

Isa 14:13 For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:

THE STARS OF GOD

Mat 2:1 Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem,

Mat 2:2 Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.

Mat 2:9 When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was.

Mat 2:10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.

Mat 2:11 And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.

You might say the magi were pre-occupied with stars – They were star gazers. We can relate. We are a society of *starstruck folks*: “Captivated by famous people or fame itself.” Over awed by someone’s celebrity status. Our hero’s: sports figures, movie stars – Dancing with the stars would be nothing without the stars. Stars promote products and influence our decisions.

The wise men had studied millions of stars, but there was something different about this star. What was this star? A literal star? A shooting star? A comet? An angel? There is no obvious revelation given in the text. But, there are hints given. We can usually identify something by first studying its purpose and affects upon its environment.

The purpose, The identity and The affects of the star of Bethlehem.

I. THE PURPOSE OF THE STAR

A. To be seen: *We have seen His star.*

B. Yet the star is not the focus of attention. Rather, its purpose is to focus attention upon the something else: **A lighthouse:** Not its intent to focus our attention upon the light but upon the dangers that are present. We might become ship wrecked if we focus only upon the light. The purpose of **a spotlight** to highlight something or direct our attention to something.

C. To lead people to Christ. *Where is he that is born king of the jews? The star went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was.*

II. THE IDENTITY OF THE STAR We may safely conclude the star of Bethlehem in this age and time is The Church of Jesus Christ. *We have seen His star.*

A. The purpose of His star is: To be seen, but not become the focus of attention. We are a city set on a hill that can't be hid. We are His star. We are to promote His cause – His poster child.

B. We show the glory of God. “The light or glory of the Lord which shown about the shepherds.” (Dr Lightfoot).

Luke 2:9 And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

Now that we know who we are and what our purpose is, let us move on to investigate:

III. THE AFFECTS OF THE STAR ON MEN.

A. We should manifest the fear of God (Reverence and Awe): People should be starstruck: captivated, over awed. Not by our glory but by the reverence and glory we show to God. The shepherds were *sore afraid* when the glory of the Lord shown about them. They're not the only one's affected by God's glory.

B. The Bible is full of reports where the glory of the Lord came down – usually followed by fear or people falling upon their face.

Moses: *And the glory of the LORD abode upon mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days: and the seventh day he called unto Moses out of the midst of the cloud. And the sight of the glory of the LORD was like devouring fire on the top of the mount in the eyes of the children of Israel. (Ex 24:16-17)*

WE ARE THE MOUNTAIN OF THE LORD

Ezekiel in the spirit looked into the house of the Lord, *and behold, the glory of the LORD filled the house of the LORD: and I fell upon my face. (Eze 44:4)*

WE ARE THE HOUSE OF THE LORD

Solomon: *Now when Solomon had made an end of praying, the fire came down from heaven, and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of the LORD filled the house. WE ARE THE TEMPLE OF GOD*

Pentecost: *Suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. (Acts 2:2-4)*

THE GLORY OF THE LORD SAT UPON EACH OF THEM

C. The Affects of the Star on the Wise men

- (1) Caused them to follow them but not for their glory – To lead them.
- (2) Made them want to worship Jesus and come to where he was.
- (3) It made them rejoice with exceeding great joy.
- (4) It made them come into the house where Jesus was (Acts 2:38)

(5) It caused them to open their treasures – Where your treasures are, is where your heart is. Gold – The purity of our hearts, Frankincense – Our prayers and Myrrh – Our willingness to suffer for Christ.

CONCLUSION: Arise, Oh stars of God. Go light your candles - We have discovered our purpose. In this we know who we are. So go forth and lead men to Christ for all those who are wise will follow the stars of God

Isa 60:1 Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee.

Isa 60:2 For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee.

Isa 60:3 And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.