

FOLLOWING GOD'S LEADERSHIP IN 2015

Matthew 2:1-12

WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT THE MAGI:

1. Men of wealth, knowledge; apparently, astronomers;
2. Names? How many? (not “Gaspar,” “Melchior,” and “Balthazar”). 2:11
3. Up to 18 mo - 2 year delay in arrival; Matt 2:1, 7, 11, 16; dates birth of Christ to 6 BC (Herod died, 4 BC)

2014 YEAR IN REVIEW: THE EVENTS THAT SHAPED A TURBULENT YEAR.

1. Rise of Islamic State
2. Iran spreads influence in M East
3. Ukraine/Russia conflict
4. 3 Malaysia airliners
5. US economy rebounds
6. Oil prices crash (50%)
7. Ebola global crisis
8. Israel/Palestinian conflict
9. Police tactics, MO, NYC
10. Same-sex marriage, 18 more states; now 35 & DC

Wall Street Journal, 1/3/2015

2015 WILL BE A YEAR OF GOD-INVITATIONS.

- **Three questions to ask to know how to follow God in 2015; to be used by Him:**
 1. **Where is God working?**
 2. **What doors are being opened? (Or closed)?**
 3. **What am I drawn to?**

HOW DID GOD SPEAK TO THE MAGI?

1. He gave them a star to “read”:

- “Where is he who has been born King of the Jews. For **we saw His star** in the East and have come to worship Him.” Matt 2:2
- **What they saw and knew told them where God was working. They simply joined Him.**

LIKELY REASONS NOT TO LISTEN.

1. Many risks. Herod the Great. (Matt 2:3).
2. Sacrifice. took over 18 months.
3. Expensive (not including the gold, frank., myrrh)
4. Doubts:
 - Why invite Persian Magi (unclean) to worship a Jewish infant born a king?
 - How to find the child?
 - Where did the star go? 2:2, 9-10

HOW DID GOD SPEAK TO THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS?

1. God gave the Magi as the “star.”
2. Rabbis already had the information (just like the Magi), Matthew 2:5-6; Micah 5:2.
3. They never acted.
 - God was obviously working.
 - God had opened a door to Bethlehem.
 - But they didn't feel like it.

HIS WORD TO ME

1. Revival:
 - Joy of the Lord
 - Heart for the lost
2. EC as Church plant
3. Giving - Spontaneous generosity. Matt 2:11
4. Great Commission – India
5. Family:
 - Husbands/wives
 - Parents/children
6. Current events