

GOSPEL of *Grace*
FELLOWSHIP

**How the Magi Found Christ
by the Light of Scripture**

by Eric Douma
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**Two Questions
From the Nativity**

1. Why did God supply angels and shepherds to sing of Christ's birth?
2. How did the Magi from the East know to come and worship Israel's Messiah?

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The Angels Praise God for Christ's Birth

Luke 2:13-14 (ESV)
And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, 14 "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

Luke 2:20 (ESV)
And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

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Who Really Deserves Praise?

Roman World	Biblical Reality
1. Good news: Birth of Emperor.	1. Good news: Birth of God's Son!
2. Choir of humans sang praises to Emperor.	2. Choir of angels and shepherds sang praises to God!

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The Magi From the East

Matthew 2:1-2
Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, 2 "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him."

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The Magi From Babylon

Daniel 1:20
As for every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king consulted them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and conjurers who were in all his realm.

Magician = "hartum" – those who practiced astrology, and interpreted omens and dreams.

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How Did the Magi Know?

Daniel 2:14, 17-18

Then Daniel replied with discretion and discernment to Arioch, the captain of the king's bodyguard, who had gone forth to slay **the wise men** of Babylon... 17 Then Daniel went to his house and informed his friends, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, about the matter, 18 so that they might request compassion from the God of heaven concerning this mystery, **so that Daniel and his friends would not be destroyed with the rest of the wise men of Babylon.**

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How Did the Magi Know?

Numbers 24:17

I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near; **a star shall come forth from Jacob**, a scepter shall rise from Israel, and shall crush through the forehead of Moab, and tear down all the sons of Sheth.

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How Did the Magi Know?

...then will the Lord raise up to the priesthood a new Priest, to whom all the words of the Lord shall be revealed; and He shall execute a judgment of truth upon the earth, in the fulness of days. **And His star shall arise in heaven** as a king shedding forth the light of knowledge in the sunshine of day.

(Testament of Levi 18 –Nonbiblical – from a pseudepigraphal work from the intertestamental period)

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How Did the Magi Know?

2 Peter 1:19

So we have the prophetic word made more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until **the day dawns** and **the morning star arises in your hearts.**

Revelation 22:16

I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, **the bright morning star.**

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Will You Worship Christ This Christmas?

Matthew 2:11

After coming into the house they saw the Child with Mary His mother; and **they fell to the ground and worshiped Him.** Then, opening their treasures, they presented to Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

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