

They spent much of their time looking at the sky, especially appreciating the stars. They figured out patterns and were able to track and place them on any given night. Fascinated by the night sky these early astrologers one night saw a star they'd not seen before.

Magi for centuries had been watching the stars and looking for a special promise from God. Somehow they had come to know the promise of a Savior. Daniel had been one of them and potentially he shared the promise with them. Perhaps Jews passing through shared it with them. However it happened they were watching and waiting. Somehow they knew this star was it. God was making it the clear sign of the Savior. They had to go.

Nearly one thousand miles and many months later they arrived in the nation of Israel and went right into the capital city of Jerusalem. Surely they would have no trouble finding this Savior that everyone else would be looking for. But Jerusalem wasn't looking. Jerusalem didn't care. It's not that different today. Some just don't care. Some just don't take notice. But this group of wise men from the east wouldn't stop until they found him. The gospel records how they were...

**Overjoyed to find the King
Seeing with hearts of faith
Worshipping with hearts of faith**

The people of Jerusalem knew the promises. When the question was asked about where the Christ was to be born everyone knew where to go for the answer. Go to the Bible, theirs was the Old Testament. **"This is what the prophet has written, But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel."** Bethlehem was just down the road a couple of miles. The Christ, a ruler, a shepherd, would be born there. They should've been scouring the birth records of Bethlehem looking for him. But no one in Jerusalem was looking with hearts of faith.

The Magi had all the information they needed. Jerusalem wanted nothing to do with the Savior, but they did. Just as soon as they set out from Jerusalem the star was back. **"They went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed."** Now they knew they were on the right track. God was again leading them, this time to the exact house where the Savior would be. God was pleased with their search and was blessing it. And what they saw in the house confirmed for them all they had read in the Old Testament. It confirmed for them that God keeps his promises. These Gentiles were the first non-Jews to see the Savior with hearts of faith. They wouldn't be the last.

Every Jew in Jerusalem knew the promises of God regarding the Savior. Yet completely out of touch with what was happening down the road in Bethlehem, they weren't looking. We know people too who are out of touch with the religion that's happening around them. They might be the people saying you don't have to go to church to believe. They might be the people debating you when you talk religion and getting you all confused about what you believe. They might be the people who could pass by every church they see and never give it another thought. They don't see with hearts of faith the truth about the Savior. These people might not only be others, it might be you.

The Magi didn't find God, he found them. They were listening and watching and wanted to find him. But it wasn't until God revealed himself that they really found him. We're like the Magi. We start with no natural connection to the Savior. No long history of promises like the Jews, no history of God's deliverances like the Jews. Because of our sinfulness we don't have the desire to have these things naturally either. But Christ Jesus was revealed to them and he's revealed to us. Amazingly Old Testament promises match up with New Testament revelation. Jesus is right where the Bible says he'd be. God's happy to show us the Savior. We're overjoyed because we've found the King. We're overjoyed because now we're seeing with hearts of faith.

There'll always be those who are lost and don't care. We know them. We can share with them. We don't have a responsibility to believe for them or convince them. We simply share the Word of God with them and God the Holy Spirit works through it to bring faith to their hearts. It might take more than once, even repeated showing. Don't lose patience. God's Word is powerful. And now is the time to show them the Savior so they can see with hearts of faith. Now is the time to help them see through God's Word the promised Savior.

When babies are born it's great to be part of the family that gets to come to the hospital and see the newborn child. You get to congratulate and watch new mother and father in action, take pictures, and enjoy the moments. But of course most people don't come just to look and watch. Most people want to hold the baby. The Magi came a long way to see the Savior. They were overjoyed when they finally saw him. Once there it wasn't holding they wanted to do. They wanted to worship. They were overjoyed to find the King and they were worshipping him with hearts of faith.

This story already has one king in it and that's kind of the problem. King Herod came off gentle and sweet. Yes he heard about the Savior. Yes he wanted to help the Magi find him. Yes he wanted to worship him too. **"Herod sent them to Bethlehem and said, Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."** Yet Herod doesn't go with them. He doesn't send a group of his own people. Herod sends no gifts. Herod wasn't interested in worshipping this child. He was only interested in his own power. Another king would threaten that. This new king had to die.

Everyone has a reaction to the Christ. Some, like the Magi, see a child and have no trouble looking past the teenage mother, little baby, and simple house. They worship him as the Savior. Some, like King Herod are looking out for themselves, their power, and their own welfare. They can't worship him as the Savior. The lowliness and humility make him not strong enough. The poverty means he can't give me anything. Why give a child such great gifts? He doesn't deserve our worship or praise.

God wants us to know this story. He wants us to know that the Christ Child is our glorious Savior. Find our King and worship him. See his great glory that goes beyond Bethlehem. This Savior is for all people. This Savior will shine his light of love into every dark corner of our hearts and minds. He will find and take away every sin we're so scared God is punishing us for. He will find and take away every sin so we see the path to heaven clearly. He's our King. He elevates us to royal status as God's dear children. Worshipping him is an honor.

Worship of this King comes in many forms. It might be resolutions in the New Year that change from self centered to God centered. It might be the desire to show more praise and thanks to him through gifts and offerings. It might be to use talents previously unused. It might be more frequent worship. Each of us will worship in our own way. But whatever and wherever you are you can with hearts of faith worship the King with joy.

As they left the Bethlehem Jerusalem area and headed home they avoided Herod. As they traveled their thoughts returned to the Savior they had seen. What a privilege. You can imagine they must have been thinking what he would grow up to do. They must have wondered about his future. We don't have to wonder. We see with hearts of faith what Jesus means to us. He brings freedom from sins and life eternal. He means a restored relationship with God. Now we worship him with hearts of faith. We are overjoyed to find the King.