

**The Star of Bethlehem:  
The Heavens Declare the  
Glory of God**

**Matthew 2:1-12**

**December 23, 2007**

# Some Key Questions:

- *What do you do at this time of year to keep yourself awake to the infinitely significant realities of Christmas?*
- *How do you keep yourself from growing callous or cold at this time of year, simply because you've celebrated Christmas so many times?*
- *How do you keep yourself from being distracted by and sucked into the consumerism of our culture at this time of year?*

# The Star of Bethlehem:

- Where did the wise men come from?
  - Perhaps they came from Assyria:
    - Assyria conquered northern Israel in 723/22 B.C.
    - Zoroaster predicted the coming of a king, and later followers predicted that he'd come from "the descendents of Abraham."
  - Perhaps they came from Babylon:
    - Babylon conquered southern Israel in 586 B.C.
    - Daniel was the chief wise man in Babylon
    - The Babylonians were leading astrologers

## Micah 6:2

*“And you, O Bethlehem in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of  
Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who  
will shepherd my people Israel.”*

# Matthew 2:9-10

*“And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was.*

*When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.”*

# What was the Star of Bethlehem?

The two best guesses are...

- It may have been a conjunction or a cluster of planets.
- It may have been Jupiter in retrograde motion.
- Truth is, no one knows!

# What was the Point of the Star?

- The purpose of the star of Bethlehem was to declare the glory of God and proclaim the work of his hands!
  - Psalm 19:1-4
  - Romans 8:22-23 & Ephesians 1:9-10
  - Isaiah 49:13
  - Psalm 96:9-13
  - Matthew 27:45-54

# How does the Star Relate to Us?

- If even that star, which had no mind or heart or mouth or will, rose up to shout to the world about the glory of God in the birth of Christ, how much more should we, who do have minds and hearts and mouths and wills, rise up to shout his praise?
  - Zephaniah 3:14-15