

BRIEF REVIEW

- The Magi were not kings, not occultists, and not Roman-style astrologers.
- They were priestly Persians, monotheistic, educated, and serious students of the heavens.
- Persia had long-standing contact with Hebrew Scripture through the exile.
- Daniel's presence in the East explains both expectation and seriousness.
- The Magi came looking for a *born* King, not an enthroned ruler.

THE ROLE OF THE STAR IN MATTHEW'S NARRATIVE

- The Star is the initiating cause of the journey.
- Matthew treats it as a real phenomenon, not a symbol or vision.
- The Star communicates a single, specific fact:
 - The King of the Jews has been born.
- The Star does not identify Bethlehem.
 - It brings Gentiles to Jerusalem.
 - Scripture identifies the birthplace.

WHY THE STAR WAS UNDERSTOOD

- The Magi did not merely see something unusual. They recognized meaning because of prior knowledge:
 - Monotheistic framework.
 - Expectation of a coming deliverer.
 - Familiarity with Hebrew prophetic material.
- The Star confirmed expectation; it did not create it.
- The sign was intelligible only to those already disposed toward truth.
- Knowing that the King of the Jews would be announced with a star (Num. 24:17), AND that the "cutting off" of Messiah would be 483 years *after* the decree to rebuild Jerusalem (Dan. 9:25), the magi made the logical connection that *somewhere prior to Daniel's year, there should be a sign in the stars announcing the birth of the Messiah...and so they began to look.*

WHAT THE STAR WAS NOT

- It was not:
 - A routine astronomical event.
 - A random new star.
 - A purely natural phenomenon detached from purpose.
- Ordinary celestial events would not:
 - Announce a specific royal birth.
 - Prompt a diplomatic journey.
 - Justify inquiry before Herod and the Sanhedrin.
- The Star cannot be reduced to curiosity or coincidence.

THE NATURE OF THE SIGN

- The Star was:
 - Real and observable.
 - Extraordinary in timing.
 - Purposeful in function.
- It was not astrology in the modern sense.
- It was a divinely appointed sign operating within history.

THE STAR'S LIMITED ROLE

- The Star first appears in the East as a sign announcing the birth.
- It does not provide continuous guidance from that point.
- After Scripture identifies Bethlehem, the Star reappears.
- In its reappearance, it leads the Magi locally and conclusively to the house.

DO THE STARS SPEAK TODAY?

- The heavens still testify to God's power and order, and even contain the overall plan and purpose of God for the establishment of His kingdom.
- But the Star of Bethlehem belongs to a specific moment in redemptive history.
- It is not a model for personal guidance.
- It does not authorize ongoing astrological interpretation.
- The sign pointed once — and pointed truly.