

Providence Beneath The Star
Matthew 2:1-14
Al Gascon | December 17, 2023

⇒ *If a thing is free to be good it is also free to be bad. And free will is what has made evil possible. Why, then, did God give them free will? Because free will, though it makes evil possible, is also the only thing that makes possible any love or goodness or joy worth having.* - CS Lewis

- Sovereignty– God’s lordship and supreme authority over all creation.
- Providence – The protective or providing intervention of God.

⇒ Beneath the star the Providence of God was showcased.

Matthew 2:1-10

Object	Time for the Light to Reach Us
The Moon	1 1/3 sec
The Sun	8 minutes
Jupiter	35 to 52 minutes
Pluto	5 1/2 hours (on average)
Alpha Centauri (nearest star system)	4.3 years
Sirius (brightest star in our sky)	9 years
Betelgeuse (bright star)	430 years
Orion Nebula	1500 years
Andromeda Galaxy	2.5 million years

⇒ If the Christmas star that the Magi saw was a real star, then God had created it along with everything else in all of existence. God created this special star with the foreknowledge that when the light of this star eventually arrived on earth it arrived alongside the birth of the Messiah.

- This star, real or not, showcased the providence and supreme sovereignty of God.

Matthew 2:11-14

“According to most philosophers, God in making the world enslaved it. According to Christianity, in making it, He set it free. God had written, not so much a poem, but rather a play; a play he had planned as perfect, but which had necessarily been left to human actors and stage-managers, who had since made a great mess of it.” - GK Chesterton

⇒ Beneath our stars on our trees the providence of God must be recalled and celebrated.

Discussion Questions:

- a. Same question as a few weeks ago: Do you believe the Christmas star is a real star or something else?
- b. Same question as last week: If the Christmas star is a real star, does it give more or less glory to God?
- c. Can you name examples of the providence of God in your life?
- d. All throughout this series we've talked about the Ebenezer award given to the biggest scrooge. Can you think of anyone or any stories deserving of the "Tiny Tim" award? (Tiny Tim was a character that showed a wonderful spirit of positivity in the midst of his illness that moved others emotionally who were around him)