

A Nation in Peril (#6)
[The Birth of The King of the Jews]

“Where is He who has been born King of Jews?” This question was asked by a Gentile delegation of intellectuals from the East to Jewish authority of A Nation in Peril (Matt.2:1-4)

The messianic seed of the old covenant as recorded by Matthew 1:1-17 and by Luke 3:23-38 has been born **to the Jewish nation for the world**. **“We saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him.”** (Matt.2:2b)

How important is the Doctrine of the Sovereignty of God to a Nation in Peril? How important is it to you?

On the 4th day of creation (Gen.1:14-19), God hung a special star in the heavens for the birth of His Son on earth (Matt.2:2b). God gave names to all the stars – “He determines the number of the stars and calls them each by name.” (Ps.147:4) [King of Jews Star]

Understanding the Importance of the historical coming of Jesus Christ into the world is essential to understanding:

- A Nation in Peril,
- A Community in peril
- An Individual in peril.

The Magi traveled great distances at great cost to witness this historical event because they understood that it was a once in a life, actually once in a world, time event.

This lesson will study four aspects of the impact upon the world by the Birth of The King of Jews and why it (He) is important to A Nation in Peril.

1. It is ironic that the Gentile Magi came as missionaries with a message of worship of Christ.

Their motivation was based on faith in the Word of God, while the Jewish nation rejected Christ with a completed Canon of Scriptures. This is evidence of A Nation in Peril.

(Luke 4:17-22) **“The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him. Unrolling it, He found the place where it was written: ‘The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor. He sent Me **to proclaim** release to the captives, **and recovery** of sight to the blind, **to set free** those who are oppressed, **to proclaim** the favorable year of the Lord (Isa.61:1-2/ **from A Nation in Peril**).’** And He closed the book, gave it back to the attendant and sat down; and the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on Him. And He began to say to them, ‘Today this **Scripture** has been fulfilled in your hearing.’ And all were speaking well of Him, and wondering at the gracious words which were falling from His lips; and they were saying, ‘**is this not Joseph’s son?**’” [A message to A Nation in Peril]

(John 1:11-13) “He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and **the world did not know Him**. He came to His own, and those who were **His own did not receive Him**. **But as many as** received Him, to them He gave the right to become **children of God**, even to those who believe in His name, who were born, not of blood nor of will of flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.”

This is another message given to a nation in peril. What is the problem? (Matt.15:7-9; Isa.29:13)

How did the Magi know the King of Jews had been born from sighting a star?

2. We believe it goes back to days of Moses and Balaam's 4th Oracle.

The 4th oracle prophesied of the King's Star –

(Num.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.” (1400 BC)

Greek grammar involved with this STAR is interesting (Matt.2:1-2; Gen.11:2) [LXX].

The Magi were members of the oldest known Gentile intellectual fraternity of the ancient world (Medes, Persians, and Babylonians).

Most scholars believe Balaam was a member of this Magi fraternity. They believe Balaam, Zoroaster, and Daniel were members.

3. We know that Daniel was a member of this fraternity. In fact, we know that he was recognized as ten times wiser than all of them (Dan.1:20-21; 2:27-28; 5:11-17).

Daniel was in the time of the ministry of Jeremiah. Daniel and Ezekiel's ministered the word of God inside Babylonian captivity. Isaiah prophesied that they would be ambassadors for Christ as “light of revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel.” (Isa.9:2; 42:6; Luke 2:32; Acts 13:46-48; 26:23).

We are ambassadors of Christ to world (2 Cor.5:18-21) “To whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.” (Col.1:27)

4. The King's Star identified the land, but not the manger (birth place) or person (Matt.2:1-12).

The special star guided them to the land, place, and person who had been born King of the Jews (Matt.2:9-11; Luke 2:13-16, 32; Rev.22:16).

King's star led them to the house (ten oikia) (Matt.2:11) not a manger (phatne) (Luke 2:7). The wise men of Israel knew the truth of Scriptures **but refused to believe** Jesus was the Christ and Savior of the world (Matt.2:4-8; Micah 5:2) (**Luke 12:56; Matt.15:7-9**). Magi returned East with the name and ministry of King of the Jews (Matt.1:21-23).

(John 5:39-40) “You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me; and you are unwilling to come to Me **so that you may have life.**”

The wise men of Israel understood the Gentile term, King of the Jews, meant messianic King of Israel. Yet they refused to believe the truth of the Scripture and the Magi's message.

Christmas symbols are viewed as dangerous in USA society today. This is anti-Christ and evidence of A Client Nation in Peril.

(Matt.2:12) “And having been warned by God in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their own country by another way.”

The **star on top** of our Christmas tree and the **gifts underneath** remind us to worship Jesus Christ as Savior.

He is not only the reason for our season but also the reason for our salvation.