

Meditation #26: Marvelous MAGI

What does it say? –

STUDY Matthew 2:1-11.

GOLDEN TEXT: Matthew 2:1 and 2 = *After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him."*

What does it mean?

We do not know how much Bible knowledge these wise Magi had that first Christmas. Nevertheless, they set a stunning example in their ability to respect, understand, and respond to what they “read” from a revealing part of the “book of nature”—the other book that the Lord gave to all of us. *It is with Divine irony* that to these highly *literate* leaders, God chose to announce the birth of the Lord Jesus through his non-verbal creation, a special star, while to the *earthy* shepherds the angels spoke in clear words (Luke 2).

1. Why does the Lord draw us beyond our “comfort zone”? Could we as readers benefit by “reading” non-verbal creation more attentively—as the Magi did?
2. Have you ever been “moved”—moved to new ideas, emotions, actions, or even an extended pilgrimage—because of some marvel in nature? What phenomena of the creation have already affected your behavior?
3. How much did the Magi need to know to interpret the astral marvel they saw? Did they understand that the infinite Creator became “God with us” as an infant?
4. Thousands of other people must have looked up at the stars during that time of the Lord Jesus’ birth. How many even noticed the special star? Does the Lord want us to pay better attention to his creation?

What are we going to do about it?

5. Does the Creator speak in the “ordinary” events and phenomena—such as the myriads of stars, flowers, sunsets, birds singing, squirrels playing, and such like? What does he say? How can we read his messages better?
6. Have you heard from the Lord in an extraordinary moment? An answered prayer? An amazing “coincidence”? A significant dream? A distinctive feeling? What did you learn?
7. Should we pay better attention to the “ordinary” and “extraordinary” events in our experiences? Why not keep a journal of such events? *Like the famous Magi who came to worship the Baby Jesus, the more we pay attention, the more we may notice.*

Truth To Celebrate: Whenever we pay great and humble attention to God’s creation, we will experience his awesome presence more fully.

Advent-Action: Loosely store food in the refrigerator, so that the cool air can circulate around the food and keep the food longer and fresher. Treat all good food for what it is: a gift from the Creator. “Waste not,” and you and others will more likely “want not,” as the old saying goes.

