

# The Mystery of the Magi

Text: Matthew 2:1-12

1. Who are the Magi and where did they come from?
2. What is the star they saw and how did it lead them to Bethlehem?
3. How long after the birth of Jesus did they arrive?
4. How did they know that the baby was to be the king of the Jews?

In Matthew 2.1-2 we read, "After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews?"

- "Magi from the east."
  - "Magi" - Persian word - special class of priests in Persian empire.
  - They had their own religion – Zoroastrianism
  - They had their own priesthood and their own writings.
  - They were the professors and philosophers of their day.
  - They were brilliant and highly educated scholars, trained in medicine, history, religion, prophecy, astronomy, and astrology.
- Astronomy is the science of the study of the stars.
  - Astrology is the belief that there is a connection between the position of the stars and human destiny.

44 BC - Julius Caesar was assassinated - Caesar's Comet.

"We have seen his star in the east, and have come to worship him." (Vs. 2)

- What was "his star in the east?"
- What did they see and how did they know it was his star and how did they connect it with Israel?

## 4 main theories:

1. Halley's Comet.
2. A Supernova.
3. Conjunction of Planets (7 B.C. - Jupiter, Mars and Saturn)
4. A Supernatural Light - the shekinah glory of God.

Why does Matthew include this account in his Gospel?

Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. 1 Corinthians 1:18-20.

If you were the campaign manager for Jesus Christ, how would you have done it?

### Summary

1. If the wise men could find Jesus, then so can you.

Seek the LORD while he may be found;  
call on him while he is near.  
Let the wicked forsake their ways  
and the unrighteous their thoughts.  
Let them turn to the LORD,  
and he will have mercy on them,  
and to our God,  
for he will freely pardon. Isaiah 55

If they found him, then so can you.

2. If God can use a star to reach these pagan astrologers, then he can use anything to reach anybody.
3. If the Wise Men offered Jesus gifts fit for a king, then so should we!