

## **FOREIGNERS WORSHIPPED GOD'S SON**

Matthew 2:11 “. . .going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.”

The shepherds heard of Jesus' birth from Angels. God used a unique star to lead the Magi (Wisemen from the East) to find His Son, the Savior of all people and nations. God used that star to take them to King Herod who in turn redirected them to Bethlehem to find the “new born King” they sought.

The Magi were not believers in Yahweh. They were from a foreign land where it is most probable, they worshipped false gods other than Yahweh. They, were students of the universe. When they saw the unusual star, it drew their curiosity. The Bible tells us that the star was like a Google Map, a God designed beacon, like Global Positioning System (GPS) to lead them to find Jesus.

The Magi were introduced to the name of the one for whom they were looking. Herod's spiritual advisors came up with an answer as to the meaning of the star. They found the answer in Micah 4:2,4 “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 shepherd my people Israel” . . . “A ruler who will shepherd my people, Israel.” Indeed, they would and did find the new born king in Bethlehem.

The star led them to where Mary, Joseph and Jesus were. The Holy Spirit was at work in their heart causing them to “fall down and worship Jesus. Then, opening their treasures, they offered Him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.” (Matthew 2:11) The Bible says, then “they were warned in a dream “. . .not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.” (Matthew 2:12)

Jesus came to “seek and to save the lost.” (Luke 19:10) It was no accident the Shepherds were led by an Agnel and the Magi by a star from a foreign land to worship Jesus. Even though the Bible says no more about the Magi, one can reason they, who worshipped Jesus and gave Him expensive gifts “fit for a king” told people throughout their return trip to their homeland about this newborn king. Their coming to worship Jesus was just another example of God's Spirit at work to lead people from most unexpected nations and peoples to a saving faith and trust in Jesus.

Prayer: Holy Spirit, yet today You lead men and women from lands where the Gospel is not known to lands where it is freely proclaimed. Bless these people, when they hear the Gospel's Good News. Bless them with faith to believe in Jesus as God's gift to save them from their sins. Amen.

From Greenland's icy mountains, From India's coral strand,  
Where Afric's sunny fountains Roll down their golden sand;  
From many an ancient river, From many a palmy plain,  
They call us to deliver Their land from error's chain.

What though the spicy breezes Blow soft o'er Ceylon's isle;  
Though ev'ry prospect pleases And only man is vile;  
In vain with lavish kindness The gifts of God are strown;  
The heathen in his blindness Bows down to wood and stone.

Can we whose souls are lighted With wisdom from on high,  
Can we to men benighted The lamp of life deny?  
Salvation! Oh, Salvation! The joyful sound proclaim  
Till each remotest nation Has learned Messiah's name.

Waft, waft, ye winds, His story, And you, ye waters, roll,  
Till like a sea of glory It spreads from pole to pole;  
Till o'er our ransomed nature The Lamb for sinners slain,  
Redeemer, King, Creator, In bliss returns to reign.  
(TLH 495)