

# The Epiphany Star and the Wise Men

(Devotion: January 6, 2021 a.d. ~ Epiphany)

In Matthew chapter two we read the account of the wise men who journeyed from the East to worship Jesus. The Bible tells us they followed a star. Many people have wondered about that star. Was it a miraculous star created by God just for the purpose of leading the wise men? Others have looked for astrological evidence of such a star at the time of Jesus' birth. We know that close to the time of Jesus' birth there were some unusual astrological occurrences. For example, Jupiter came into conjunction with Regulus, the star of kingship, the brightest star of the constellation of Leo. Leo was the constellation of kings, and it was associated with the Lion of Judah. Later there was a conjunction of Jupiter and Venus, the two brightest objects in the sky save the sun and moon. Predictions of these conjunctions were made 400 years prior to the birth of Christ.

Whether this was a miraculous star or an unusual astrological phenomenon, we know that God used these events to serve the purposes of His plan of salvation. The wise men must have had some Biblical knowledge of the coming King of Judah. Along with other scientific observations, they were led by God to Jesus. No one really knows how many wise men there were. Many people assume there were three because of the three kinds of gifts the brought. But there may have only been two or many more than three.

One thing we do know for certain is that they looked upon Jesus as a new born king. That's amazing when you consider the poverty and the low class into which Jesus was born. Yet the wise men looked beyond the outward circumstances to the realities of God's revelation.

Oh, how much we need that same view today. It is very easy to see the chaos and the degradation that grows stronger and stronger in our world. It would be very easy to lose hope that God is real and that He is coming again in glory. Nevertheless, like the wise men, we can see reality in the promises of God. Just as the wise men search the Scriptures and followed the star, so we are called to follow Christ in His Word and look beyond all the outward circumstances to Him ~ our Savior.

Let's do just that in this season of Epiphany as it leads us to Lent, when we journey with Jesus to His cross, where He suffered and died for our sins; and to Easter, when we celebrate once again the glorious fact: Christ is Risen! (He is risen indeed! Alleluia!) Amen!