

A CELESTIAL TREASURE MAP

**Matthew 2:1-2**

Love came down at Christmas, Love all  
lovely, love divine; Love was born at  
Christmas; star and angels gave the sign.  
*Christina Rossetti*

The star of Bethlehem was a star of joy.  
“When they saw the star, they rejoiced with  
exceedingly great joy.” All true joy comes  
from Him. *D. James Kennedy*

The simple shepherds heard the voice an  
angel and found their Lamb; the wise men  
saw the light of a star and found their  
Wisdom. *Fulton Sheen*

The Bible is the cradle wherein Christ is laid.  
*Martin Luther*

Begin to know Him now, and finish never.  
*Oswald Chambers*

The only way we can understand the Bible  
is by personal contact with the Living Word.  
*Oswald Chambers*

It’s the definition of worship: A hungry  
heart finding the Father’s feast. A searching  
soul finding the Father’s face. A wandering  
pilgrim spotting the Father’s house. Finding  
God. Finding God seeking us. This is  
worship. This is a worshiper. *Max Lucado*

When the child of God looks into the Word  
of God, he sees the Son of God. And, he is  
transformed by the Spirit of God to share in  
the glory of God. *Warren Wiersbe*

**2** Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, <sup>[a]</sup>magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, <sup>2</sup>“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.” <sup>3</sup>When Herod the king heard *this*, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. <sup>4</sup>And gathering together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the <sup>[b]</sup>Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for this is what has been written <sup>[c]</sup>by <sup>[d]</sup>the prophet:

**<sup>6</sup> ‘AND YOU, BETHLEHEM, LAND OF JUDAH,  
ARE BY NO MEANS LEAST AMONG THE LEADERS OF JUDAH;  
FOR FROM YOU WILL COME FORTH A RULER  
WHO WILL SHEPHERD MY PEOPLE ISRAEL.’”**

<sup>7</sup>Then Herod secretly called for the magi and determined from them the exact <sup>[e]</sup>time the star appeared. <sup>8</sup>And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the Child; and when you have found *Him*, report to me, so that I too may come and worship Him.” <sup>9</sup>After hearing the king, they went on their way; and behold, the star, which they had seen in the east, went on ahead of them until it came to a stop over *the place* where the Child was *to be found*. <sup>10</sup>When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. <sup>11</sup>And after they came into the house, they saw the Child with His mother Mary; and they fell down and <sup>[f]</sup>worshiped Him. Then they opened their treasures and presented to Him gifts of gold,

A CELESTIAL TREASURE MAP

frankincense, and myrrh. <sup>12</sup> And after being warned *by God* in a dream not to return to Herod, *the magi* left for their own country by another way. **Matthew 2:1-12 NASB**

- Herod is suspicious of the Magi and their mission. (v1-8)
  - Herod is the king in Jerusalem.
  - He is NOT a Jew.
  - He is a wicked murderer – having killed his wife, three sons, in-laws, and several others.
  
- The Magi – They are not Jew, either (they were asking for the King of the Jews).
  - They were from the east, possibly from Persia.
  - They were scholars...they studied astronomy, astrology, and natural science.
  - They were following a ‘star’.
  - Herod directs them to Bethlehem and tells them to return to him with a report. (See v5)
  
- The Magi follow the STAR, and it stopped where Jesus was...it stood over the place where Jesus was...(v9-12)
  - When they saw that the star was ‘hovering over’ the place where Jesus was.
  - They enter the house and they fell to the ground and worshipped Him...not them.
  - Then opening their treasures, they gave gifts to Jesus.
  - Worship unlocks and opens the treasures within you!
  - Gold – as to a King.
  - Frankincense – embalming oil – as to one who will conquer death.
  - NOTICE: Herod was the appointed king, and they gave him nothing...it is God’s love, presence, and power that cause us to worship and to have our ‘heart’s treasures’ opened.
  - “having been warned by God, they went home ‘another way’ ...a different way...quite different than when they came to Jesus.

May God inspire our worship, so we open our treasures...and are empowered to leave today and live tomorrow ‘a different way’!

*Merry Christmas!*

God bless us, everyone.