

## Star of Wonder

Matthew 2:1-12

Dec. 27, 2009 – First Baptist, Midland

Good morning! I am the famous star, the one that shone over Bethlehem to point the way for the wise men to find the birthplace of Jesus. I am the ‘star of wonder’, and have many songs written about me. This one is my favorite. (sing “Star of Wonder...”)

You have probably heard lots of stories about the birth of Jesus, told from the point of view of the shepherds, the wise men, the angels, Mary and Joseph; but I’m guessing you have never heard the story of the birth of Jesus told from the vantage point of the ‘star of wonder’. Well, truth be told, I had the best “view” of anyone, as I could observe all the comings and goings of all the participants.

You see, it was my job to shine ever so brightly, that folks would know that something very exciting was about to happen. I wasn’t to be just like other stars, twinkling far away in the night sky. No, I was to be obvious, I was to be noticed, I was to be a “sign”, a “star of wonder”. And so I took my job seriously. Except for those cloudy times, I was very bright and shone

with a brilliance that captured everyone's attention, including the wise men from the East, who traveled all the way to Bethlehem.

Did you know that there were prophecies in the Old Testament about my being part of the Christmas story? Told all the way back in the time of Balaam and Moses? Well, this morning, we're going to look at several passages of scripture that talk about me, the 'star of wonder'. Everyone please take a pew Bible, hold it in your hands like this (demonstrate). Now when I give the reference, wait until I say "go", and then look it up as quickly as you can. First one to find it, stand up, and you will get to read it aloud. Ready? **Numbers 24:17a** (repeat). Go!

How about this passage for a prophecy? **Isaiah 60:1-3** (repeat). Ready? Go! (someone reads) Did you get that last part? "And kings shall come to the brightness of your dawn." They did indeed. (sing "Star of Wonder").

Now, you may be thinking that I seem to be pretty proud of myself. And you are right. I am! But the truth is, my light and my part in this story is all because of God's great plan. He is the one who designed it, and built it into his creation. That's right. God had us stars in mind all the way from the beginning. Are you ready? **Genesis 1:16** (repeat). Go!

One of the first people God related to was a man named Abraham. He promised that he would have many descendents, even in his old age.

Abraham wasn't so sure about God's promise, so God....well, how about you look it up? **Genesis 15:5**. Ready? Go! (after it is read, sing "Star of Wonder").

Now I bet you're beginning to wonder about my portrayal of a star as something that can actually sing. I mean, stars don't really sing, do they? Perhaps you should find out. Look up **Job 38:4-7**. Ready? Go! That was quite a conversation God was having with Job, wasn't it? He was told that the 'morning stars sang together.' I like that. Well, of course stars can sing. And we like to sing our praises to God. Look up **Psalms 148:3**. Ready? Go! That's right. We sing praises to God, and we shine for Him. I suppose you could think of us as an example of what humans are supposed to do.....sing praises to God, and shine for Him. (sing "Star of Wonder").

Did you know that all of us stars are different from one another? Oh, I suppose you can tell that some are brighter and bigger than others, but to you they probably look a lot alike. Well, look this up. **I Corinthians 15:41**. Ready? Go! Not only do we have differences from each other, we are all named and numbered. We are part of God's creation too, and every thing that He has made He takes great delight in. Look this up. **Psalms 147:4**.

Ready? Go! So now you know. I have a name. It's "Star of Wonder"! (sing "Star of Wonder").

Now, sometimes we are talked about in a literal sense, as in the story of the birth of Jesus. And sometimes, we are talked about in a metaphorical sense. The Bible does this a lot. For instance, it talks about how there would come a day when God's laws would not need to be written on tablets of stone, but they would be written on our hearts. Look this passage up, for a metaphor on stars. **II Peter 1:19**. Ready? Go! Have you experienced the "morning star" rising in your heart? It's a very special star. While I am the "star of wonder", this star is known by a different name, and is the best and brightest star of all. Last scripture. **Revelation 22:16**. Ready? Go! Jesus has many names in the Bible, but this is one of the very best, in my humble opinion. Jesus is the "bright and morning star". He is the one you want to have in your heart. I bet you may know my song by now. Will you sing it with me? (sing "Star of Wonder"). Amen.