

No GPS, No Problem!

The Star – How to Find Jesus

Natural revelation

A conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn (Genesis 1:14)

Historical Jewish presence in Persia

Messianic expectations throughout the whole world during the first century

Supernatural revelation

They found Jesus through Scripture, not through astrology

What is happening in verses 9 and 10?

The Magi – Who Can Find Jesus

About the magi

“At this time, [the term] applied to a wide range of people whose practices included astrology, dream interpretation, study of sacred writings, the pursuit of wisdom, and magic.”

Balaam as a model for the magi (Numbers 24:17-19)

Balaam prophecies “a star out of Jacob and a scepter out of Israel”

Balaam was a non-Israelite holy man and visionary from the East

Balaam was pressured by a king (Balak) intent on destroying the true people of God, but refused to cooperate and instead took the side of God’s people

A reflection on the inclusivity of Jesus

Think of the characters in the Christmas story...

Magi. Shepherds. Zechariah and Elizabeth. Mary and Joseph. Simeon and Anna.

The Gifts – Why We Need to Find Jesus

A visit fit for a king

Gold and spices... 1 Kings 10:1-10, Queen of Sheba’s visit to Solomon

Matthew 12:42 “something greater than Solomon is here”

Gifts fit for a savior

Gold, a sign of divinity

Frankincense, for use on the altar

Myrrh, for use in embalment

Our savior king

Questions for Study and Reflection

1. What can/does nature tell us about God? Why is the Scripture even more important? Read Psalm 19 and look at verses 1-6 and 7-13 respectively.
2. What do we learn from the great variety of characters in the Christmas story?
3. Why is it important to understand that the biblical events make sense, historically, in their time and place?
4. What is so radical about a king who is also a savior?