

Bethlehem's Supernatural Star – by John Piper

“Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” (Matthew 2:2)

Over and over the Bible baffles our curiosity about just how certain things happened. How did this “star” get the magi from the east to Jerusalem?

It does not say that it led them or went before them on the way to Jerusalem. It only says they saw a star in the east (Matthew 2:2) and came to Jerusalem. And how did that star go before them in the little five-mile walk from Jerusalem to Bethlehem as Matthew 2:9 says it did? And how did a star “rest over the place where the child was”?

The answer is: We do not know. There are numerous efforts to explain it in terms of conjunctions of planets or comets or supernovas or miraculous lights. We just don't know. And I want to exhort you not to become preoccupied — not to become fixated — on theories that are only tentative in the end and have very little spiritual significance.

...

But what is plain concerning this matter of the star is that it is doing something that it cannot do on its own: It is guiding magi to the Son of God to worship him.

There is only one Person in biblical thinking that can be behind that intentionality in the stars: God himself.

So, the lesson is plain: God is guiding foreigners to Christ to worship him. And he is doing it by exerting global — probably even universal — influence and power to get it done.

Luke shows God influencing the entire Roman Empire so that the census comes at the exact time to get an insignificant virgin to Bethlehem to fulfill prophecy with her delivery. Matthew shows God influencing the stars in the sky to get a little handful of foreigners to Bethlehem so that they can worship the Son.

This is God's design. He did it then. He is still doing it now. His aim is that the nations — all the nations (Matthew 24:14) — worship his Son.

This is God's will for everybody in your office at work, and in your classroom, and in your neighborhood, and in your home. As John 4:23 says, “The Father is seeking such people to worship him.”

At the beginning of Matthew we still have a “come-see” pattern. But at the end the pattern is “go-tell.” The magi came and saw. We are to go and tell.

But what is not different is the purpose and power of God in the ingathering of the nations to worship his Son. The magnifying of Christ in the white-hot worship of all nations is the reason the world exists.

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25 December 2018 , 9am

Welcome, we're glad you're here!

We are a church family committed to following Jesus Christ as Lord. We do this by getting to know him through his living Word, the Bible, which is why the sermon is the key part of our Sunday services. Find out more about us at www.slechurch.org.au.



This Christmas: Encounters with Jesus— Of Men and Kings

The good news of gospel is that even pagans can be drawn to and worship Jesus, but those who set themselves against Him will ultimately have their plans fail.

by Pastor Steven Tran

Of Men and Kings [Matthew 2:1-23]

Intro:

1. Getting to know Herod
2. Getting to know these 'wise men'
3. The good news of Christmas

Who will be King?

Say hello

Join us for morning tea after service. We'd love to have a chat and get to know you better.

Prayer Points

PRAISE GOD FOR CHRISTMAS in how it reveals God's existence, character, love and care. Thank God that in the coming of Jesus all our hopes find fulfilment, all our desires find satisfaction, and all our needs are met.

PRAY FOR OUR FESTIVITIES to be marked by deep and personal reflection on the coming of Jesus. Pray that in the midst of the busyness of today we would be able to spend time reflecting on how great and awesome it is that Jesus has come!

Today's Service

Welcome and Singing	Joy to the World Hark the Herald O Holy Night
Holy Communion	
Offering	
Community News	
Bible Reading	Matthew 2:1-23
Sermon	By Pastor Steven Tran
Song of Response	What Child is This?

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