Lord making blessing out of cursing. This is an OT commentary on Rom 8:28. Israel hadn't been perfect in their obedience to God up to this point yet the Lord says through Balaam that he hasn't beheld iniquity in Jacob. While Balak wants to curse Israel the Lord turns it around and pronounces blessing on Israel and then tells them there will be a star out of Jacob (Christ)

~ Christ is the star out of Jacob

3 Other passages on Christ as the light (As we work our way through the rest of the bible)

- ~ Is 9:2 The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.
- ~ Is 60:1-3 Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee. 2 For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee. 3 And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.
- Mal 4:2 But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.
- ~ Jn 3:19 Light is come into the world but men love darkness more than light because light exposes the darkness
- ~ Jn 8:12 I am the light of the world (Context-he's the only one worthy to point out sin=woman caught in adultery)
- ~ Jn 9:5 I am the light of the world (Context-He's the light of the world as he heals a blind man)
- ~ Jn 12:35 Walk in the light while you have the light (Context-Christ is light that will be crucified)
- ~ Jn 12:46 I am come a light into the world (Context-Christ is light that rescues from darkness of sin)

4 Christ is a light to the Gentiles (Lk 2:32)

- ~ Is 42:6,7 I the LORD have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles; 7 To open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison house.
- ~ Is 49:6 And he said, It is a light thing that thou shouldest be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel: I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth.
- ~ Is 60:1-3 Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee. 2 For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee. 3 And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.
- ~ Acts 13:46, 47 Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles.
- ~ Act 13:47 For so hath the Lord commanded us, saying, I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth.
- ~ Acts 26:22,23 Having therefore obtained help of God, I continue unto this day, witnessing both to small and great, saying none other things than those which the prophets and Moses did say should come:
- ~ Act 26:23 That Christ should suffer, and that he should be the first that should rise from the dead, and should shew light unto the people, and to the Gentiles.
- ~ 1 Pet 2:9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

5 Revelation 22:16

- ~ One of the last verses in the bible
- ~ Rev 22:5 – no need for candle or light because Christ is the light
- ~ Rev 22:16 – Jesus is root and offspring of David, the bright and morning star (connect this back to Num 24:17)

Conclusion - How does this light play out in the world around us today

- ~ Jn 12:35,36 We're children of the light
- ~ 2 Pet 1:19 – Christ the light arises in our hearts
- ~ Matt 5:14-16 Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.
- Mat 5:15 Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.
- ~ Jn 1:1-9 Christ was the light of men, that light shines in darkness, the darkness comprehended it not, John was sent to bear witness of the light
- ~ Take the tract and pray and ask God to guide you in whom to give it to