

FOLLOWING GOD'S LEADERSHIP IN 2015

Matthew 2:1-12

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

1. Rise of Islamic State
2. Boko Haram, Africa
3. US economy rebounds
4. Oil prices crash (50%)
5. Iran's influence in Middle East - map
6. Ukraine/Russia conflict
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



Orange colored nations are funded by Iran; or they are allies of Iran (Russia)

Iranian Influenced Countries/Groups - Orange shaded

HOW WILL I BE USED BY GOD IN 2015?

- Even though darkness rises it cannot overcome the light of Christ, and the life in Him. John 1:4-5
- Three questions to ask:
 1. **Where is God working?** John 5:19-20
 2. **What doors are being opened?** (Or closed)?
Acts 16:7-9; Matt 7:7
 3. **What am I drawn to? What Scripture is being given to me?**

HOW DID GOD SPEAK TO THE MAGI?

1. What do we know about them?
 - Persia. Names? Arrived when?
2. God gave them a star to “interpret.”
 - “... For we saw His star ...” Matt 2:2
 - Did they read OT prophecies? No (Micah)
3. “God is doing something in Israel,” lets go!
 - Where did the star go? 2:2, 9-10

FOLLOWING GOD IS NOT ABOUT FEELINGS.

1. **Zachariah.** Angel - what God was about to do
2. **Mary.** Angel - what God was about to do.
3. **Joseph.** Angel - what God had done.
4. **Shepherds.** Angels - what God had done.
5. **Magi.** Star, plus knowledge, what God had done.
 - **Everyone had to decide, freely.**

YOU WILL ALWAYS HAVE A GOOD REASON NOT TO JOIN GOD IN WHAT HE IS DOING.

1. **Many risks.** Herod the Great. (Matt 2:3).
2. **Great 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? King won't agree.
 - We will never find the child.
 - Its too dangerous.

HOW DID GOD SPEAK TO THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS?

1. He showed them where He was working – the Magi.
 - They knew the Scripture. Matthew 2:5-6; Micah 5:2.
 - They went back home.
2. They needed “heart surgery.”

GOD'S PRESENT WORD TO ME

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