**The Bethlehem Star (His Star)**

Matt. 2:1-10

**I. The Wise Men (Matt. 2:1-2).**

We are introduced to the wise men or the magi. They were known as astrologers who studied the stars. What do we don’t know and do know about these mysterious men?

**What we don’t know.**

We don’t know the number, though traditional we picture three and the manger scene. They were more than three and they were not at the Bethlehem manger scene.

Three comes from the three gifts (v. 11). We are not told they were kings though they are thought to be king makers.

**What we do know.**

**We know** they came from the east having seen his star in the East. East could refer to Babylon, Persia, Egypt, and the Arabian desert. They were from the East and saw his star in the East. They were in the East when they saw his star in the west.

Nelsons Bible Dictionary states, “The Greek word *magoi* renders as magi, astrologers, and sorcerers in the Greek Septuagint which is the translation of the O.T.

The Greek historian He/rod/o/tus identifies the magi as a caste of the Medes who had a priestly function in the Persian Empire.

**We know** they were high-ranking wealthy officials with power and influence. They were well respected with roles in religion and politics.

They were greatly influenced by **Daniel 9:24-25** seventy-week prophecy of when the Messiah would arrive. They were drawn by a star to journey to worship the one born King of the Jews.

**II. His Star (Matt. 2:2).**

This has reference to Balak and Balaam in **Numbers 22 and 24**.

Balaam’s oracle in **Numbers 24:16-17** “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 (Chef).

A Scepter (one who rules) will arise from God’s people and deliver them.

The wise men journeyed from east to west hundreds or thousand miles to find the star. They knew to go to Jerusalem to find the king.

By the way, the star went before them to Bethlehem to where the young child was probably two years after his birth, living in a house (2:9, 16).

**Observations-**

1. The star is called “his star” (Matt. 2:2), because it was a fulfillment of Numbers 24:16-17 that there is one born who would be King.

2. They saw His star from the East and traveled two years to Jerusalem.

3. His star would appear and disappear and move over a period of mostly 3 years.

4. His star was not a supernova, not Jupiter and Saturn, not a meteor. This was the glory of the Lord making it His star.

5. We see the glory of the Lord to the shepherds, Saul on the road to Damascus, and the Transfiguration to Peter, James, John.

6. The wise men saw the star in the East, but it did not lead them to Jerusalem. The star appeared when they left Jerusalem to go to Bethlehem (Matt. 2:9-11) and led them to the house Jesus was living, probably as a young infant two years later (2:9, 16).