

# Written in the Stars

As a child is born in Bethlehem, stargazers in a country far to the east, see on the horizon to their west a bright and wonderous star.

Being learned people, they search their library of scrolls to try and decipher the meaning of this sign in the sky. Finding a scroll of writings of a prophet from a long, long time ago, they read these words,

*“Bethlehem in the land of Judah,  
you are by no means the least of the leading cities of  
Judah;  
for from you will come a leader  
who will guide my people Israel.”*

Could this star really be the ‘King-Maker’?? Has there been born in Bethlehem a new “King of the Jews”?

With no time to waste, these learned Magi pack their caravan of camels, including gifts fit for a king, and make their way to Bethlehem.

But first, a detour. Being visitors from another country, out of courtesy, they paid a polite visit to the Roman Emperor’s puppet king, Herod, at his palace.

## Visitors from the East Matthew 2: 2-7

<sup>2</sup> Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem in Judea, during the time when Herod was king. Soon afterward, some men who studied the stars came from the East to Jerusalem <sup>2</sup> and asked, “Where is the baby born to be the king of the Jews? We saw his star when it came up in the east, and we have come to worship him.”

<sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard about this, he was very upset, and so was everyone else in Jerusalem. <sup>4</sup> He called together all the chief priests and the teachers of the Law and asked them, “Where will the Messiah be born?”

<sup>5</sup> “In the town of Bethlehem in Judea,” they answered. “For this is what the prophet wrote:

<sup>6</sup> ‘Bethlehem in the land of Judah,  
you are by no means the least of the leading cities of Judah;  
for from you will come a leader  
who will guide my people Israel.’”

<sup>7</sup> So Herod called the visitors from the East to a secret meeting and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> Then he sent them to Bethlehem with these instructions: “Go and make a careful search for the child; and when you find him, let me know, so that I too may go and worship him.”