



Relive CHRISTMAS

The Magi, Matt.2:1-12

(Page 681 in pew Bible.)

Unexpected Participants

I. Mary

II. Simeon

III. The Magi



CHRISTMAS

A beautiful illustration of the interaction between heaven and earth, between the super-natural and the natural.

- 1. A natural young women visited by a super-natural being, an angel, telling about another super-natural being, the Holy Spirit, and His involvement in her pregnancy**
- 2. A natural man, Joseph, warned by a super-natural angel**
- 3. Jesus, THE super-natural becoming natural**
- 4. The shepherds, natural men, informed by super-natural angels.**
- 5. And now the natural Magi led by a super-natural sign, a star.**





The term “Magi” is ultimately the Persian word “Magupati” that referred to a special class of priests in the Persian empire. Who were the Magi? They were the professors and philosophers of their day. They were brilliant and highly educated scholars who were trained in medicine, history, religion, prophecy and astronomy. They were also trained in what we would call astrology. There is a difference between astronomy and astrology.





“The Star”

The interaction between heaven and earth. The star—whatever it was—would make perfect sense to them and would in fact perfectly fit what they already believed. You might say that if God wanted to get a message to these pagan priests, He picked the perfect way. What was “His star in the east?” What did they see and how did they know it was “His star” and how did they connect it with Israel?



Daniel

We know that the Jews and Persians had intermingled for at least 500 years. It seems that the Magi considered Daniel as one of their own.

Daniel 2:48 “Then the king promoted Daniel and gave him many great gifts; and he made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon, and chief administrator over all the wise men (the magi) of Babylon.”



**Did they have the Jewish scriptures and know
Numbers 24:17, the prophecy of Balaam?**

**“I see Him, but not now;
I behold Him, but not near;
A Star shall come out of Jacob;
A Scepter shall rise out of Israel,
And batter the brow of Moab,
And destroy all the sons of tumult.”**

**And is it possible that they had the book
of Daniel?**



ETERNITY IN THEIR HEARTS



Startling Evidence of Belief in the One True God
in Hundreds of Cultures Throughout the World

DON
RICHARDSON



The universal knowledge of God, the “Skygod”

The interaction between heaven and earth.

Job + three friends; Abraham, Melchizedek, etc.

The Inca’s and the North American Indians

African tribes and peoples

The Asian people groups in Burma, Thailand, parts of India and China, an area of about the size of Texas with these people groups, Karen, Naga, Mizo, Kachi, Lahu, Kui.....

The people of Korea and China.



**The Wa tribe, about 100,000 people,
head hunters.**

**A prophet of the true God, Pu Chan:
“God told me that “the white brother
with the lost book” is close.”**

Follow the pony.



The WA People – 200 miles to Kengtung, Burma



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After more than 1900 years, their first Christmas.



Why did the Magi come?

The “Skygod” had somehow touched their hearts.

The Redemptive problem: SIN.

1. They came because of a universal craving to know God
2. They came because of the universal urge to worship
3. They came because of the universal consciousness of sin and the longing for forgiveness
4. They came because of the universal need for atonement, for a sacrifice



Christmas, God's provision for mankind's needs

The Redemptive Solution: CHRIST

- 1. He came to give us the full knowledge of God**
- 2. He came to be the only One worthy to be worshipped, King of kings, Lord of lords.**
- 3. He came as the solution to our sinfulness, providing true forgiveness**
- 4. He came to be the perfect sacrifice and make atonement for us. (Hebr.10:11-13)**



Heb.10:11-13.

“And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool.”



The reaction of the Magi

1. They came, sensitive to and led by God
2. They came, seeking

(and doubting?)



Matthew 2:9-10

⁹ When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the STAR which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the STAR, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. (The were overjoyed, NIV).



I. The reaction of the Magi

- 1. They came, sensitive to and led by God**
- 2. They came, seeking
(and doubting?)**
- 3. They came bringing gifts and worshipping**
- 4. They left, in touch with God, divinely warned,
amazing.**

Interaction between super-natural and natural.



II. The reaction of king Herod

This is Herod the Great, who ruled from 37 B.C. to 4 B.C. Any study of Herod will immediately show that the man was a ruthless and paranoid tyrant. He killed two of his sons, and one of his wives. He was not Jewish. He was an Edomite, a descendant of Esau.

“Where is He who has been born King of the Jews?”

I, Herod, am king of the Jews.

Anger, hostility, the clashing of two thrones, two kingdoms.

The first martyrs for Christ.



King of the Jews

Herod?

Jesus?

King of my life

I?

Jesus?

The battle over the throne



III. The reaction of the religious Jews

Indifference, cold heartedness, no interest

Unbelievable, this is to me most shocking

They were God's people, they knew the scriptures, yet no interest.



What is your reaction to the birth of Christ, the King?

- 1. Hostility, rejection, like king Herod?**
- 2. Indifference, cold heartedness, no interest, like the religious Jews?**
- 3. Acceptance and worship, like the Magi?**



**I want to challenge you to let 2020 be a year of
interaction between heaven and you?**

**“Seek the Lord and His strength, Seek His face
evermore.” Ps.105:4.**

I. Seek to worship Him

II. Seek to walk with and like Him

III. Seek to work with and for Him

Let’s make 2020 count for Christ and eternity.



The background is a dark blue night sky filled with small white stars. In the top left corner, there is a large, bright, multi-pointed star. In the bottom right corner, there are silhouettes of three camels walking across a dark horizon line.

Relive CHRISTMAS

What are we doing for the rest of the world
that doesn't know about Christmas?



The WA People – 200 miles to Kengtung, Burma



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