

MORNING SERMON OUTLINE

LIGHT FOR THE GENTILES

Matthew 2:1-12

Angels radiating heavenly light heralded the birth of the Light of the world. And a star drew wise men from a far away country to worship Jesus. What light draws to Christ now?

1. The remarkable quest of the Magi –

drawn by a star to seek the new-born King of the Jews

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem

Magi from the east came seeking the newly born "King of the Jews." Who were they & what drew them?

Magi – Not Jews but Gentiles & not kings (& of unknown number) – members of a caste of "wise men" - Persian? Babylonian?

Why seek out a new-born King of the Jews?

- a costly & arduous trek to an insignificant puppet kingdom of the Roman Empire – Why?

What was the "star"? Many theories, but look at verse 9.

Note the implied lapse of time, vv.7, 11, 16.

2. The amazing condescension & grace of the God – in using a star (& much more) to draw them

In His sovereign providence, God provided them with knowledge of the promised Messiah – to be a great King & Savior, not only for Jews but for the nations of the world – Daniel?

In His sovereign providence and gracious condescension

God revealed to them Messiah's birth with a sign they would understand – a special star.

God can & does use "strange" means to draw people to His light.

3. The Light God now calls us to use to draw "all men" to Christ

The Magi were the first-fruits of the great, world-wide Gentile harvest.

The light of the glory of God now shines in the face of Christ,

seen not only at the right hand of the Father,

but in the **preaching of the Gospel** – 2 Cor. 4:4-6, Acts 13:46,47

Jesus, the Light of the world,

calls believers in Him to BE His light in the world in **the way we live** – Matt.5:14-16.

To do shine as Christ's light before others, you must:

- Come to Him in faith out of the darkness of unbelief & sin, &
- follow Christ (John 8:12), walk in the Light (1 John 1:7).

*"I am the Light of the world;
he who follow Me will not walk in the darkness,
but will have the light of life."*

John 8:12