

**The Ruler from Bethlehem**

The account of the wise men from the east visiting Jesus is generally focused on the 'star of Bethlehem.' But from a purely textual perspective, Matthew Chapter 2, with its focus on how the birth of Christ fulfills prophecy (2:5,15,17,23), uses the star merely as a means to guide the wise men to Bethlehem. The focus of the text is the prophecy fulfilled. Perhaps strangely to us, that prophecy has no natural association with the star! In looking at the heart of this text - the fulfilled prophecy, we focus on Christ our Shepherd King!

We celebrate a Messiah who came...

1. From Nowhere
  - a. Unsought
  - b. From Bethlehem
2. Into Conflict
  - a. King Herod is troubled
  - b. All of Jerusalem was troubled
3. To Shepherd his People
  - a. Israel
  - b. And beyond! *Isaiah 45:22; 49:5-7*

Application:

1. Are we troubled by the King's arrival?
2. Will we come and worship our Shepherd King?