

The Wise Men from the East are a Witness Against The Jews of Judea

But the question remains...
Who are these wise men?

In Daniel 2:2, King Nebuchadnezzar had a most disturbing dream.

So he called in his wise men, to tell him what he had dreamed and then had them interpret that dream for him.

² Then the king gave orders to call in the magicians, the conjurers, the sorcerers and the Chaldeans to tell the king his dreams. So they came in and stood before the king.

You will recall that the most important group of all the Wise Men were the **Chaldeans**. These are the ***master astrologers***.

They were a specific cast of priests that passed their knowledge from one generation to another.

You had to be born into this special caste of priest and they traced their lineage all the way back to Nimrod and the founding of Babel.

This caste system of Chaldeans
were employed all over the known world,
all the way down to the Roman Empire.

Chaldeans

—**master astrologers** who date their knowledge
back to the time when people of Nimrod built Babel—
—they looked into heaven—
so they studied the stars most carefully and with strict devotion.

Remember, **The First World Religion** was based on **Astrology**.

Astrology “is the divination of the supposed influences of the
stars and planets on human affairs and terrestrial
events by their position in the heavens”

Astronomy “The study of objects and matter outside the earth’s
atmosphere and of their physical and chemical
properties”

When man rejects the truth of the **Being of the True God**,
[*creator of all things*]
-and yet he knows there is something beyond him-
it is amazing what man will conjure up to believe.

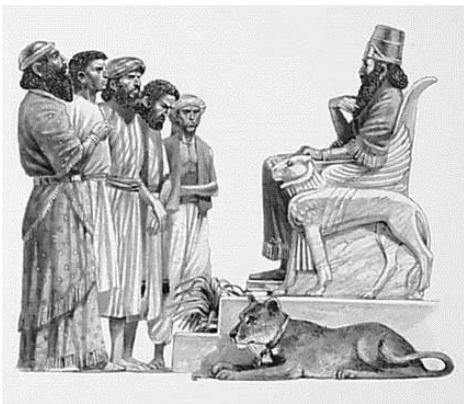
Yet he, MAN, will believe:

- magicians-occult powers*
- conjuring up the dead*
- sorcerers*
- demonism*

[and now having rejected the Sovereign power of The Omnipotent God.]

- giving to the CREATED inanimate universe controlling power*

Now, in Daniel 2, **Nebuchadnezzar**
had a disturbing **dream**,
given to him **by** the Sovereign **God**,
the God of Daniel, and
he called in all his Wise Men
listed in Daniel 2:2.



He told them to **tell him** what he dreamed and the interpretation of that dream. And if they could not do so he would have all of them killed, including Daniel, and turn their homes into dung hills.

However,
Daniel went into prayer
and God revealed to Daniel *the dream*
and *the interpretation* of that dream.

Nebuchadnezzar spared the lives of Daniel, his three friends and all the wise men. Daniel had saved their lives.

So from the time of Daniel **some** of these Wise Men in the Chaldean sect, **believed** all that Daniel told them of the Messiah and of His coming.

They knew of the great prophecy of Daniel's *Seventy Weeks* recorded in Daniel 9:24-27. They knew it and they believed it ***more than all the people in Israel.***

Daniel told them two things:

- 1 He gave them (and all Israel) a **m a t h e m a t i c a l
f o r m u l a** for the coming of the Messiah
- 2 A sign they would understand – **a u n i q u e s t a r**.
As the mathematical prophecy came to its close they were to look in the heavens for a unique star. At the sighting of this star they would know the King of the Jews was to be born.

First let's look at the **mathematical prophecy**.

Those who do not like math would have missed this prophecy!!

Daniel 9: ***Seventy Weeks and The Messiah***

- 24 "Seventy weeks have been decreed for your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sin, to make atonement for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy *place*.
- 25 "So you are to know and discern *that* from the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince *there will be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks*; it will be built again, with plaza and moat, even in times of distress.
- 26 "Then after the sixty-two weeks the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing, and the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. And its end *will come* with a flood; even to the end there will be war; desolations are determined.

Within these words the Jews should have known that their Messiah King was coming and should have been looking for Him.

First we have the term ***weeks*** was a common Jewish term. One week meant literally seven years; therefore, ***seventy weeks*** was 490 Hebrew years.

This prophecy contains three mathematical designations.

1. Seventy weeks or 490 years
2. Seven weeks or 49 years
3. Sixty two weeks or 434 years
4. One week or 7 years

This **mathematical prophecy** declares that
when 7 weeks + 62 weeks have passed
(7 years plus 434 years = 441 years)

Israel could start looking for the coming of their Messiah King.

Since the Wise Men of Persia could figure this out,
surely the Jews should have been able
to anticipate the arrival of their Savior King.

THE HISTORICAL REALITY THAT THE JEWS MISSED THIS,
IS AN OPEN DECLARATION OF
KNOWING SCRIPTURE BUT NOT BELIEVING SCRIPTURE.

This is a warning to all Christians throughout the Church Age
to not only know Scripture
but to believe that Scripture and
live accordingly.

What a horrible witness these Wise Men made against Israel, and
what a victory for Satan this is against Israel.

I. **Duration of the Prophecy.**

According to Daniel's seventy weeks prophecy
the Messiah would come and be killed after
69 weeks had passed, 69 x 7 comes to

483 *Jewish* years. And since the Jewish calendar contains 360 days, this prophecy is precisely 173,880 days in duration.

The point of the prophecy is that after the passing of 173,880 days **after the prophecy started** their Messiah would come.

- II. The only real deciding point is when will this **mathematical prophecy** begin?

Daniel is told when they should start counting the days.

Daniel 9:25a

- 25a “So you are to know and discern [this is why the prophecy is given, so they will know and discern and expect their Messiah to come] that from the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince

There were three EDICTS to the Jews to return to Jerusalem:

1. By Cyrus the Great of Persia which allowed the people to return; Given in 538 bc.
2. Then there was a 2nd return under Zerubbabel
3. But the only one that set up for the rebuilding of **the City of Jerusalem and the temple** is given in Nehemiah which Daniel prophesied in Daniel 9:25

25 *“So you are to know and discern that from the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince there will be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; it will be built again, with plaza and moat, even in times of distress.*

This is the only place where this dual decree is given.

Nehemiah 2:1-8—decree to rebuild **the city** and **the temple** by King Artaxerxes.

1 *And it came about in the month Nisan, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, that wine was before him, and I took up the wine and gave it to the king. Now I had not been sad in his presence.* [I hope now you can

see why when God puts dates in His Word, why they are so important to His plan of history.]

We know from the archives of Persia exactly when this happen
Month of Nisan... April 1, 444 bc; 20th year of King Artaxerxes.

And that was the day Nehemiah was granted the privilege to
return to Judah to re-establish the whole city of Jerusalem and
the temple.

This was the first time that answered the **prophecy** of
Daniel 9:25a.

The moment the King signed this agreement on April 1st,
a great stop-watch of 490 years was clicked by God...
clicking off time. The 490 years began the count down.

Nehemiah had to rebuild the walls and lay out it's streets etc.
It took 49 years for him to complete his work.

49 years---first 7 Sabbaticals

So... some 173,880 days from this date, the Jews could start
looking for their Messiah King.

III. Tracing the Three mathematical clues in Daniel's prophecy

A. Calculating the first seven weeks (49 years)

This is the importance of the book of
Nehemiah. In Nehemiah 2 the first seven
weeks begins with the issuing of the
decree by King Artaxerxes. Nehemiah
began his rebuilding effort in 445 bc
ending in 396 bc, exactly 49 years.

B. The Second Period: 62 weeks or 434 years. If they would have noted the passage in Nehemiah and then relating that to Daniel's prophecy they would have been aware of the passing of the first seven weeks, plus the sixty two weeks and be looking for their Messiah King.

Why the wise men were wise!

There were some of the men in the Chaldean sect of Wise Men who studied the stars believed in Daniel's God and in Daniel's Messiah and passed on this belief to others who also believed.

**These are truly the wise men of history;
Any and all who believes in Jesus Christ
are truly wise no matter their status on earth.**

They listened to the Word of God.

God had graciously prophesied when His Messiah would come to earth. They knew Daniel's prophecy. Daniel had saved their lives in chapter two, but his words saved the lives of every one of them who believed for all eternity. And because they believed the words of Daniel and passed them down from generation to generation for over 400 years, these magi knew they were living in the time of the fulfillment of the prophecy of Daniel. Something the Jews should also have realized.

These Wise Men are a witness against the nation of Israel.
And for this reason, Jesus spoke out in Luke 19:44

44 *and they [Rome in AD 70] will level you to the ground and your children within you, and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, [especially the temple] because you did not recognize the time of your visitation.*

Again, this refers to the visitation of their Messiah King and the exact time in history was prophesied by Daniel.

The magi from the East knew they were living in the time period of the coming of the Jewish King, savior of the world. All they needed was to see the unique star in the heavens.

What about this star of Jesus?

Matthew 2:2

2 *“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.”*

(1) Star worship is strongly forbidden in Deuteronomy 4:19

19 *“And beware not to lift up your eyes to heaven and see the sun and the moon and the stars, all the host of heaven, and be drawn away and worship them and serve them, those which the LORD your God has allotted to all the peoples under the whole heaven.*

see also Deuteronomy 17:2-3

(2) False views of ‘His star’

1 Fulfillment of prophecy.

Some in poor scholarship cite Numbers 24:17

17 *“I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near; A star shall come forth from Jacob,* [the star

corresponds to the same person referred to in the pronouns **him**, referring to the emergence of the great ruler.]

Isaiah uses the same imagery in referring to the King of Babylon (Isaiah 14:12).

The same imagery is used in Revelation describing Jesus Christ as the Bright and morning Star (Revelation 22:16)

This passage is no more referring to a literal star than *a scepter* in the following phrase refers to a literal scepter, but to a person in rulership.

17... *A scepter shall rise from Israel,
And shall crush through the
forehead of Moab, And tear
down all the sons of Sheth*

- 2 Astronomers make an attempt to link this star, to an unusual astronomical event such as a conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn
- 3 Some—unbelieving liberals – as a pious fiction of Matthew.
- (3) This is a ***miraculous sign by God*** foretold to the wise men of Persia of the birth of the coming King of Israel, Savior of the world.
- (4) The star could be seen, but then unseen. The wise men saw the star appear in the east. It remained visible to them, apparently day and night and led them to Jerusalem.

This was some two years after the first appearing of the star in Persia. **Matthew 2: 7**

7 *Then Herod secretly called the magi and determined from them the exact time the star appeared*

Compared with **Matthew 2:16**

16 *Then when Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he became very enraged, and sent and slew all the male children who were in Bethlehem and all its vicinity, from two years old and under [the star of Jesus first appeared in Persia some two years prior to this slaughtering = *according to the time which he had determined from the magi.*]*

Then the star could not be seen, **causing** the wise men to go into Jerusalem and ask where the King had been born. Then the star appeared leading them out of Jerusalem to a house in Bethlehem.



It cast a beam over the house where Joseph, Mary and the baby dwelt. The gifts they brought **gold** which speaks of His royalty, **frankincense** – (*an aromatic spice which speaks of His royal character*) and **myrrh** which was used in the wrapping of a dead person, speaks of His death and burial.

These gifts gave Joseph and Mary the money to travel from Bethlehem to Egypt and cover expenses while in Egypt and the travel back to Nazareth.

Story of the Magi

- 1 *Now after Jesus* [Savior] *was born in Bethlehem* [house of bread, Jesus Christ the bread of life] *of Judea* [praise of Jehovah] *in the days of Herod* [son of a hero] *the king, magi from the east* [Persia] *arrived in Jerusalem,* [dwelling place of peace] *saying,* [This is some 2 years after the birth of Jesus]
- 2 *“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.”* [Gentiles who have been looking for the Messiah King while all Judah has not been looking for their king, much less worshipping Him. Note also the prophetic words] *King of the Jews* [which have not been fulfilled as yet, some 2000 years later but is assured to occur after The Tribulation, after the Second Advent of Jesus the King of the Jews]

- 3 *When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.* [Herod did not have a legal right nor a lineage right to sit on this throne, he was not a descendant of David. His father was an Edomite, and his mother was an Arabian.]
- 4 *Gathering together all the chief priests and scribes of the people,* [wise men of Judah] *he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born*
- 5 *They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for this is what has been written by the prophet:* Micah 5:2
- 6 *'AND YOU, BETHLEHEM, LAND OF JUDAH, ARE BY NO MEANS LEAST AMONG THE LEADERS OF JUDAH;*

*FOR OUT OF YOU SHALL
COME FORTH A RULER
WHO WILL SHEPHERD
MY PEOPLE ISRAEL.’”*

[Jesus the Christ; more prophetic
words fulfilled.]

7 *Then Herod secretly called the magi
and determined from them the exact
time the star appeared.* [This way he

could not the approximate age of the child.]

8 *And he sent them to Bethlehem
and said, “Go and search carefully
for the Child; and when you have
found Him, report to me, so that I
too may come and worship Him.”*

[lie]

9 *After hearing the king, they went their way; and the star, which they had seen in the east, went on before them* [the star reappeared] *until it came and stood over the place where the Child was.* [Note something

carefully here: it does not state the name of the place, it does not say Bethlehem, but Bethlehem is assumed for that is the only place they are told where the child was to be born.]

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

[Because they thought they had lost it and now they knew where the King child was living.]

11 *After coming into the house* [He is no longer in the stable, this is some 2 years later and Joseph and Mary have moved into a house] *they saw the Child with Mary His mother; and they fell to the ground and worshiped Him.*

Then, opening their treasures, they presented to Him gifts of gold,

[kingship] *frankincense*, [royalty of

person] *and myrrh*. [His death, Jesus was born to die for the sins of the world and make it possible for all to have the perfect righteousness of God and thereby be Justified and saved.]

- 12 *And having been warned by God in a dream not to return to Herod, the magi left for their own country by another way.* [While Israel disobeys God, these Gentiles obey Him.]

The Flight to Egypt

- 13 *Now when they had gone, behold, an angel of the Lord *appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up! Take the Child and His*

mother and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is going to search for the Child to destroy Him.”

14 *So Joseph got up and took the Child and His mother while it was still night, and left for Egypt.* [He obeys immediately]

15 *He remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:*
“OUT OF EGYPT I CALLED MY SON.”

[More prophetic words fulfilled
He is from Bethlehem—picture of His deity
He is out of Egypt-picture of His Humanity
He is called a Nazarene (Matthew 2:23) speaks of the Holy Spirit]

16 *Then when Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he became very enraged, and sent and slew all the male children who were in Bethlehem and all its vicinity, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the magi.* [Herod

was a very cruel man, he has his wives and children murdered along with thousands of Jews at various times. August Caesar said it was better to be Herod's sow than his son, for a sow has a better chance of life. When Satan looses all control he murders, slaughters as he did when Moses was born.]

17 *Then what had been spoken through Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled:* [Jeremiah 31:15 which is most

interesting for the wailing of Judah will be turned to joy with the giving of the New Covenant starting in verse 27]

18 *“A VOICE WAS HEARD IN
RAMAH, [Son of Cush, moved with
agitation, trembling]
WEEPING AND GREAT
MOURNING,
RACHEL WEEPING FOR HER
CHILDREN; [slaughtered by
Herod; Rachel = mother of Joseph and
Benjamin]
AND SHE REFUSED TO BE
COMFORTED,
BECAUSE THEY WERE NO
MORE.”*

19 *But when Herod died, behold, an
angel of the Lord *appeared
in a dream to Joseph in
Egypt, and said, [Most are so
quick to give all praise to Mary but this is
the third of four dreams given to Joseph.]*

20 *“Get up, take the Child and His mother, and go into the land of Israel; for those who sought the Child’s life are dead.”*

21 *So Joseph got up, took the Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel.*

[Remember the grace of God has supplied the finance required to live in Egypt and this traveling]

22 *But when he heard that Archelaus*
[ruler of the people, Son of Herod]
was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Then after being warned by God in a dream, he left for the regions of Galilee, [this is the fourth dream given to Joseph]

23 *and came and lived in a city called Nazareth. This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophets: "He shall be called a Nazarene."* [Which means sprout or root shoot and also means contempt: More prophetic words fulfilled in the birth of Jesus the Christ.] *John 1:46 Nathanael said to him, "Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?" Philip *said to him, "Come and see."* [Jesus Christ is in the line of David and is contempt to and despised by those who does not believe that He is the Messiah-King.]