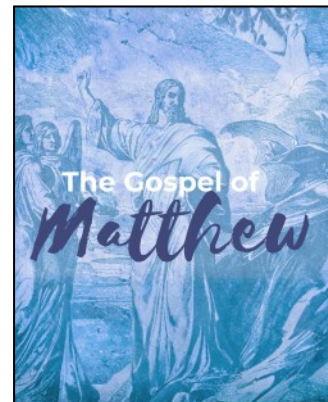


Pastor Jake Magee

May 17, 2026



They Saw His Star
Matthew 2:1-12

¹ Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ² saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him. ³ When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled...

Why do they see His Star and others don't?

1. They Would Not _____ to the Wrong _____

2. They Would Not _____ at the Wrong _____

3. They Would Not _____ for the Wrong _____

Small Group Discussion Guide

They Saw His Star

Matthew 2:1-12

Getting Started (Read Matthew 2:1–12 and pray).

We often affirm ideas about the birth of Jesus that are not actually found in the biblical text. What are some traditions or assumptions people commonly read into this passage?

Digging Deeper

1. In this passage, we see three different responses to the birth of Jesus. Who are the three groups? Research and summarize who they were. Then come up with one word that captures each group's response to Jesus.
2. Only one of these groups see the star. What do you think the star may have been? What are some possible reasons—different from Sunday's sermon—why some could see it and others could not?
3. On Sunday, we considered the possibility that some groups were neither ready nor willing to see the star for what it truly was, while one group was. What are some other passages or examples in Scripture that suggest God reveals truth to those prepared to receive it, while concealing it from those unwilling to respond? (*See Matt. 13:11–13; 11:25; 2 Thess 2:10–12.*)
4. **Read verses 1–3.** We see two kings and two kingdoms clashing. Where else do you see that conflict throughout this section?
5. One possible reason the Magi saw the star is that they were determined to submit to the true King. What evidence of that do you see in the text? Consider the risks they were willing to take.

6. On Sunday, we heard that a battle of kings takes place in every human heart. In what ways is that true? How can our response to Jesus either increase spiritual sight or deepen spiritual blindness?

7. **Read verses 4–6.** The religious leaders knew where Jesus would be born, and likely when as well. How did they know? What was their response? What should their response have been?

8. On Sunday, we heard that the religious leaders may have stopped at the “signs” instead of following where the signs pointed. How had they done this with other gifts and revelations God had given them? What lesson does that hold for us?

9. The illustration of a “menu” was used to explain the previous point. Discuss the illustration and how it applies spiritually.

10. **Read verses 7–12.** Herod claims he wants to worship Jesus, but in reality, he wants to destroy Him. On Sunday, we discussed how false worship often disguises itself as devotion while actually seeking to dethrone God. Explain.

11. The Magi provide an example of genuine worship. In what ways? Why is this especially surprising given who they were?

12. Why might God hide spiritual truth from people who are unwilling to worship Him rightly?

Making It Real

The Magi “departed to their own country by another way” after worshipping Jesus (v.12).

Share one way your life, thinking, priorities, or direction has changed since following Jesus.

Resources: www.blueletterbible.org, www.biblehub.com, www.preceptaustin.org