

# The Supernatural Drawing of God

## Matthew 2:1-12

August 10th 2016

**Q: What is the purpose in this story? Why is it told? Is there some doctrine, some promise of God fulfilled here?** (Jer 29:13, Heb 11:6) - We'll get to this

**Note:** This story is placed in history, in a real place, real rulers are mentioned. Like going through the genealogy of chapter 1 we realize this is not a story from myth but a story of real history, placed in a real time.

**Q: Traveling from the "east," how far, how long had they traveled (Weeks, months?)** - most commentaries would suggest at least several weeks to a few months for what early Jewish writers would consider "east."

**Q: What does this say about them?** This was a step of great faith! This wasn't a day trip. This was something to pack your bags for, to plan for with need of water, food, clothing. It was suggested that perhaps there were more than just the wise man to make the trip. We can't know but it wouldn't be unreasonable.

**Q: Did they doubt they would find Him?** We're not sure they knew if they would find Jesus but they went anyway. We don't know if they knew Bethlehem was the ordained birthplace or even then if they could find his actual home or if the timing was even right. Yet God, in His providence, brought them at the right time.

**Q: King of the Jews, where does this phrase come from and how and why do they use it?** (kingly line - the messiah Num 24:17, Isaiah 9:7). They must have been familiar with prophecy or like Peter in Matt 16 it was revealed to them by God. To travel this distance they seem certain the child is a King.

**Q: Why do they ask this?** They are gentiles and they have read the sign. The King is born of the Jews and they have come to the capital city. They had to have figured others would have been eagerly waiting and would have perhaps already known He's been born. Instead, they're met without an answer and a response of fear. Sometimes those closest to the gospel recognize it least. Sometimes it's those that hunger for truth but are farthest off that are drawn. He 11:6, Jer 29:13 are true.

**Q: The star appeared, what does that mean?** Num 24:17 (they took it literally?) Seasons change and so do the constellations. Theories of a star and a comet. The bottomline is God can and does work miracles, signs and wonders as well as natural means. There does not need to be a strictly natural event, especially considering that this story comes with a virgin birth.

**Q: Why Bethlehem?** Christ's life is humility embodied. Humble family, humble birth space, humble city, prophecy Micah 5:2 (Moses in a basket, Christ in a manger). Satan comes with pomp and pride. The antichrist comes as such. Even our politicians come this way and the hailed of our nation. Christ came in the most humble of ways. It is God's way. We come to Him humble, repentant.

**Q: Young child - how old was Jesus?** (According to Herod's decree - less than 3, 2 and under) Still in Bethlehem (Lk 2:39 - back to Nazareth (space in between returning from Egypt? or before or after 40 day presentation in temple))

**Q: Why worship Him? He is a child, born to poor people. Is that a normal response?** Isaiah 9:6 (everlasting father) Micah 5:2 (from everlasting). These men were from another country yet it is not celebratory thing to worship a man in scripture Rev 19:10, 22:9 Jesus' appearance does not deter them. They knew this child was He.

**Q: What do the gifts represent?** Honor. Gold = King, Frankincense = Divinity, Myrrh = Burial

**Q: What does this whole story represent to us?** God's supernatural plan. Those who seek do find! (Isa 55:5-6, Jer 29:13, Heb 11:6) Supernatural faith affirmed - God's drawing men from the nations attested from the very day of Jesus birth. God is faithful to His word.