

“Wisemen from the East (1): Star *Still* Rising Over Islam”

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☐ Matthew 2:1, 2

☐ The _____ are the opening heroes of the Jesus story!

◆ Genesis 25:1-6

- Please note that these boys are just as much the _____ of Abraham as are Isaac and Ishmael.
- And they move to the _____ .

◆ Genesis 25:7-18

- The sons of Ishmael are _____ just like the sons of Israel.
- And they dwell in the _____ .
- Scholars note that in both the OT and NT “east” is dominantly linked with the _____ Desert in the Transjordan.

◆ Children of the East’s Bible Hall of Fame:

- _____ —“. . . this man was greatest of all the people of the _____” (Job 1:1-3).
- _____ — “[the priest of Midian] took a burnt offering and other sacrifices to offer _____ . . .” (Exodus 3:1; 18:12).
- _____ — “I [a prophet from the East] will bring back word to you as the _____ speaks to me. . . . A _____ shall come out of Jacob, a Scepter shall rise out of Israel” (Numbers 22:8; 24:17).
- The point: Clearly God did _____ His true worship among the sons of Ishmael and the children of the East.

◆ So who are these “wisemen from the East?”

- Greek=*magoi*, or “magi” the root of “magician.”
- Daniel 4:9
- Possessors or users of _____ knowledge.
- I Kings 4:30
- Baruch 3:23 describes “. . . the sons of Hagar who seek for _____ upon the earth.”

◆ Isaiah 60:1-6: A stunning prediction 600 years before Christ that a light would arise one day in the darkness and that kings from _____ would be attracted to that brightness and bring _____ and _____ in their search for the glory of the Lord.

◆ And what about the star they followed?

- *Desire of Ages*: “The wise men had seen a mysterious light in the heavens upon that night when the glory of God flooded the hills of Bethlehem. As the light faded, a luminous star appeared, and

lingered in the sky. It was not a fixed star nor a planet, and the phenomenon excited the keenest interest. That star was a distant company of shining _____, but of this the wise men were ignorant. Yet they were impressed that the star was of special import to them. They consulted priests and philosophers, and searched the scrolls of the ancient records. . . . Could this strange star have been sent as a harbinger of the Promised One? The magi had welcomed the light of heaven-sent truth; now it was shed upon them in brighter rays. Through _____ they were instructed to go in search of the newborn Prince.” (60)

- Tony Maalouf, *Arabs in the Shadow of Israel*: “If the star observed by the magi in the east could have been interpreted naturally, it would not have motivated those daily stargazers to leave their land and go to Jerusalem. Furthermore, no natural star, conjunction of stars, or even a supernova is able to lead people from Jerusalem to Bethlehem, which is a trip of 5 miles south. In addition, a natural astral appearance in heaven, no matter how brilliant it might be, could not have indicated the minute details in the town of Bethlehem. . . . In a well-written article, [Dale] Allison offered an answer to the above questions by suggesting that the star was a guiding _____ Abraham’s Arabian children were singled out in the desert and became the recipients of a special revelation from God about the birth of the Messiah. These worshipers were led in a dream to go back to their land following a different route. It is our conviction that they also may have been led to come to Jerusalem through a _____ or a special revelation from heaven.” (202, 203)

- **If God was able to shine the light of truth upon the hearts of those children of the east and sons of Ishmael two thousand years ago, could he not and would he not be doing the same today within Islam?**

Arabs, sons, east, twelve, east, Arabian, Job, East, Jethro, God, Balaam, Lord, Star, preserve, supernatural, wisdom, Arabia, gold, incense, angels, dreams, angel, dream