



We saw His star as it rose, and have come to worship Him. Matthew 2:2

## *Bible Study:*



Read Matthew 2:1-17. Consider the significance that Jesus came, not just to fulfill prophecies specific to the nation of Israel, but also prophecies (and promises) that God fully intended to bless ALL NATIONS through His Chosen People, the Jews.

## *The gospel in the story:*



The events related to the story of Jesus' birth introduce many titles of Jesus, and each title brings clarity to who Jesus is and why His coming to earth is Good News to us. In this account, the magi refer to Him as "**King of the Jews.**" This is significant in that the first step in being transformed by the gospel of Jesus is to recognize our need for a king (other than our self). Here is a quick summary of the titles of Jesus introduced/related to His birth:

**Jesus** (Y'shua) (Ex. 19; Luke 1), **YHWH Is Salvation** – we all have sinned and are in need of a savior

**Immanuel** (Isaiah 7:14, Matthew 1:22-23), which means **God With Us** – God loves us so much that He came to us to bring salvation. And He did not just send a prophet, He Himself Came to us

**Messiah** (Christ), which means **anointed** one, and confirms selection by God as king.

A full treatment of the many titles of Jesus: can be found at:

<https://www.blueletterbible.org/study/parallel/paral19.cfm>

## *Application*

This story, found in **Matthew 2:1-17**, like many others in scripture, leaves many questions unanswered. And in the case of this particular account, there are no apparent clues in the rest of the Bible that could help to answer questions like...

- Who were the magi, and how many were there?
- Where did they come from?
- How could a star guide them so precisely?

Clearly, God is content to leave these and many other questions unanswered. Possibly (likely) so we won't get side-tracked by insignificant details, but instead stay focused on the main point of the story. And the main point of this story seems to be that God supernaturally led the magi directly to Jesus **so they could WORSHIP him**. And in this story we see the prototype for proper worship of God:

- Go where He leads,
- recognize Him for who He is (our Creator, Savior and Only Hope)
- Offer our best (our lives, hearts, gifts, offerings, praise, song, etc) to Him as an expression of our Joy in Him.