

# The Wonders and Wizards of Christmas

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God has landed. Right in a manger. Right on top of cow spit and barnyard bacteria. Jesus came a long way to save us. Two thousand years ago, the eternal Son of God stepped across the stars of the universe to become a zygote in the womb of the Virgin Mary. And then **he was born as one of us**. “Manhood and deity in perfect harmony—the Man who is God,” wrote Graham Kendrick.

Christmas, then, is the ultimate display of **meekness and majesty** in one person. “Glory to God in the highest,” was the angelic response. They easily could have said, “Glory to God in the lowest,” too. God is with us now in the person of Jesus Christ. On earth.

**Magi from the east** were among the first to welcome him, perhaps several months after the shepherds. Following the natal star, they set out on a journey to find the newborn king. I have a hunch it was more than curiosity that drew this caravan of dignitaries and polymaths to Jesus. It was God himself. They saw him at work in the sky—speaking their language—and they wanted to go meet with him.

No doubt they connected the Hebrew prophecies left in their own towns during Israel’s exile with the celestial phenomenon they were observing. God is beautifully sneaky that way. We often hear it said, “Wise men still seek him,” but **it was God who was seeking them**. Sometimes he stirs things up, even to the point of rearranging his universe because he has something vitally important to tell us. Are we listening?

The Magi were listening, and that’s why they traveled hundreds of miles across the desert to go see the Christ. They were men of wisdom and learning. They were into math, medicine, astronomy, and human nature. Some of them were superstitious. We get our word “magic” from their title. Call them “wizards” if you like. It was basically **the cast of Harry Potter** who came to see Jesus.

For the most part, Magi just wanted to know the Power behind the universe. They pondered the great questions of life: “Where did we come from? Why are we here? Where are we going? Why is there something rather than nothing?” And because the Magi were so into the stars, God put a **fantastic light in the sky** on that first Christmas to get their attention—a star unlike anything else they had ever seen before.



We’re fascinated by the natal star, but a good sign always points *away* from itself to something else, so Matthew doesn’t go into detail about it. Besides, it’s not the stars that direct the course of history, but **the Maker of the stars**. He’s the director of the show. And it’s a transformational show for souls on a quest for spiritual truth. Indeed, God tends to meet people at the level of their deepest longings. As G. K. Chesterton wrote:

*Men are homesick in their homes  
And strangers under the sun...  
But our homes are under miraculous skies  
Where Christmas was begun.*

If the Magi teach us anything, it’s that it’s never enough for us to just be amazed at the wonders of God; **we have to set out on the journey and follow him**. Our calling is not just to stand in awe of creation but to get to know the Creator.

God wants everyone to come and worship his Son. He wants you to worship his Son. Even if you’re a wizard.